

March 27, 2025

Dear Friends at Historic Trinity,

Greetings in the name of Jesus, and a blessed Lententide to you all! I am writing to tell you a little bit about how life is going here on vicarage at Our Savior in Raleigh, North Carolina, and to thank you for your continual prayers and support. I am humbled by the generous support you have given me throughout my formation and education at the seminary, and I am deeply grateful to be remembered in your prayers. Thank you for all that you do!

Lent has been—as you might expect—quite busy. Lately, there has been an uptick in the number of people who wish to join the church, so I've been assisting Pastor Martin with their instruction using the Small Catechism. It is a great joy to be able to delve into the riches of this simple, unassuming book with individuals who are curious about what Lutherans believe. There is always more to learn from the catechism! As Luther says of the catechism, "Can we finish learning in one hour what God himself cannot finish teaching? He is engaged in teaching this from the beginning to the end of the world. All prophets, together with all saints, have been busy learning it, have ever remained students, and must continue to be students." The things that are found in the catechism are what God himself has always taught, what he teaches today, and what he will teach forevermore!

Since my arrival here last summer, I've gotten to preach weekly at our year-round Wednesday evening services, as well as one Sunday each month. This has been very good exercise for me, and I'm glad to have the opportunity. It will be a tremendous gift to have already experienced what a year of weekly preaching is like once I'm out in the parish.

Teaching the confirmands and high school youth has continued to be a great joy as well. Both groups are tight-knit and inquisitive, which keeps things fun and interesting. I'm currently reading and discussing the Large Catechism with the high school youth. The Large Catechism is a wonderful, grounding resource for them as they begin to ask adolescent questions along the lines of "why am I a Lutheran?" The

confirmands are going to be confirmed at the Easter Vigil service this year. What better way to ring in Christ's Resurrection than to witness a cohort of young people confessing the new life in Christ that they were given in their baptism!

Perhaps the most resonant vicarage experiences have been visits with a number of dying parishioners and their families. One of these visits was on my own, without supervision. The visits were simple—just reading Scripture, prayer, and the singing of a hymn or two—but they were incredibly profound experiences. There are few things more amazing (or joyful!) than the knowledge that, thanks to Christ's victory on Calvary, the Resurrection of the Body awaits us on the other side of the grave. In our flesh, we will see God! I pray that in these Lenten days, you would take hope and joy in this wondrous truth, given by Christ crucified and him alone. I pray also that as we draw ever nearer to Christ's cross and passion, you are blessed by all the abundant and eternal gifts that Jesus offers there.

In Christ,

Henry Eising