

Trinity Lutheran Church & School



Tidings

May, 2021

Douglas Adams—Pastor
Mike Shembarger—Principal

From the Pastor's Desk...

I want to hold your hand...



What is so special about holding someone's hand? Young couples hold hands all the time. A baby reaches out to hold its mother hand. Parents hold their child's hand as they walk down the street. We hold hands when we pray in church or at home. The last thing that one feels as they slip off into eternal peace is usually the hands of a loved one.

Holding hands is a way for people to express what is happening on the inside. It is a visible way to show the unity that we have as lovers, parents, children, and friends. Sadly, when relationships are broken or strained, we stop holding hands. The feelings of separation on the inside are manifested outwards in the lack of physical touch between us. When contact is broken it is not long before love for each other is lost.



In the months to come Trinity is going to go through many changes. Some small. Some a little bigger. But that is OK. Our world is changing and we need to adapt. However, as this happens, I would encourage you to reach out to each other and take hold of a hand. Find that unity that is in us because we are a part of Jesus and this congregation.

Let the love of Jesus flow through you into the lives of all those who will be touched by the gospel. Continue to say to each other, "I want to hold your hand." In life. In love. In friends. In faith as part of my family here at Trinity who continually holds on to the nail-scarred hands of Jesus.



Pastor Adams



THE LORD OF THE CHURCH

*Matthew 28:18-20 (18) Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on the earth has been given to me. (19) **Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**"*

I have been looking through all of our old directories and albums of the history of Trinity Lutheran Church. If I remember correctly it started out in a small church with about 8 members and a small school. It grew to over 500 members, built a new church and school where we are today. I saw lists of all the families that attended here and pictures of a church with standing room only, men and women and children participating in Bible Study groups and activities of the church, back when..... If only we could bring back the old days. But those days and people have passed I'm sorry to say. And we have to move on and build a new path, and a new future here at Trinity.

If you remember, last month we talked about change and how everything changes in our lives. Sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worse, we believe. (*cp. Romans 8:28*) Now that I have turned 70 years old, I've noticed that the changes in my life seem to be getting harder and harder to deal with. The loss of loved ones, family splits, and a Nation and a Church that seem to be going in the wrong direction. Fortunately, God never changes, He is always the same. He is our rock and salvation, a foundation that we can rest in and hold on to and build our lives on. Praise God!

Hebrews 3:12-15 says, "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. (13) But exhort one another daily, while it is called to day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. (14) For we are partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end."

But, yet today in the churches of America, Christ has become little more than a beloved symbol. And His authority and Lordship has been diminished to almost no affect. We now know how to excuse disobedience, and make the words of Christ meaningless. We now rationalize that Christ could not have meant what He said, His teachings have been accepted as truth, but irrelevant to our lives today. And Satan has deceived us once again.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 "Hear O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: (5) And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. (6) And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: (7) And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

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But instead, we have made ourselves god. Christ is consulted only when we have a problem, when things aren't working out as we planned. Then we pray to Him so fervently to bring about our desires and our will. And what have we done, but made ourselves Lord, and Christ nothing more than a servant.

Satan also tempts us in the church to be less ridged, don't confront sin, ignore it, after all we don't want to offend anybody. Satan tells us we need to be more tolerant. In essence he is using the same tactics he used in the garden, Did God really say... God's Word didn't change, so what did? And we wonder why we don't see God working in our church, families and community and nation. Why don't we see the fruit of the Spirit evident in our lives?

Galatians 5:22-26 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."

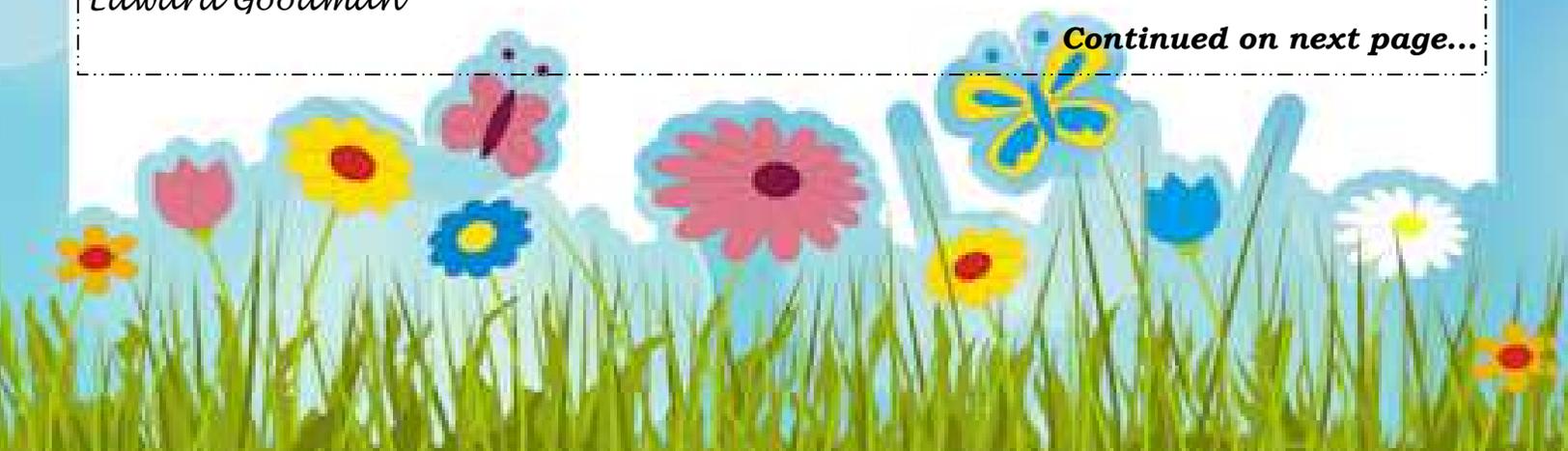
My brothers and sisters in Christ, we have changed, we have lost our love for God and traded it in for love of self. Which manifest the works of the flesh, which are these;

Galatians 5:19-21 "Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, reveling, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

The Word of God can be powerful in our lives, church and families if we don't grieve or quench the Holy Spirit's conviction and allow Him to change our hearts and minds to glorify Him. God loves us and shows us this, so we can examine our lives and make the needed changes or corrections to it. So that we can grow in our faith and be transformed by the Word of God, and glorify Him who does this work within us. Then and only then, will we see God work in our midst. It all starts with you and me trusting the Lord, His Word and Sacraments to bring us to maturity in Christ Jesus. Now what must we do? We must study, read, meditate on the Word of God daily. Come to Worship our Lord regularly and learn more about Him in our Sermons and Bible Studies. Pray for our Pastor, Elders, Council, Congregation, School Children, Daycare, Principal, Teachers and Office Personnel and families that we would put Jesus Christ first in our lives and glorify Him. And remember, that we are all human and aren't perfect, we all have an old sin nature within us that we are struggling with, so don't be easily offended. Scripture tells us that we are to share in Christ's sufferings. Just think about what He endured for us willingly.

Edward Goodman

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APRIL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

The Council did not meet in April. However, the Treasurer reported that at this time we are fiscally sound and offerings are meeting our budget. The Financial Secretary reported for March, 2021 our weekly average giving was \$8,102.39 The average for March, 2020 was \$10,912.00. This is a decrease of \$2,809.61 from last year.

As President of the congregation, I was able to meet with the leadership of the Ladies Aid to better understand what they do, and how they operate in our church, and what projects they are working on. Because of a Thrivent Grant they received they were able to make gift boxes for our shut-ins. Each member personally took one or two boxes to recipients. The boxes were greatly appreciated and everyone loved the thoughtfulness. But the greatest blessing was to each and every member of Ladies Aid as you can imagine. As President of the Congregation, I want to thank the Ladies Aid for their thoughtfulness and encouragement to our shut-in members. If you are looking for a place to get involved in our church, I would highly recommend this group.



He prayed... FOR US. That we would be ONE!

At The Last Supper, Jesus prayed for His Disciples, the entire world, and **He prayed for US.**

Remember what Jesus prayed? (*John 17:22-23*) “I have given them the glory that You gave me, **that they may be one, as we are one**—I in them and you in me—**so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me, and have loved them even as you have loved me.**” He prayed this for us, even knowing the bitter cup He was about to drink. Jesus knew what is in people’s hearts, and that the body of believers would face factions, splits, and division. **He prayed that we would be united, as He and the Father are United.**

The time has come for Trinity Lutheran Church to be fully united. Not that we have deep divisions. We believe in the Trinity. We believe in redemption, the Sacraments, and most of all, we believe that Jesus Christ suffered and died for our sins and through His grace we will spend eternity with fellow believers in heaven. People from 8am & 10:30am will both be there, along with a great multitude of other believers from many churches (each with a variety of worship styles & times), united as ONE in heaven.

Meanwhile, here on earth let us be ONE in the Spirit, and ONE in the Lord! It is time for us to be **united in worship as one body of believers who worship together.** We will begin combined worship on Sunday, June 6, with one worship service at 9:15, with Bible Class to follow.

So what will be different? We’ll be **TOGETHER, worshipping the Lord in spirit and in truth, just as He prayed.** Imagine how much fuller the church will be, how much fuller the singing will sound! And all those voices united in prayer! Imagine getting to know those members better who’ve been at the other service!

Wait, what about the organ? What about the music? What about the message? Rest assured... You will not be disappointed. Pastor Adams and the Elders are planning to include important elements from both services, and we will together partake at The Lord’s Table, and be assured of the forgiveness of our sins—**TOGETHER as ONE!** We are ONE body of believers. And beginning on June 6 at 9:15, we will **WORSHIP AS ONE.** Because after all is said and done, **WE ARE ONE!**

Tim Krieger 313-2545
Jeremy Priest 357-3987

Don Zandarski 921-1761
Steve Schlutt 449-8827

Dan Knuth 876-7434
Steve Jackson 208-6090



From the Principal's Desk...

With a little over one month before the end of this unusual school year, we are working to finish strong. We are pushing students to improve and will continue to work through the last week of school. Many students missed lots of instruction last year in the spring and we are seeing great progress from our kids. As we continue to work on finishing in a positive fashion, we are also looking to prepare for the next school year.

The Trinity Christian School Board has recently reached out to local churches to combine services and programs whenever possible. A larger committee was formed and we are now studying ways to share costs and keep expenses down. We are currently working with Trinity, St. Joseph to develop a new marketing plan for our schools. We think it is critical to be more intentional in getting our message out to the public. By pooling our money we are going to be able to organize an extensive campaign including local radio and multiple social media sites. The expense will be shared and by working together we will offer a much more extensive marketing campaign.

We continue to see a lot of positives as the overall school program continues to improve. Enrollment projections for next year look to be on the rise again. That will be four years in a row and there is a real chance to increase by 10 or more students this fall. This increase in student attendance continues to allow the board to reduce the overall costs of the school to the church membership. As we head into the budgeting process we will again look to improve the program and reduce the costs. This will be a very important year as we look to "turn the corner financially" for a brighter future.

We have also been able to write multiple grants through the school year. We received two small grants over the fall and are currently waiting on answers to another application. The school board has been able to use these funds to cover any new Covid 19 related costs, and to make improvements throughout the school. The board will be using a part of those funds to finish updating the flooring in one classroom, pastor's office and the school office. We will also be using these funds to invest in academic supplies, Science programs, and putting new furniture in all classrooms. We have been very fortunate to receive state and federal money which allows us to improve our programs at a much faster rate. Rarely, have private schools been able to receive these kinds of funds to use. Because of the pandemic, our school and many other private schools in the region are receiving this kind of funding. We will continue to look for additional income streams to pay for the school and lower costs.

Recently two of our students have applied to the Math/Science Center program at Lake Michigan College. Micah McFarland and Adi Hildebrand both scored highly on the SAT test to qualify. These are two of a history full of students who have qualified over the years. Congratulations to our students and Miss Mort our Math instructor!

God Bless,
Mike Shembarger, Principal



Pictured from left to right: Micah McFarland, Miss Sarah Mort, and Adi Hildebrand.



May Birthdays & Anniversaries



01—Michelle Jenkins
John, Jr & Julie Larson

02—Jeremy Priest
Davis White
Mark & Nancy Carpenter

03—Taylor Fentress
Nick Nelson
Don & Michele Zandarski

08—Carolyn Toliver

10—Emma Vergon

11—Betsy Koebel

13—John Hebner

16—Mike Bartley
Joshua Marschke

17—Scott McElligott

18—Reese Tumbleson

19—Sara Jasper
John McElligott
Marlene Mitchell
Karena Wozniak

21—Steve Jackson
Karen Kerlikowske
Cheryl Welke
Ryan & Karena Wozniak

24—Rachael Marschke

25—Chris Dow

Duane Nelson

Hadley Wozniak

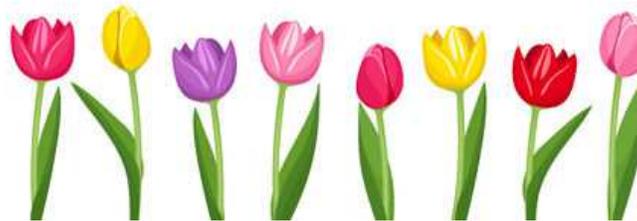
Dan & Cheryl Knuth

26—Jon Harner

28—John Larson, Senior

29—Kora Barker

Scott & Beth McFarland



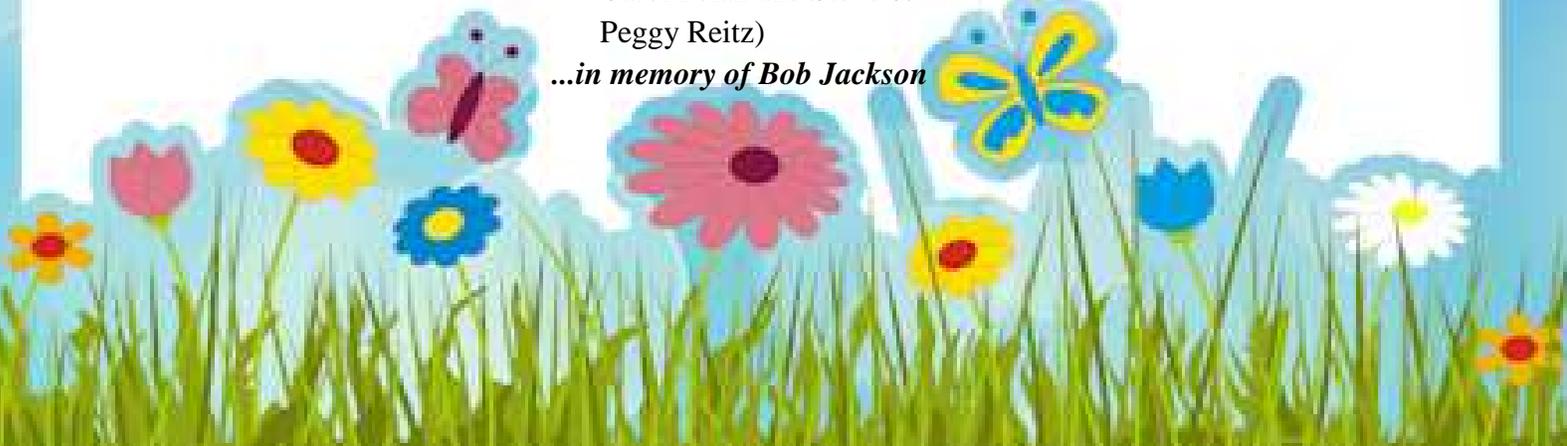
Memorials & Special Gifts

Through April 21, 2021

- Pat Michael
 - Diane McLaughlin
- ...in memory of Prim Eichberg*

- Barb Radewald
- Raymond & Marla Cerny
- Fred & Janelle Hamilton
- Kent & Margaret Werger
- Mildrid Klug
- Small Group Bible Study
(Ed & Jackie Goodman, Dan
& Cheryl Knuth, Ken &
Carol Pelan and Steve &
Peggy Reitz)

...in memory of Bob Jackson





REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS

The following is a list of our shut-ins and those currently unable to come to church. If you would like to write them a note or drop a card in the mail, they will enjoy and appreciate your thoughtfulness. If there is a name you think is missing from the list, please contact the office or Pastor Adams.

Donna Marschke
2277 E. Linco Road
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Nancy Whetstone
Parkside Village
730 N. Spring Road Room 198
Westerville, OH 43082

Jean Koebel
1699 E. John Beers Road
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Elaine Hoover
9300 M- 140
Berrien Center, MI 49102

Alverda Rudlaff
5743 Orchard Drive
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Wilma Marschke
5292 Long Lake Road
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Mary Kerlikowske
8191 M-139
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Martha Wray
11427 M-140
Niles, MI 49120

Karen Koebel
111 Lexington Point Dr. #1
Niles, MI 49120

John & Kate Hebner
5807 Daniel Boone Trail
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Norma Stover
114 N. Kimmel Street
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Marilyn Lent
Golden Age Manor
4167 N. Roosevelt Road
Stevensville, MI 49127

Barb Radewald
1117 Broad Street Apt. 6D
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Marlene Mitchell
13028 Burgoyne Road
Buchanan, MI 49107

Marcina Hoge
4762 Derby Circle
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Congratulations 2020-2021 Confirmation Class

The following students were confirmed during the Confirmation Sunday service on Sunday, April 25:

Carl Jenkins— *“Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” Psalm 46:10*

Evan Kring— *“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10*

Micah McFarland— *“But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26*

Mitch Nelson— *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9*



Sticks and Stones

By Lisa Lakey
(reprinted with permission www.familylife.com)

“Of course you did.”

The words slide between my slippery lips before I could stop them. And I saw the subtle change in my husband’s look as I wished I could retract those four small words.

But I couldn’t. And let’s be real. It wasn’t the first time (maybe that week even).

That whole “sticks and stones” rhyme from childhood doesn’t work in the adult world. Words, indeed, can hurt us.

That day, my husband had made a small confession to an action he had done without much thought. But it added more work on my swelling to-do list.

But what I did was worse. Because mine wasn’t an accident. It was intentional.

He made a confession; I placed a judgement. Yet it wasn’t on what he did as much as on his character.



Because there’s always the implied we don’t say. Of course you did. That’s who you are.

I’m reminded of the story of the woman caught in adultery. In John 8, the Pharisees were ready to stone her for her sins. But Jesus steps in and says, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone (verse 7). Crickets.

As one by one they walk away, He tells her, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more,” (verse 11).

Sticks and stones cause serious damage. So do words. I don’t want to cast verbal stones at my spouse.

One of the greatest challenges of marriage is how to speak to your spouse. Read “The Power of Words.”

FAITH + LOVE + LIFE

THE GOOD STUFF: A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit. ([Proverbs 15:4](#))

ACTION POINTS: Do you have a not-so-gentle way with words? Pray and ask God for help in how you speak to your spouse. If you need an extra reminder, write “Speak kindly” on sticky notes and place around the house, in the car, etc.

For other articles on marriage visit www.familylife.com



May 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class	3 TLS Open Enrollment for K-8 Grade 	4 10:30am Women's Bible Study 4pm Ladies Aid Meeting 7pm Trustee Meeting	5 10:30am Men's Bible Study 7pm Worship	6 7pm New Member Class	7	8
9 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class <i>Happy Mother's Day!</i>	10 7pm Council/ Elder Joint Meeting	11 10:30am Women's Bible Study	12 10:30am Men's Bible Study 7pm Worship	13	14	15 Trustee Workday
16 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class <i>TLS Participa- tion Sunday</i>	17	18 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Christian School Board Meeting	19 10:30am Men's Bible Study 7pm Worship	20 Tidings Articles Due by noon 	21	22
23 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class	24	25 10:30am Women's Bible Study 7pm Quarterly Voters' Meeting	26 10:30am Men's Bible Study 7pm Worship	27	28 TLS Last Day of Preschool	29
30 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:15am Adult Bible Class	31 TLS No School Office Closed <i>Memorial Day</i> 					<i>Cardio Drumming Classes:</i> Every Tuesday & Thursday at 6pm and Saturday at 9am

**Lory's Place
Run, Walk, and Rock
Saturday, May 15
Postponed until September 11**



- WHO:** Trinity Lutheran community
- WHAT:** Lory's Place – 15th annual 5K Run, Walk, and Rock
5K Run or Walk virtual option available
- WHEN:** Saturday, September 11, 2021 – 8:30am
- WHERE:** Lory's Place – 445 Upton Drive
St. Joseph, Michigan
- DETAILS:** Participation encouraged by
TLS Student Council

BACKGROUND: Lory's Place is a grief healing and education center of Caring Circle, of Spectrum Health Lakeland. Since its opening in 2004 Lory's Place has supported more than 45,000 children and adults after the death of a significant person and offered 70 peer support groups in Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties. Donations and participation in the Run, Walk, Rock will make possible these programs and services free of charge to those in need.

REGISTRATION: *If you have already registered you may request a refund or use it toward the new September date.*

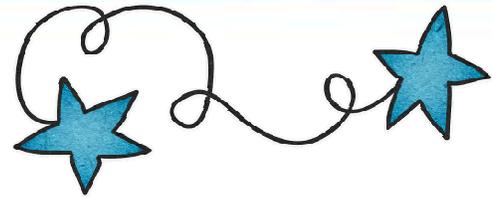
Everyone is invited to register for this event. To register or to print out a registration form check the following link:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/SaintJoseph/LorysPlace5KRunWalkRock>

The **group name** is: Trinity Lutheran Berrien Springs

The **discount code applying to everyone** including students, staff, church members, family members, etc: TRINITY2021

The school that has the most participants will receive the "Champions for Children" traveling trophy. Only K-8 students, teachers, staff, and administrators count for trophy participation. You must indicate the school and/or grade you're representing on the registration form to count towards this participation award.



Ladies Aid Shut In Project

The ladies had a wonderful time with our Ladies Aid Project on April 6, 2021 at Delores Hildebrand's home. Delores received a Thrivent grant to make the boxes. The small boxes were wrapped and stuffed with goodies for our shut ins. We all took one or two boxes and delivered them to the recipients. The boxes were greatly appreciated and everyone loved the thoughtfulness. We all gave, but we received so much more!!



The next Ladies Aid Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 4 at 4pm at Karen Warda's home. Please plan to join us. This will be our final meeting for the summer. Meetings will resume in September.

**Articles and Calendar
dates for the June
Tidings are due by
May 20, 2021 at noon.**

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:
**TURN IN
YOUR ARTICLES
EARLY!**
REMINDER:
**DEADLINE FOR
NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES IS**

**Service Person for
May—**



AMT3 Camille Crabtree
1664 Weeksville Road
Elizabeth City, NC 27969

Please consider sending Camille a note of encouragement during this month.

