



These pastors were South Sudan students of Pastor Kevin Cramm
They were ordained this past Sunday.

THE TRINITARIAN



THE NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Pastor Warren Graff, Vacancy Pastor
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



DECEMBER 2025 -- VOLUME 62 No. 12

BOARD OF ELDERS

Immanuel, “God With Us”

This past month I had an opportunity to attend my granddaughter’s wedding in the Naval Academy Chapel which is a magnificent edifice that rivals cathedrals in size and elegance. Several people commented that they felt close to God in such surroundings. I confess that the first time I entered that sanctuary many years ago, I experienced similar feelings. I also attended Sunday services at the Lutheran church in which Jan and I were married. In size it is roughly the same as Trinity. God was no less present in that sanctuary than in the chapel. It is comforting to know that wherever we are Jesus is right there with us. When we trust our Lord, He is truly Immanuel, the name prophesied by Isaiah,

Dick Dommers, Elder

EVANGELISM

Name Tags: Help us all get to know each other better! If you need a name tag, please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. You can choose between a magnetic or clip-on style. Your name tag will be placed in your church mailbox.

Tract of the Month: “A Simple Explanation of Fellowship in the LORD’S Supper”:

Receiving Holy Communion with your fellow Christians is one of the most public displays of faith. It’s stating that you believe in the Lord with your entire heart, and it’s a tradition passed down to Christians from Christ Himself. Historically there have been many debates over different beliefs in Communion, with a recent one being the topic of Closed Communion. A Simple Explanation of Fellowship in the Lord’s Supper explains the necessity for Closed Communion and why it’s truly a loving act to keep this Sacrament between believers. In 32 pages you can help explain what the Bible says about receiving Communion and about waiting to receive Communion until a new Christian is ready for it. (cph.org)

November/December Mission: The Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF)

Help Share the Gospel. With your assistance, LHF gives books of the Lutheran faith to people around the world in their own languages.

Friday December 19th 7:00 pm: Movie Night: The Christmas Star: The Search for the Star of Bethlehem. (A documentary) followed by a chance to view the stars up close - brought to you by Paul and Cathy Anderson. Cider and Coco will be served. Registration requested.

Your servant in Christ,

Merry Zumwalt, Evangelism Committee

EDUCATION

Come join us for food, fun and Christmas Caroling! The Education Committee is hosting the Trinity Family Christmas Party on Sunday, December 7th at 3:00 pm in the great room. Appetizers and Desserts will be served. Sign-up sheets for the appetizers and desserts will be up on the Education Bulletin Board by Sunday, November 23rd. Toy gift exchange (bring a new toy to restock our Church nursery). Donations will be collected to purchase a new toy kitchen and table for the nursery. We hope to see you there! If you have questions please see members of the committee, Sue Kelly, Jill Clark, Stacy Johnson, or Cindi Anderson.

We will also be going Christmas Caroling to our homebound members, shut-ins and to those in Betty Dare on Sunday, December 21st . We will meet at the church and carpool together. More details to follow.

Sue Kelly, Education Chair

LWML

Luke 2:6 `And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths; and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.`

Once again it is Advent, a time of preparation for the coming of our Lord. Take time to participate in activities that will enhance your anticipation of that precious baby, Jesus Christ on Christmas Eve.

November once again was a busy month for LWML. The ladies prepared a light breakfast and lunch for the Pastor's meeting being held at Trinity on November 4th. Attendance was light and so the ladies who were there ate lunch with Pastor Graff and Pastor Schlack; and then were able to participate in a communion service with them. What a blessing! And by the way the food was delicious, thank you to all who helped provide, set up, and clean up. Cheryl set up communion for the service.

For our regular meeting we had a prayer service led by Sue and Cheryl, Lola assisted on the piano. The service "Blessed are they" was based on Matthew 5:1-12 and the Beatitudes. Refreshments were served and a short business meeting was held.

With the help of a generous congregation, we were able to provide 5 families with food and monies for a blessed Thanksgiving. Thank you to all for your donations and delivery help!

Thank you also to Nora and Merry for handling the logistics.

Saturday, December 6th will be our next meeting. We will decorate the church at 9:30 a.m. and then have lunch, a devotion, and a short business meeting. Make sure you bring a brown bag lunch with a drink for yourself for after the decorating.

LWML is still collecting bottle caps of all sizes. We have a bin in the Education Office for the Caps you collect. The bottle caps are used to make prosthetics for disabled patients, of low-income, in Mexico. Rosy, a deaconess from one of the Juarez Lutheran Mission churches, picks up the bottle caps from Isleta Lutheran Missions and delivers them to the Collection Center in Juarez where the prosthetics are made. What a blessing for the disabled. Thank you for your support.

Keep your eyes out for the Christmas angel tree with names of children. This is an annual event that we participate in. Sue has been helping with obtaining names and Merry is the chair of the project. It is an opportunity to brighten a child's Christmas. We usually have approximately 15 names.

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas!

Vicki

TELLERS NEEDED

If you are looking for a place to do some volunteer work, the church could use some additional tellers to count money after the worship service on Sundays. Doesn't take a lot of time. Contact Vicki Leonard the financial secretary at 575-921-8602.

LUMANARIA TIME

Come help us set up Luminarias on Christmas Eve. We'll put them together and set 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! **At 4:00 p.m., we'll also need help getting candles lit.**

The Matt Anderson family



These South Sudan students were taught by Pastor Kevin Cramm and they graduated from Seminary on Friday, Nov. 28th and were recently ordained



Stoles made by Trinity ladies

LITURGICAL COLORS AND THE SYMBOLS

White – Christmas and Easter, Birth and resurrection

Red - Pentecost, Christ's sacrifice on the cross

Green – Epiphany and Trinity, a time of growth and renewal

Purple – Lent, a time of penitence and preparation for Easter

Blue – Advent, looking forward with Hope, the coming of our Savior

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

Just a note to start saving your change for those baby bottles for the start of the Baby Bottle campaign in January. We don't have a firm date for the start but will be letting you know soon. In case you don't know much about the campaign, it is a fundraiser for Pregnancy Resources Plus. They offer three main services: pregnancy testing, limited ultrasound and Building blocks. (The campaign raised funds for the new ultrasound machine a couple of years ago.) The Building Blocks Exchange allows expectant parents to take classes on parenting, finance, etc. and earn credits toward baby supplies at the PRP store. They offer Bible studies and classes for post-abortion patients and post-miscarriage patients. All services are provided at no cost. Please save your change for this worthy campaign!

ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS

The Adult Sunday School class that meets at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays has graciously agreed to study the Catechism so that those wishing to become members of Trinity can be instructed in the Christian Faith. This instruction is also for members desiring a refresher in the faith and the class will begin in January. The class will make use of the latest 2017 catechism from CPH. If you don't have this edition please contact Jan in the church office and she can order a copy for you for \$22.99 each. Those wishing to become members will receive a free copy. Thanks, Pastor John Flamme.

TRINTIY EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN

We have an active email prayer chain. If you have a need for prayers, please contact one of the prayer chain coordinators below. You can either call or email us. If you want to be part of the prayer chain group, let us know.

Nora Sotak, noraricksotak@gmail.com
575-434-5247, home 575-4397524 cell

Diane Kline, dkline@packbell.net
909-649-1165 cell

Jan Thede, tlchurchlcms@yahoo.com
575-4371482 during church office hours

Jan Thede rjthede@msn.com
575-921-3696

Bible Scavenger Hunt

FOR ADVENT



Prepare for Christmas with this Bible-based Advent activity. Each day in December, look up the answer to one question.

1 What will God's Son be called?
(Isaiah 7:14)

2 Where will Jesus reign?
(Isaiah 9:7)

3 Where will Jesus be born?
(Micah 5:2)

How many generations are between Abraham and the Christ?
(Matthew 1:17)

5 Who tells Mary she is having a baby?
(Luke 1:26-31)

Who issues the decree about a census?
(Luke 2:1)

9 What does Jesus' name mean?
(Matthew 1:21)

Until his son John the Baptist is born, what can Zechariah not do?
(Luke 1:20, 64)

4 What does Mary say that God has done for her?
(Luke 1:49)

6 Which relative of Mary is also having a baby?
(Luke 1:41)

10 From where do Joseph and Mary start their journey to Bethlehem?
(Luke 2:4)

What does Mary use to wrap up baby Jesus?
(Luke 2:7)

13 What serves as Jesus' first bed?
(Luke 2:7)

7 Who tells the shepherds the good news about Jesus' birth?
(Luke 2:8-12)

15 When the shepherds tell others about Jesus, how do people react?
(Luke 2:8-12)

11



12

18 Who is upset to hear about a newborn King?
(Matthew 2:3)

14 From what direction do the wise men (or Magi) come to worship Jesus?
(Matthew 2:1-2)

16 On what day is Jesus presented in the temple?
(Luke 2:21)

Where does Joseph flee with his family for safety?
(Matthew 2:14)

19 What three gifts does Jesus receive from the wise men?
(Matthew 2:11)

17 Where do all our gifts come from?
(James 1:17)

20

21 When does Jesus' family return to Israel?
(Matthew 2:19-21)

22 In what district does Jesus grow up?
(Matthew 2:22)

23 What free gift does God give us through Jesus, his Son?
(1 John 5:11)

24



25 How should we respond to our gifts?
(2 Corinthians 9:15)

Answers: 1. Immanuel 2. On David's throne 3. Bethlehem 4. 42 5. The angel Gabriel 6. Elizabeth 7. Great things 8. Speak 9. He will save his people from their sins 10. Caesar Augustus 11. Nazareth, in Galilee 12. Cloths, or swaddling clothes 13. A manger 14. An angel of the Lord 15. They are amazed, or in wonder 16. The east 17. The eighth 18. Herod 19. Gold, frankincense and myrrh 20. Egypt 21. After Herod dies 22. Galilee 23. Eternal life 24. From above, from the Father of lights 25. Give thanks to God

DECEMBER 2025 STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

ELDERS

Dec. 3 Dick Dommers (Midweek Adv)
Dec. 7 Matt Anderson
Dec. 10 Bob Klose (Midweek Adv)
Dec. 14 Robert Rentschler
Dec. 17 Robert Rentschler
(Midweek Adv)
Dec. 21 Robert Klose
Dec. 24 Robert Klose (Christmas Eve)
Dec. 25 Dick Dommers (Christmas Day)
Dec. 31 Dick Dommers (New Year's
Eve)

SERMON

Dec. 14 Bob Klose
Dec. 28 Robert Rentschler

LITURGIST

Dec. 14 Dick Dommers
Dec. 28 Matt Anderson

TELLERS

Dec. 7 Linde Van Cleave
Cheryl Sandenaw
Dec. 14 Lola Ableidinger,
Nora Sotak
Dec. 21 Susan Kelly, Sandy Klose
Dec. 28 Bob Klose, Joyce Macon
Dec. 31 Yvonne Steeby,
Becky Worley

HOSTS

Dec. 7 Allen & Belinda Burmeister
Dec. 14 Irvin Torres
Dec. 21 Merry Zumwalt, Susan Kelly
Dec. 28 Diane & Jim Kline

USHERS

Dec. 7 Tom Blackmon, Jim Fladhammer
Larry & Bev Van Duyn
Dec. 14 Susan Kelly, Norbert Sanchez
Glen & Christine Schlehuser
Dec. 21 Robert Johnson, Trey Johnson
Bob Thede, Tammy Thede
Dec. 28 Gerald Moore, Sandy Klose
Cameron Maltz, Irvin Torres

SOUND TECH

Dec. 3 Jim Kline (Advent Midweek)
Dec. 7 Vicki Leonard
Dec. 10 Vicki Leonard (Advent Midweek)
Dec. 14 John Davis
Dec. 17 Bob Klose (Advent Midweek)
Dec. 21 Matt Anderson
Dec. 24 Matt Anderson (Christmas Eve)
Dec. 25 Jim Kline (Christmas Day)
Dec. 28 Vicki Leonard
Dec. 31 Vicki Leonard (New Year's Eve)

DECEMBER FLOWERS

Dec. 7 Gerald & Gayan Moore
Dec. 14 Bob & Sandy Klose
Bob & Jan Thede
Dec. 21 Larry & Bev Van Duyn
Dec. 28 Robert & Stacy Johnson

DECEMBER ALTAR COMMITTEE

Diane Kline
Cheryl Richey

DECEMBER ATTENDANCE

Diane Kline

MUSIC

Michael Cortez