



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

1Peter 3:13-17 Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

We have all heard part of this text before. The part where we should always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks for a reason for our hope. "Be prepared to make a defense." It is the most simple question anyone might ask. We get tired of telling our little ones the answers to the many "WHY" questions but that is how they learn, not only information but our handling of it.

We are now or about to enter into the new church year as you read this. I have told many of you of the person of the last official act in my previous congregations before I packed up and came in answer to your call for me to be your pastor here in Alamogordo. I buried a guy who a couple years earlier was confronted by the Holy Spirit and was given faith to believe in Jesus as His one and only Savior. Members of one of the congregations I was pastor of had been praying for him to come to faith as I gave them a challenge to be praying for just one person or one couple that they knew didn't accept what Jesus had done for them.

Maybe I should have mentioned this to you too. There are so many who don't know Jesus, people you know. I asked that they pray for one, not two or twenty but to keep this person or couple in mind, have them on their hearts every day, any time they come to mind. I'm sure you all know of one. Keep them before the Lord and pray that the Holy Spirit would work on their hearts to see the need for Jesus and for salvation in Him.

In order for them to ask you of the hope you have, you will have to make them part of your life. Yes, it may require some time and effort on your part. They may be headed to hell and will be if and until the Holy Spirit works in them. Even though He creates faith, the Lord uses each of us even if it is minimally as we are privileged to be part of His work in them.

If you are worried what words to say, what questions to ask, remember what James was led to write: James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

Pastor

ELDERS ARTICLE

Did you venture out on Black Friday to secure the latest and greatest gifts at bargain prices? How about the pre-Christmas sales that began at Halloween? What about the Christmas office parties or other organizational parties that seem to occupy the weekend evenings. Are you focused on the myriad of things that have to get done during this busy time of the year. Cooking the new dish for houseguests, oh yeah, the houseguests that seem to come out of the woodwork when the weather back home gets downright miserably cold and dreary. Yes, you welcome them with open arms because they are family or old friends.

Christmas has always been about gathering family and friends together to celebrate the season. It is so great to enjoy being in the company of the ones you love.

GOD also enjoys the company of His family. While He is with us all the time, He commands us to worship Him by regular attendance at Trinity Lutheran Church. The Advent and Christmas services are the best way to praise God for giving us the GIFT of Salvation through the birth of His precious Son, Jesus Christ.

Let your attendance at the Advent and Christmas services be the beginning of your New Year's resolution to be in church every Sunday in 2020.

Jim Wilkes,
Head Elder

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors met on November 21, 2019.

Jim Wilkes, Head Elder, reported that the elders continue reviewing member attendance. They are actively attempting to contact delinquent members to encourage them to return to regular church attendance. The elders are looking into the possibility of giving Advent calendars to the children of the congregation as suggested by Pastor. A new job description for the church secretary's position was approved along with a draft contract for our current secretary, Jan Thede. The contract will be presented to her soon. The elders asked that they be notified any time you have a need for care, i. e. hospitalized, need transportation, etc.

Vicki Leonard, Financial Secretary, reported total income for October was \$15,367.65. Special fund giving totaled \$ 1,020.00 leaving a general fund balance of \$14,347.65.

Robyn Luevano, Treasurer, reported that income exceeded expenses in October by \$3,486.61; due partially to paying for the organ maintenance from general funds. She will transfer \$8,187.50 from the LCEF account to reimburse the general fund. General Income was \$14,347.65 and Expenses were \$(17,834.26). Year to date income (YTD) is \$159,712.29 (envelope and loose plate) and YTD expenses are (\$163,525.58). YTD we're over budget by (\$3,813.29).

Lisa Collins, Evangelism Chair, reported meeting with a representative from the Chamber of Commerce regarding our listing on their website. She will monitor the reports available to determine the effectiveness of this evangelism tool.

Cindi Anderson, Education Chair, reported that she is looking into the availability of children and youth for a Christmas Eve program this year.

Bob Thede, Trustee Chair, reported that the organ tuner returned the week of November 11th. There are still some significant problems to be addressed. The tuner would like to come back in January to address these.

New Business:

- A financial review committee, consisting of Susan Weitzel and Jim Wilkes was appointed. If anyone is interested in serving on this committee contact Susan.
- The board approved having our usual luminaria display on Christmas Eve.
- The board voted not to meet in December.

Bob Klose, President

LUMINARIAS

Come help us set up Luminarias on Christmas Eve. We will be putting them together and setting them up for display at 9:00 am on Dec 24. Don't worry if you haven't done it before, it is easy and we will show you how it is done. We will have coffee and donuts for everyone to enjoy. We hope to see you there!

TRUSTEE

Our organ tuner returned on the week of Nov 11. He had found some significant problems with the organ which he worked to fix. Most of the problems were associated with the air controllers. He had taken one back with him and rebuilt it. Another one could not be removed so he replaced it with one that he had and also rebuilt that one. He also replaced a third one with another one he had rebuilt. Installing the replacements involved rerouting the pipes that deliver the air to various places in the organ. After doing this he tuned the pipes that are played with the key boards. There are still problems with the foot keys that he didn't have time to work on. He would like to come back in January to finish that work and also to clean up the electrical wiring in the organ. His bill for the work he did was \$8187.50. He lowered some of his hourly rates to keep his total charges close to his original estimate of \$8000.

Bob Thede, Trustee

YOU'RE INVITED

*To a Graduation reception for
Bobby Anderson*

Sunday, December 22nd

Following the worship service.

Trinity Lutheran Church Great Room

Bobby Anderson will be graduating from NMSU with a BA degree in Music Education on Saturday, December 14th.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE GIFT OF JESUS



Our country celebrates Thanksgiving Day in November. We have much for which to be thankful! Our highest thanksgiving comes from the gift of Jesus, our Savior. God has given us everything in Christ; and, therefore, we thank and praise Him, serve and obey Him, and devote ourselves to His service.

Recent storms and disasters have challenged us and may make us wonder and question God. At those moments let us go to the Psalms and other passages in God's Holy Word for comfort and assurance.

"Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation" (Habakkuk 3:17-18).

Heavenly Father, grant that we follow Your Word and thank our dear Lord for His holy precious blood, which He so freely offered for us on the cross. In His name we pray. Amen.

Angelina Jauregui
Vice President of Gospel Outreach
Lutheran Women's Missionary League



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR GIVING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2019.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A CHANGING WORLD!

Double Your Impact!

Thanks to two generous donors, this year all LWML Giving Tuesday donations will be matched, up to \$20,000 in matching funds.

Join us in supporting and praying for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Mission Goal, which shares Jesus' love by reaching out to the hurting, helpless, and unbelieving people throughout the world.

What is Giving Tuesday?

Giving Tuesday, observed on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, takes the focus off of commercialism of Black Friday and Cyber Monday and instead celebrate giving back. Our goal is to use Giving Tuesday to spread the Gospel message by Collecting money and raising awareness for LWML Mission Grants, which share the love of Jesus throughout all nations.

Lutheran Women in Mission — The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is the official women's auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since 1942, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries, and to support global missions.

The LWML is the leading group for LCMS women where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness.

LWML Office - 801 Seminary Place, Ste. L010,
 St. Louis, MO 63105 800-252-5965 - www.lwml.org
 Prior issues of LWML eNews are available
 on the [LWML website](http://www.lwml.org).

THE “W” IN CHRISTMAS

My son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten. It was an exciting season for a six year old. For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant." I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation. All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then. Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise.

So the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in ten minutes early, found a spot on the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats. As I waited, the students were led into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song.

Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas", I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment—songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer. So, when my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love", I was slightly taken aback by its bold title.

Nicholas was aglow, as were all his classmates adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snowcaps upon their heads. Those in the front row held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song. As the class would sing "C is for Christmas," a child then hold up the letter "C". Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, until each child holding up his portion

Presented the complete message, "Christmas Love."

The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her; a small, quiet, girl in the front row holding the letter "M" upside down—totally unaware "M" appeared as a "W". The audience of 1st through 6th graders snickered at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W".

Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together. A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen. In that instant, we understood the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos, there was the purpose for our festivities.

For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear "CHRISTMAS LOVE".

And, I believe, He still is.

—Anonymous
Contributed by Shirley Enyeart

MIDWEEK ADVENT SOUP & SANDWICHES

There will be a soup & sandwich supper before each Advent service at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Advent service at 7:00 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board for providing soup or sandwiches. Just sign up your name and what you plan to bring for whichever advent service you wish

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Laurie Di Paolo	Dec. 4
Rachel Van Cleave	Dec. 4
Gerald Moore	Dec. 5
Emily Johnson	Dec. 9
Sandy Klose	Dec. 16
Joyce Macon	Dec. 17
Makynna Bowman	Dec. 18
Larry Van Duyn	Dec. 20
Keyleigh Bowman	Dec. 31

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Pastor & Cyndi Heithold Dec. 26

LONG-TERM PRAYERS

Eric Bell, **Lois Babcock**, Margaret Brabson,
Kay Burger, Michael Burger, Pat Carr,
Pam Cerny, Red Chesbro, Mike Debaar, Ashton
Flasco, Lester & Olivia Drinkwater, Renee Gocis,
Kristie & John Humphrey, **Connie Johnson**,
Rhonda Jones, Caroline Kelly, Ty Landt,
David Melendrez Jr., Myron Marquardt,
Betsy Miller, Emiclio Mutis, Cindy Oberling,
Mary Pamos, Alex Pearson, Margaret Romero,
Justin Salmon, **Ila Schelter**, Carol Schultz,
Jessie Sharette, Les Street, Paul Thomas,
Austin Tice, Marea Turnbull, Eric Van Horn,
Vertein family, Rhihann Williams



"I'm a king in the living Nativity. I need some gold and a camel by Friday."

DECEMBER ALTAR COMMITTEE

Christine Schlehuser
Beverly Van Duyn

DECEMBER FLOWERS

Dec. 1 Jim & Ruth Wilkes
Dec. 8 Dick & Jan Dommers
Dec. 15 Cheryl Sandenaw
Dec. 22 Pastor & Cyndi Heithold
Dec. 29 Gerald & Gayan Moore

DECEMBER ATTENDANCE

No information available

.LWML

Come join in the fun of decorating our beautiful church in Celebration of our Lord's Birth. Dec. 7 at 10a.m. Soup luncheon to follow with lots of fellowship.

Also, the LWML Ladies will be placing a tree in the Fellowship Hall on December 7th. We invite all parishioners to participate in decorating this tree! We ask that you bring your favorite book (Christmas or otherwise) to place under the tree. Bring an ornament that represents the book and hang it on the tree. After Christmas you may either donate the book to the church library or take it back home.

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth will be decorating their Christmas tree on Saturday, Dec. 7th at 10:00 a.m. and will also be helping the ladies with their tree.

The youth group Christmas party is on Sunday, Dec. 8th at 5:00 p.m. in the Great Room. We will decorate cookies and play games. Bring an appetizer to share and a gift exchange (around \$15). Merry Christmas!

DECEMBER STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

ELDERS

Dec. 1 Matt Clark
Dec. 4 Matt Clark (Wed. Advent)
Dec. 8 Robert Rentschler
Dec. 11 Robert Rentschler (Wed. Advent)
Dec. 15 Glen Schlehuser
Dec. 18 Glen Schlehuser (Wed. Advent)
Dec. 22 Jim Wilkes
Dec. 24 Jim Wilkes (Christmas Eve)
Dec. 25 Ray Bailey (Christmas Day)
Dec. 29 Matt Clark
Dec. 31 Matt Clark (New Year's Eve)

ACOLYTES

Dec. 1 Ethan Fuller
Dec. 4 Reilly Quinn (Wed. Advent)
Dec. 8 Madie Sanchez
Dec. 11 Ryan Sebring (Wed. Advent)
Dec. 15 Abby Anderson
Dec. 18 Emily Johnson (Wed. Advent)
Dec. 22 Emma Fuller
Dec. 24 Children's Program (Christmas Eve)
Dec. 25 Reilly Quinn (Christmas Day)
Dec. 29 Ethan Fuller
Dec. 31 Ryan Sebring (New Year's Eve)

USHERS

Dec. 1 Tom Blackmon, Susan Weitzel
Larry & Beverly Van Duyn
Dec. 8 Matt Anderson, Marvin Bunker,
John Marquardt
Dec. 15 Trey Johnson, Robert Johnson,
Ray Krueger, Bob Thede
Dec. 22 Bob Klose, Sandy Klose,
Gerald Moore
Dec. 29 Youth

HOSTS

No Information Available

READERS

Dec. 1 Cheryl Sandenaw & Kelly Thomas
Dec. 4 Bob & Sandy Klose (Wed. Advent)
Dec. 8 Lola Ableidinger & Susan Weitzel
Dec. 11 Vicki Leonard & Hannah Keeler
(Wed. Advent)
Dec. 15 Cheryl Richey & Lewis Thomas
Dec. 18 Yvonne Steeby & Cheryl Sandenaw
(Wed. Advent)
Dec. 22 Cheryl Richey & Lisa Collins
Dec. 24 Children's Program (Christmas Eve)
Dec. 25 Gerald Moore & Dick Dommers
(Christmas Day)
Dec. 29 Youth
Dec. 31 (New Year's Eve)

TELLERS

Dec. 1 Susan Klose & Susan Weitzel
Dec. 4 Bob Klose & Patty Quinn
(Wed. Advent)
Dec. 8 Megan Bowman & Linde Van Cleave
Dec. 11 Lola Ableidinger & Cheryl Sandenaw
(Wed. Advent)
Dec. 15 Shirley Enyeart & Becky Worley
Dec. 18 Dick Dommers & Nora Sotak
(Wed. Advent)
Dec. 22 Yvonne Steeby & Sandy Klose
Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve)
Dec. 25 Bob Klose Dick Dommers
(Christmas Day)
Dec. 29 Megan Bowman & Patty Quinn
Dec. 31 Volunteers (New Year's Eve)