



THE TRINITARIAN



THE NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Pastor Donavon W. (Bill) Heithold, Jr.
1505 College Avenue
Alamogordo, New Mexico 88310
(575) 437-1482
E-mail: tlchurchlcms@yahoo.com
Website: www.trinityalamogordo.org
Bible Classes and Sunday School 9:00 AM
Divine Service 10:15 AM



NOVEMBER 2018

VOLUME 54 No. 11

FROM THE PASTOR

Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

This month we will celebrate Thanksgiving. We usually go back to the pilgrims as they gave thanks for the Indians and their help in surviving that first year. Yet, we think of Thanksgiving for all the Lord has provided since then.

We have so much to be thankful for, especially with all we have here in the U.S. We can see and hear of how many throughout the world are so poor our poor look like wealthy individuals comparatively. One comment always sticks in my mind of someone from another country commented that he had never seen so many poor people so well fed (fat).

We want to give thanks for all we have been given but can that thanks also include how well Jesus has fed us with His Word? There is no problem getting a copy of God's Word. A person could walk into any church and ask for a Bible and you will most likely be given one, no charge and yet that same Bible, maybe in a different language, is so hard to come by in many places throughout the world.

With cell phones and the internet, I'm sure it is fairly easy to bring up a copy on the internet wherever you are except maybe in countries that block certain sites. I pray there will be ways around those blockages.

Even with all the availability of the Word of God which we can give thanks, it is really the Word made flesh that we really give thanks. If it weren't for Him and He fulfilling the scriptures that we read, the thanks we now have would have been short circuited. It was through Jesus, that we can give any thanks at all for without Him and what He has done for us, any good we would ever experience would be any good we would have while we live on this earth.

Where would our thanks be if that were the case? Would it be limited to our mealtime prayer? Or prayers of thanks for things? Yes, we will give thanks for many THINGS this month but our greatest Thanksgiving should be all about Him who gave His life so that we can live out lives of thanksgiving, daily, moment by moment knowing that because of Him, we have our next breath and the continued life that will never end, even though it will be interrupted for a time until He comes again.

As we give thanks this year, give thanks to God that Father through Him who came to us because of His love for us.

Pastor

ELDERS

As you know, "Thanksgiving" falls in the month of November. However, what does this mean to us. For each of us "Thanksgiving" could mean something very different. I pray that for all Christians it means that we are so thankful that Jesus Christ died on the cross on "Good Friday" and rose from the dead on "Easter Sunday" and that because of His work we have complete forgiveness of sins. If we believe that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior, we will also be with Him in heaven upon our death. Now that is something to be "Thankful" for. The Elders of Trinity Lutheran Church want everyone in our congregation to be with Jesus Christ in heaven when we leave this earth. However, in order to do this, we all have to be in God's word and be a regular attendant in church. Our children need to be regular attendants in Sunday school. If it is difficult for you to attend church because of life difficulties, please let the Pastor or one of the church elders know. The church elders are here to assist you in your spiritual growth in any way possible. Please allow us to help you if necessary. Furthermore, the elders of Trinity Lutheran Church are extremely "Thankful" for each and every one of our members and we are privileged to service our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

In Christ's Service,
Raymond Bailey, Elder

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors met on October 16th.

Dick Dommers, Head Elder, reported that the elders reviewed member attendance. There are still several members who have not attended recently. The elders will contact these individuals to encourage them to return.

The elders discussed the elder slate for November election. We need at least one elder to run. Several men were approached but thus far no one has stepped up.

An advent letter was distributed for elder's signature and will be distributed in early November. The elders were invited to the Pastor Appreciation breakfast at the 19th Hole Restaurant at 8:00AM on October 31st.

Nora Sotak, Acting Financial Secretary, reported total income for September was \$17,497.00; of that \$17,613 went to our General Fund.

Robyn Luevano, Treasurer, reported that income exceeded expenses in September by \$1,008.00. General Income was \$16,103.00 and Expenses were \$(16,489.00). Year-to-date we've received \$151,273.96 and had expenses of (\$148,210.77) for a difference of plus \$3,063.19.

Cheryl Sandenaw, Evangelism Chair, reported that the October 18th Evangelism Meeting was held by telephone in the morning with Dick Dommers. They discussed the Pastor Naeem luncheon and next year's charities. They

**CONGREGATION MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2018**

agreed that the side dishes and desserts should be pot-luck. The results of the missions' survey showed a desired increase, from four to six, bi-monthly missions for 2019. They will discuss the charities to be presented at the Congregational Meeting at the next Evangelism meeting.

Bob Klose and Cheryl also had a phone meeting. They discussed expenditures for Pastor Naeem's visit and possible names for filling BOD vacancies.

Plans are moving forward for the Bob Lenz event next March.

Bob Thede, Trustee Chair, reported that the trustees have been working on refinishing several of the interior doors in the church. The light above the south entrance was changed out. The heating/cooling systems have been switched to the heat mode. A Wi-Fi range extender has been purchased and will be installed later. This will, hopefully, enable our Wi-Fi signal to reach the front of the Sanctuary.

The board approved a motion to distribute printed copies of the minutes from last year's congregation meeting prior to the meeting to make more efficient use of the meeting time.

Bob Klose, President

Never give the devil a ride. He will always want to drive.

—Bumper Sticker

The Board of Directors (BOD) has selected November 18th as the date for the annual congregational meeting. The purpose of the meeting, as directed by the Constitution and By-Laws of Trinity, is to elect officers to the BOD, approve a budget for next year, nominate individuals as delegates to Synod offices, and conduct any other business brought up by congregation members.

This year we will be electing BOD members for the following: President, Vice-President, Financial Secretary, Education Chair, Evangelism Chair and two (2) Elders. Please prayerfully consider serving in one of these positions. Let myself, Dick Dommers or Cheryl Sandenaw know if you are willing to serve.

Our By-laws state that there should be one elder for every *fifty confirmed members*. Thanks to Ray Bailey, Matt Clark, Sr., and Jim Wilkes we currently, once again, have a full slate of five elders. This year Dick Dommers and Robert Rentschler's positions are to be elected.

Romans 12:1-3 12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

I appeal to you also brothers and sisters, please come forward and agree to serve.

Bob Klose, Congregation President

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS—2019 LCMS CONVENTION

LCMS has provided information for nominating personnel for the offices President, First Vice-President and Vice-President West-Southwest positions within the Synod. Requirements for the positions are an Ordained Minister.

If you are interested in nominating someone for one of these offices contact Bob Klose, Congregation President, (575) 491-3407.

The men currently serving in these offices are: President – Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison; First Vice-President, Rev. Dr. Herb C. Mueller, Jr.; Second Vice-President, Representing the West-Southwest Region, Rev. Dr. Scott R. Murray. Biographical information of these men is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. If no new nominations are forthcoming a motion to nominate the incumbents will be asked for during the congregation meeting on November 18th.

Bob Klose

THANK YOU

Pastor Shelby Moon, his wife Colleen and their family would like to thank the members of Trinity Lutheran for all their prayers, monetary donations and meals that were given to their family during his illness. It was greatly appreciated. Please continue to lift them up in prayer.

BEGIN TODAY

So brief a time we have to stay
Along this dear, familiar way;
It seems to me we should be kind
To those whose lives touch yours
and mine.

The hands that serve us every day,
Should we not help them while we may?
They are so kind that none can guess
How soon they cease our lives to bless.

The hearts that love us, who may know
How soon the long, long way must go.
Then might we not their faults forgive
And make them happy while they live?

So many faults in life there are
We need not go to seek them far;
But time is short, and you and I
Might let the little faults go by

And seek for what is true and fine
In those whose lives touch yours
and mine,

This seems to me the better way,
Then why not, friend, begin today?

CAN'T MAKE TO CHURCH?

You can tune in to a Lutheran Service called "Worship Anew" on your TV. If you live in the area and have an antennae tune into 14.1 on your digital receiver or channel 19 on you analog antennae or channel 22 on you local TV station you can also go to KVBATV.org and stream it to you computer. Broadcast times are Wednesdays at 10:30 am and Sundays at 12:30 p.m.

EVANGELISM

“The mentality that justifies ending the lives of infants in the womb has not stopped there. Today, those who are elderly, sick, or disabled are being viewed as burdens and at risk of becoming candidates for euthanasia. The “right-to-die” movement employs phrases such as “self-determination” and “death-with-dignity” and presents itself as a humanitarian crusade to reduce human suffering. It is, however, a philosophy radically at odds with scriptural truth. The Bible clearly teaches that life is a precious gift from God and that the number of our days are in His hands.” **Novembers Tract of the Month** is “Euthanasia and the Christian”. You don’t want to miss this one!

Bob Lenz – On October 22nd Bob Klose and Cheryl Sandenaw attended a meeting with Michelle Perry & acting Superintendent Jerrett Perry in regards to Bob Lenz. Once assurances had been made that the topics of the school events would be whatever the principals at each school wanted (via a questionnaire from the Bob Lenz organization to the principals) and that no Christian content would be in the school events, and that the evening event would be Christian in nature, but non-denominational, they got on-board with us. *In fact they seemed excited that we are doing this!* Some aspects of what the Bob Lenz organization wants for set-up can’t be

met by the schools. All details have been sent to Mitch Racine, our Bob Lenz contact. Assuming that they are agreeable (I can’t imagine they won’t be) we have a green light to go on this for Monday March 18, 2019. Now all we have to do is sign the contract & send the money. And of course, then we need to get to work. Volunteers to help with this are and will be greatly appreciated!

Our 4th Quarter Mission (Oct through Dec) is LCMS Joint Seminary Fund. Mission Sundays are always on the 3rd Sunday of the month, but you can give to the mission anytime during this quarter.

Mission Change – The voting is over. There were a total of 42 votes cast. Of those votes 25 were yes and 17 were no. So at the next Congregational Meeting you will be voting for 6 instead of 4 missions. I plan to get a list of missions and what they do, out to everyone before the November Congregational meeting.

The Next Evangelism Committee meeting will be Thursday November 8th at 5:30 pm. We welcome anyone that may wish to attend!

In closing I would like to quote Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) – “¹⁰ For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do..”

Yours in Christ,
Cheryl Sandenaw, Evangelism Chairman

Vision that is rooted in values is the only vision that will last.

—Dave Ramsey in *More Than Enough*

THE WINDOW

IN THE UPPER BRANCHES

The Window by H. W. Gockel
This Day magazine – June 1951

An elderly woman had been confined to her bedroom for several years. Each spring she watched from her window as the same robin returned and built its nest *high* in a near-by tree.

One morning she called to her daughter and said nervously: "Look! Our robin is building her nest in one of the *lower* branches this year. I'm afraid the neighbor's cat can reach it."

A few days later she looked out of her window – to find the ground beneath that branch covered with feathers. The neighbor's cat had, indeed, found the lower branch within its reach – and the robin was dead!

As Christians we, too, have the choice of building our lives in the "upper branches" or in the "lower" – of living thrillingly close to God or dangerously close to the world. We have the choice of filling our minds with thoughts of goodness, love, and lofty aspiration or filling our minds with the mean and the low and the trivial.

We are living in the *lower* branches for instance, when we cultivate a taste for books and magazines which pander to the lower passions, when we frequent places of amusement which cater to the lusts of the flesh, when we associate with friends and companions of whom we know that they delight in flouting the requirements of purity and decency.

How many a young person who has built his life in these lower branches has been snatched, almost unawares, by the Tempter and hurled to his destruction.

We are living in the *upper* branches, removed farthest from the Tempter's wiles, when we live in a daily communion with our Savior, when we occupy ourselves diligently with His work, when we take an active part in church activities, when we associate with Christian friends, and when we make a deliberate effort to fill our minds with those thoughts only which we could lay bare in the presence of the Master.

That is what the Apostle had in mind when he said: "Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." (Phil. 4:8)

The man who fills his mind with "these things" is living in the upper branches, and the crafty enemy of his soul will not find an easy prey. Of those who have "set their affections on things above" the Apostle says their life "is hid with Christ in God" (Col. 3:3)

Scripture admonishes us to "walk in the Spirit," that is, live on the level of the things of God; and then it adds the promise: "and ye shall be not fulfill the lusts of the flesh" (Gal. 5:16).

On what level has our life been moving – on the upper or on the lower? Have we built our nest in the upper or in the lower branches?

It isn't what you have in your pocket that makes you thankful, but what you have in your heart.

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES

DIRTY WINDOWS?

Do you need your windows washed? We have the kids to take care of the job for you! The Youth Group will be washing windows Monday, Nov 12. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. We will bring the supplies and wash your window spit spot clean! Cost- donations

FALL IS IN THE AIR AND CHRISTMAS IS ON IT'S WAY!

Warm up with a bowl of chili and do some Christmas shopping!

The Youth Group will be hosting a **Chili Supper and Craft Sale**, Sunday, November 11 after church. Donations will be accepted for the Chili Supper



PHONE NUMBER

Lola Ableidinger is having problems with her landline phone. She can be reached on her cell phone at 575-430-6040.

TRUSTEE

We are continuing to refurbish interior doors in the church. We have completed refinishing a closet door in the social hall and the door into the Listening Room.

We have obtained a device to extend the range of the wifi in the church. This will allow us to get wifi in the front of the sanctuary.

Bob Thede
Trustee Chairman

THANKSGIVING BEATITUDES

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference.

—Author unknown

LWML NEWS AND NOTES

Lutheran Women's Missionary League Women in Mission

Prayer Service on November 10, 2018, 10:00 AM, see advertisement below. This is open to everyone, not just women. Hope to see many of you there.

We will be collecting food and/or money for four families for **Thanksgiving Food Baskets**. This is a joint LWML and Evangelism project. A table will be set up in the South Hallway for your non-perishable food donations. Money donations can be placed in the offering plate, mark the envelope and the check's memo line "Food Baskets." Please have your donations in by November 18th, so we can start delivering the baskets on the 19th. Questions or concerns, talk to Cheryl Sandenaw or Nora Sotak.

Looking ahead to **Christmas**. The LWML will be decorating their Christmas tree on December 1. The Youth Group will also be decorating their tree then so, if the ladies need help carrying or someone to climb a ladder, the youth will be available. There will be a devotion and chili and cornbread lunch with the youth after the decorating is finished.

"It is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor.

—George Washington

LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE PRAYER SERVICE

Trinity Lutheran Church Sanctuary
Saturday, November 10, 2018 – 10:00 AM

You are all invited to the LWML Prayer Service (Men and Women invited.)

Please take time out of your busy schedule to sing praises and send prayers to our Heavenly Father.

Light refreshments and fellowship will follow the Service.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9

GRIEF AND SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

Monday, November 12 from 5:30—7:30 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church, 1505 College Ave.

The holidays can be difficult time without someone you love. Please join us for a meal and a helpful time together as we talk about what the grieving heart might expect. You may bring items that evening to place on a memory table if you wish. We ask you to RSVP so that we might plan our food accordingly. Thank you

Presented by Alamogordo Home Health Care
and Hospice, 1859 Indian Wells Rd.

Phone: 575-437-3500

Fax: chaplain.alamohospice@gmail.com

HYMN OF THE MONTH
COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. Psalm 95-2 (NKJV)

Consider this definition of a gravesite for a Christian: "An Inn of a Pilgrim Traveling to Jerusalem." That's what Henry Alford wrote for his tombstone.

He was born October 7, 1810, in Bloomsbury area of London, and even from childhood showed remarkable promise. At six, he wrote a biography of the apostle Paul. When he was ten he wrote a pamphlet titled, "Looking unto Jesus: the Believer's Support under Trials and Afflictions.

When sixteen, Henry penned a note in his Bible describing his rededication to Christ: "I do this day in the presence of God and my own soul renew my covenant with God and solemnly determine henceforth to become his and to do his work as far as in me lies."

This committed young man made a mark on Cambridge University as he studied there for the ministry. One of his deans said, "He was morally the bravest man I ever knew. His perfect purity of mind and singleness of purpose seemed to give him a confidence and unobtrusive self-respect which never failed him."

When he was ordained, Henry wrote in his journal: "I went up to town and received the Holy Orders of a Priest; may I be a temple of chastity and holiness, fit and clean...O my

beloved Redeemer, my dear Brother and Master, hear my prayer."

Henry was a powerful preacher and a brilliant scholar. He served in the village of Wymeswold for eighteen years before accepting the pastorate of a large London church in 1853. In 1857, he was appointed Dean of Canterbury, an office he held until rather sudden death on January 12, 1871.

Henry Alford is remembered for his scholarly books, including his classic *Greek New Testament*, the fruit of eighteen years of labor. His two-volume set of psalms and hymns was published in 1844, while he was laboring among his flock in the little farming village of Wymeswold, where he was beloved. He visited every home, loved every soul, taught the Bible simply, and helped the people render thanksgiving.

This hymn, "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" was written for the English Harvest Festival, the British version of the American Thanksgiving holiday.

—*Then Sings My Soul, Book 2, Robert J. Morgan*

HIGHWAY CLEANUP

OK, folks, we haven't cleaned our highway mile since March, so get your long pants, boots, and gloves and let's get to cleaning! Saturday, November 3rd at 10:00 A.M. we'll meet at the **porta-potties just west of WSNM**. *Please note the change in meeting place.* Any questions, comments, or concerns? See Hannah. Thank you all.

LONG-TERM PRAYERS

Tony Alonzo, David Barry, Eric Bell, Caitlin Boverie, Bernadeane Bridges, Pastor Robert and Lourdes Carrobatta, Dave Cauraugh, Red Chesbro, Donna & Dan Columbus, Mike Debaar, Renee Gocis, Cutter Housler, **Gene & Eldeen Humphrey, Kristie & John Humphrey**, Hunter Ty Landt, Millie & Issac Luevano, Jackie Monso, Cindy Oberling, Mary Pamos, Alex Pearson, Margaret Romero, Justin Salmon, Ila Santini, Carol Schultz, Jessie Sharette, **Judy Sharpe**, Lynne Skinner, Eric Stephenson, William Stewart, Andrew Stoner, Hank Thomas, Austin Tice, Brenda Timmons, Martin Trujillo, Marea Turnbull, Eric Van Horn

ALWAYS THANKFUL

Martin Rinkart, a German Lutheran minister, wrote the hymn “Now Thank We All Our God” in 1636. At the time the Thirty Years’ was ravaging central Europe, claiming millions of lives. Rinkart served as Pastor in Eilenburg, a walled town that became a crowded refuge for starving fugitives. Although, Rinkart was struggling to provide for his own family, he opened his own home to people in need.

After the plague entered Eilenburg, Rinkart conducted up to 50 funerals a day — including services for his wife and the only other two pastors in town. Amid the despair, he wrote many hymns, including “Now Thank We All Our God.” Originally intended as a table prayer, it’s now sung at Thanksgiving to remember God’s countless gifts of love” — even during hardships



“They were celebrating a bountiful harvest?
You mean the whole thing was about vegetables?”

NOVEMBER STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

ELDERS

November 4 Ray Bailey
November 11 Matt Clark
November 18 Robert Rentschler
November 22 (Thanksgiving)
November 25 Dick Dommers

ACOLYTES

November 4 Abby Anderson
November 11 Emily Johnson
November 18 Miriam Collins
November 22 Reilly Quinn
November 25 Miriam Collins

READERS

November 4 Hannah Keeler & Gerald Moore
November 11 Mary Leslie Schmitt/Vicki Leonard
November 18 George & Marianne Schweers
November 22 (Thanksgiving)
November 25 Shirley Enyeart & Hannah Keeler

TELLERS

November 4 Yvonne Steeby/Linde Van Cleave
November 11 Shirley Enyeart & Pete Simank
November 18 Lola Ableindger & Joyce Macon
November 22 Vicki Leonard & Nora Sotak
(Thanksgiving)
November 25 Sandy Klose & Yvonne Steeby

HOSTS

November 4 Hannah Keeler & Robyn Luevano
November 11 Tom & Joyce Macon
November 18 Jack & Shirley McCastle
November 25 Gerald & Gayan Moore

NOVEMBER ALTAR COMMITTEE

Robin Haymes
Sandra Krueger

NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE SHEETS

Jan Thede

USHERS

November 4 Tom Blackmon/Larry & Bev Van Duyn
Susan Weitzel
November 11 Matt Anderson, Marvin Bunker,
John Marquardt
November 18 Ben Clark, Robert Johnson,
Trey Johnson, Ray Krueger
November 25 Bob Klose, Laura Klose,
Gerald Moore,

NOVEMBER FLOWERS

November 4 David & Yvonne Steeby
November 11 Ray & Julie Bailey
November 18 Terry Marquardt
November 25 Barbara Bruning

KEEP YOUR FORK

After an elderly woman died, her family complied with an intriguing instruction she'd left for her burial. As mourners passed by the casket, discovering a fork in the woman's right hand, they looked questioningly toward her family members. They just smiled knowingly.

Finally, during the funeral service, all became clear. "When you eat a meal at someone's house," said the Pastor, "as they clear off the table, they often say, 'Keep your fork.' It means something more is coming — desert! —surely the best part of the meal.'

The Pastor concluded, our dear friend knew, as her earthly life ended, that the best was yet to come. She wanted you to know that the best was yet to come. She wanted you to know that, too, so she insisted on keeping her fork."

---Adapted/Author unknown