



CHURCH TREE IN BLOOM—PICTURE TAKEN MARCH 6, 2020

# THE TRINITARIAN



THE NEWSLETTER OF  
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
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Bible Classes and Sunday School 9:00 AM



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## **FROM THE PASTOR**

Acts 8:3-4 But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.

You may be wondering where I am going with this text. We are in the middle of this corona virus pandemic. We have had services at the church cancelled for a couple weeks and many are wondering how much longer we will be shut down.

I received an email from a pastor name Greg Finke who no longer has a parish but is going around to various churches to help them to look to how they can be more mission minded. He has written a couple books on the subject. The first is "Joining Jesus on His mission" and second is a follow up, "Joining Jesus show me how".

His thought is that we are to follow join Jesus as He goes about His mission of converting unbelievers to believers understanding it is not us who converts anyone but He is the one who converts people.

His last email deals with how we as the church have become so accustomed to seeing church as what goes on behind the walls that we have forgotten how the church (congregation of believers) has become a 501(c) 3 that sees the church as only what goes on behind the four walls. He thought now would be the time to take another look at the church of the 1st century where the congregation met in people's homes and where the small groups tended to grow much faster than the corporate church.

He sees the New Testament church not looking so much to budget, staff, attendance and policies but to members fulfilling Jesus' mission of (1) loving neighbors and (2) transforming the community. He sees this church having the members talking more about how to best utilize the organization to facilitate the objectives above, (1&2) than talking about sustainability of what we might consider normal church stuff.

He also made the point of leaders and how the members should be looking at them in light of Hebrews 13:7 Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Do all members know the leaders or the leaders all the members. How are the members to imitate the way of life of someone they don't know? Might leaders encourage members as Hebrews 10:24-25 states?

Do we need to have an Acts 8 mindset as we move forward through this pandemic and to the days beyond when life might not be the same as it once was?

Pastor

## **ELDER MESSAGE**

### **TRUTH**

What is the truth? In these days of uncertainty about Covid-19, the truth is unknown. Initially the virus supposedly affected the elderly and those with underlying medical issues. It is now reported that people 30-50 years old with no immune system deficiencies are being struck down. Even the spring break participants have been identified as "victims", albeit of their own stupidity and belief in their own invincibility.

We are all finding out the Truth, that we are all at risk for infection despite our own actions to prevent it.

In the memorialized words of Col Jessup ( Jack Nicholson in the movie "A Few Good Men") "YOU CANT HANDLE THE TRUTH". Unfortunately for millions of people his words ring painfully true. Hence the panic buying of all sorts of supplies to "get you through the next few weeks, months or whatever time it takes to develop a vaccine.

We hear the words of leaders at all levels of society that TOP MEN are working on a solution to this problem. YEAH RIGHT, how many of the TOP MEN are working for a "cure" that is part of an agenda that will satisfy their political masters.(rant off)

THE REAL TRUTH IS THAT GOD IS ALWAYS IN CHARGE. The outcome this crisis is fully in his plan for all of us.

THE REAL TRUTH IS THAT SALVATION IS ONLY POSSIBLE THROUGH FAITH IN HIM AND HIS SON, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHOSE SACRIFICE ON THE CROSS PAID FOR OUR SINS.

WE WILL REALIZE THIS TRUTH IF WE ONLY REPENT AND BELIEVE IN HIM.

Jim Wilkes, Elder

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### **CHURCH SERVICES**

Pastor Heithold and elders decided today, Monday, March 29, to cancel services at church until further notice to be in compliance with federal and state directives.

Thanks to Pastor, Garrett, Matt and Abby Anderson, an online service was successfully aired on the Trinity website at [trinityalamogordo.org](http://trinityalamogordo.org) on Sunday, March 29.

A question from several members was raised about offerings. Please mail your contributions or drop them off in the mailbox in front of the church. It is a locked mailbox.

Thanks.

GOD'S blessings to all of you.

GOD WILL BE WITH US THROUGH THIS TIME OF CRISIS.

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### **TRINITARIAN**

The April Newsletter will be posted online, however we don't include birthdays and anniversary's online. If you are wanting full newsletter with those dates, you can drop by the church. The April Portals of Prayer are in your mailboxes. There will be no calendar this month.

Jan

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors did not meet in March due to COVID-19 directives.

Jim Wilkes, Head Elder, reported that Lee Wood will be contacting Sarah Eikjer about playing piano and training on the organ. The elders met with Pastor Heithold on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, and made the difficult decision to suspend all church services through at least March 29<sup>th</sup>. The decision was made as a precaution to protect our congregation members. They planned to meet again on March 30<sup>th</sup> to assess the situation at that time. The elders asked that they be notified any time you have a need for care, i. e. hospitalized, need transportation, etc.

Cheryl Sandenaw, Treasurer, reported total income for February was \$17,377.35; total expenses were (\$20,906.78) giving us a net loss of (\$3,529.43). Our year to date income was \$39,050.95 while year to date expenses were \$41,820.99 for a net loss of (\$2,770.04).

Lisa Collins, Evangelism Chair, had asked the BOD to consider not having a booth at the Otero County Fair this year due to lack of participation and return on the effort. Since we did not have an official meeting a vote was taken via email. The BOD voted not to have a booth at the fair this year. A contributing factor was the fact that the cost of registering for a booth doubled! The fair board is charging \$100.00 this year as opposed to \$50.00 last year.

Cindi Anderson, Education Chair, reported That the Youth Group Potato Bar Lunch fundraiser on March 15 after church was postponed. The fun trip to Ruidoso during spring break has also been cancelled. They will have a pancake breakfast for Easter Morning, provided we have services.

Allen Burmeister, Trustee Chair, that a new head microphone for pastor was ordered and is in use. Hopefully, no more popping!

Sandy Klose, Stewardship Chair, reported that she is working with Vicki Leonard, Financial Secretary, to determine the amounts of recent memorial funds donated. She will coordinate expenditure of these funds with either next of kin or the estate manager.

I want to thank everyone for their efforts during this trying time dealing with the COVID-19 threat. A few people deserve special recognition. Thanks to Pastor Heithold and our elders, Jim Wilkes, Ray Bailey, Matt Clark and Glen Schlehuser for looking out for our safety by suspending services. I know the decision must have been difficult. I also want to thank Lisa Collins for posting the info on our recently created Facebook page and the Anderson family, Matt, Cindi, and Garrett for posting worship services on our website. A special thanks goes out to Dr. Terry Marquardt for sponsoring "Worship Anew" on KVBATV. The messages are meaningful and well done, definitely LCMS.

Bob Klose,  
President of Congregation

## DEAR FRIENDS AT TRINITY,

My prayer is that all of you are well and weathering this storm in life well.

Due to the corona virus the elders chose not to have church services until April. Unfortunately, the virus does not prevent the bills from coming in and needing to be paid. We were over \$2700.00 short of meeting our expenses for the year as of Feb. 29, 2020. Consequently, we are asking for your help. If you could please make your monthly or weekly contributions to the church it would be very helpful. You can drop it off at the church, put it in the locked church mailbox or mail it to the church at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1505 College Ave. Alamogordo NM 88310.

I want to thank you in advance for your faithfulness and generosity to the church.

God's Blessings,

Sandy Klose, Stewardship Chair

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Many people are discovering the power and intimacy of a cell group.

## STEWARDSHIP

On the topic of stewardship, one of the most common questions a person might ask is *not* whether a Christian should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Of course, Christians should give to their church.

The most common question: "How much should I give?" But what they really mean is this: "Should Christians give a tithe of their income to their local congregation?" So, let's look at why you should or should not tithe.

Following are some reasons often offered for why Christians *shouldn't* give a tithe to their church.

Some say you shouldn't tithe because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. Lacking that command, there is no "Thus saith the Lord" and no "should" for giving a tithe to your congregation.

Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these, together with treasures (money), add up to more than a tithe.

Still others say they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church.

And there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of fear. If they tithe, they are afraid their gift will be misused, and they are afraid they won't have enough to get

the things they use, want, or need.

Following are some reasons for why Christians *should* give a tithe to their church.

Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to give a tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to tithe and did. On top of this, St. Paul often describes the giving Christians are to do in similar terms as a tithe: a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of their income (1 Cor. 6:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? The reason for the Old Testament tithe was to support the full ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry.

What does it say in the New Testament? "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther put in the *Small Catechism's* Table of Duties to cover what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question about something entirely different. What would you say to your adult children who

only attended church quarterly or once a month?

There, is after all, no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest we have, and it states simply for Christians to not neglect gathering together. Even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments. It is the goal.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? I'd expect that conversation would be something like this: "I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and to receive His gifts in the Word and the Sacraments. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it."

This same conversation is how we should approach the topic of the tithe. It's not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, the church is ecstatic that you're giving when you're giving in all these ways – time, talents, and treasures.

Sandy Klose, Stewardship Chair

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### **HIGHWAY CLEANUP**

The highway cleanup for April was cancelled. The new tentative date is May 9th depending on the quarantine for COVID-19. There will be details in the bulletins as we approach that date.

Thank you, Hannah Keeler

## **“...but CALVARY DOES.”**

The Window by H. W. Gckel  
This Day Magazine, Sept. 1952

A man who had misspent his life lay critically ill. Turning to his pastor he asked: “Do you think that a deathbed repentance does away with a whole life of sin?” “No, the pastor answered quietly, “*but Calvary does.*”

Calvary does away with every sin – the sins of our childhood, the sins of our youth, and those of our old age. “The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from *all* sin,” says St. John. “Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” And that means *all* of our sins!

It’s not a question of being late or being early, of being more guilty or less guilty, of being very old or being very young – it is merely a question of accepting NOW the abundant pardon which is ours through the limitless love of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

There is love for all, there is mercy for all, and there is pardon for all alike.

Do you feel that you have been harboring some secret sin too long to be forgiven, that you have trampled upon God’s grace too long to ask for pardon?” Take heart! The Scriptures tell us that where sin abounded, there did God’s love much more abound. If you are still able to read these words, it is *not too late*. “Now is the accepted time. Now is the day of salvation.”

The thief on the cross was late – *very late* – but not too late! The hour was late in the life of Zacchaeus, but not too late. For he still was privileged to hear from the lips of the Savior;

“*This day* is salvation come to this house!” This day! Have you recognized this day as a day of grace?

*Today Thy mercy call us  
To wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass,  
Whatever we have been;  
However long from mercy  
Our hearts have turned away,  
Thy precious blood can cleanse us, And make  
us white today.*

Nothing that we can do can make up for a whole life of sin. But Christ can, and Calvary *does!*

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### **TREASURES**

One by one He took them from me,  
All the things I valued most,  
Until I was empty-handed;  
Every glittering toy was lost.

And I walked the earth’s highways, grieving  
In my rags and poverty  
Till I heard His voice inviting.  
“Lift your empty hands to me!”

So I held my hands toward heaven,  
And He filled them with a store  
Of His own transcendent riches,  
Till they could contain no more.

And at last I comprehended  
With my stupid mind and dull,  
That God could not poor His riches  
Into hands already full!

—Martha Snell Nicholson