



THE TRINITARIAN



THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Pastor Warren Graff, Vacancy Pastor

1505 College Avenue

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Bible Classes and Sunday School 9:00 AM

Divine Service 10:15 AM



OCTOBER 2025 -- VOLUME 62 No. 10

ELDERS REPORT

The elders and Pastor Graff met after service on September 21st to discuss and plan for upcoming worships services. The following are dates and plans that were agreed upon:

October 12th, LWML Sunday, led by the elders.

October 26th, Reformation Sunday, led by the elders.

November 30th, First Sunday of Advent, led by the elders.

December 3rd, Advent Service, led by the elders.

December 10th, Advent Service, led by the elders.

December 17th, Advent Service, led by the elders.

December 24th, Christmas Eve Service, leadership to be determined.

December 25th, Christmas Day Service, led by Pastor Graff.

The dates are set but the leadership of each may change.

We know that it is difficult waiting on the call process. We ask for your patience and understanding. Pastor Graff informed the elders that, during a conversation with Rocky Mountain District (RMD) President Maxwell on another matter, President Maxwell indicated that he is working on a list of names to be submitted to us for consideration. Keep in mind that Trinity is one of at least three, maybe more, vacancies in the RMD at this time. We ask for your prayers and support, both spiritually and financially during this vacancy period.

Bob Klose, Elder & Dick Dommers, Elder

LWML

Saturday, October 11 is our first official LWML meeting of the 2025-2026 year although there have been many activities already in the past month. We would invite any woman who attends church here to come and join us. We have many activities planned for this year and some new projects. Our regular meetings include Bible lessons, fellowship, food, and of course the boring business matters that have to be attended to. Calendars and invitations have been placed in the mailboxes.

Everything we do as Lutheran Women in Mission begins with Christ's message of repentance and forgiveness. The Ascension text of "GO" (Luke 24:44-53) is the mission emphasis for Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday 2025. On Ascension Day, Jesus gave his followers an assignment "that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations." We, as the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, have

a responsibility to proclaim the message of Christ, to be that body which proclaims repentance and forgiveness, showing forth the merciful Christ in what we do and say. As Lutheran Women in Mission we continue to support, encourage and uplift missionaries, and also provide physical support and compassion to all people. It is the proclamation of repentance and forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name that motivates us to do this work. All Glory be to Jesus!

Please join us **Sunday, October 12th** as we celebrate LWML Sunday. Immediately following the service there will be a Bake Sale in the Great Room. Thank you to the Elder's for leading our service.

Thank you to all who donated coats/jackets for Ysleta. Christus Health Gift shop donated some hats and gloves to go along with our coats. Three of our members went to Zion Lutheran in El Paso for the Fall Rally. They enjoyed the Bible study and fellowship.

Upcoming Events to look forward to in November will be the Prayer Service on November 8th and we will also host the Pastors here at Trinity on Tuesday, November 4th. We will provide a continental breakfast and a light lunch. Watch for sign-up sheets on the bulletin board.

Mite Offerings Received

Amounts as of May 31, 2025

Mission Goal for 2023–2025 Biennium: \$2,350,000.00

Amount Received: \$2,817,135.06

Total Overage of Mite Offerings: \$467,135.06

All Grants Funded ! Praise God! Through His grace and your faithful support, we will have disbursed funds to all 31 LWML Mission Grants for the 2023–2025 biennium by May 31!

An LWML mite is a small monetary contribution, or "mite," collected by members of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) (now also known as Lutheran Women in Mission). The concept is inspired by the widow's mite from the Bible (Mark 12:41-43) and uses small, regularly donated coins and money in a Mite Box to fund global and district mission and ministry efforts. These offerings are voluntary gifts above and beyond regular church support, with the goal of spreading God's Word and providing tangible aid through mission grants.

Don't forget to bring your mite boxes to the meetings or put the money in the large Mite Box in the narthex. As you can see all the donations add up to quite a sum. The Mission Grants that this money funded can be found on the LWML Bulletin Board.

If you have any questions or ideas that you would like to see at Trinity with the LWML please feel free to contact anyone of your board members:

Vicki Leonard, President

Yvonne Steeby, Vice President

Nora Sotak, Secretary

Diane Kline, Treasurer

Blessings in Christ.

Vicki

EDUCATION

The Education Committee met on Sunday, September 7th after church. There were 5 members in attendance.

Old Business: Items were finalized for the Chili and Yahtzee Quarterly Congregational Get Together on Sunday, September 14th after service. It was decided we would meet to set-up and decorate for the event on Friday, September 12th about 6 pm. About twenty-five people signed up for it. The ten children's books for Christmas Eve Service were ordered and have been received.

New Business: The first item discussed was Trinity's Oktoberfest, being held on Sunday, October 19th after service. The Oktoberfest will be from about 11:30 am-1:30 pm in the Great Room. The Education Committee will be providing the buns, brats, and drinks. The congregation will be asked to sign-up to bring the condiments, sides, and deserts. We will be meeting on the Saturday prior to decorate. Sign-up sheets will be posted on the Education Bulletin board, for number of people attending and what each person/family will be bringing to share. The sign-up sheets should be posted by the last Sunday in September.

The last new business discussed was the Midweek Advent Soup & Sandwich suppers and service. Since we do not know if that topic was discussed with Pastor Graff, we came up with a suggestion to present to the BOD. We thought if we don't have a pastor to do the service that maybe we could have the suppers with devotionals, hymn sing, etc. We also had a question about whether we will have a Christmas Eve Service or not. It will also be brought up to the BOD.

There was no other business to be discussed so the meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Your Friend in Christ,

Susan Kelly, Director of Education

STEWARDSHIP

Dear Member of Trinity Lutheran Church,

This spring, our church changed drastically when Pastor Heithold retired. We pray his retirement is a time of rest, recreation, and spending time with his family. We now rely on Pastor Graff to supply our sermons and communion and we need to thank God frequently for his faithful service to us here at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Even though we don't have a pastor currently, financial support is vital to carry out the church's work. Whether we put an envelope in the offering plate regularly or give our offering online, we must stop and consider what part of our financial blessings go to the church.

We cannot know what lies ahead of us, but we remain confident in the assurance of God's abiding and steadfast love. Because of your generous and faithful gifts, our church can keep doing what love requires of us by nurturing life-giving, joyful ministries, continuing upkeep on the church building, paying our employees, and making plans for welcoming a new Pastor.

We yearly ask that members make an annual financial pledge. Some members tithe, committing ten percent of their income to the work and missions of our church. Others give proportionally by committing a certain percentage. Still, others give as they are able. What is most important is that everyone supports in the form of a financial pledge. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you might contribute.

Included with this letter is a pledge card for 2026. This pledge card is not to be returned to church. This pledge card is a means for you and your family to begin a discussion on what you want to pledge to your Lord in support of Trinity Lutheran Church in 2026.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further making your financial pledge to God through supporting Trinity Lutheran Church please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Serving the Lord with Gladness,
Nora Sotak

My Financial Pledge to Trinity Lutheran Church 2026

This Pledge is between you and our Lord and Savior

DO NOT TURN THIS INTO THE CHURCH

*Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the **firstfruits** of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine. Proverbs 3:9-10*

Monthly \$ _____

Weekly \$ _____

If you would like to give your offering automatically:

All you have to do is contact Vicki Leonard (Financial Secretary) and fill out a form and include a voided check. We do not take from credit cards because there is a charge involved. Giving can be scheduled for any day of the month and can be done weekly, bimonthly or monthly (pretty much however you would like). You can also request money for Missions to be done once a month or whenever. Once the form is received with a start date I'll enter in the system. The member will receive a receipt in their email every time money is given to the church. The online giving can be changed or terminated at any time. The benefit is worry-free giving at no charge to the church.

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 Prayer"** "Prayer is known in both Christian and non-Christian circles, but the nuances of it are not. God asks all of His children to come to Him in prayer, no matter the topic or the time. But how do you know what to pray, or when? How do you know how to pray to God? Is there a specific way to pray?"


Learn the basics of Christian prayer and how God responds to prayers in this short, informational booklet. By the end, you'll grow in your relationship with God, knowing how to talk to Him at all times and in all places." (CPH.org)

September/October Mission: **LCMS Disaster Response** The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Disaster Response ministry responds to immediate and long-term needs following natural and man-made disasters. Learn more at the following website: lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/disaster-response


Calling All Volunteers for Trunk-or-Treat!

We're excited to announce our **first-ever Trunk-or-Treat event** happening on **October 31st!** Here's how you can be part of the fun:

 **Event Time:** 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

 **Trunk Setup:** Begins at 3:00 PM

 **Theme:** All trunks will be decorated with **Christian-themed kits** (provided by us!)

 **Your Role:** Provide an empty trunk, let us decorate it, and help hand out candy to the kids!

We're still looking for **three more volunteers** to join in. It's a great way to connect with the community, share some joy, and celebrate in a safe, festive way. If you're interested, please let me know. Maybe you aren't able to participate in the actual event but would be able to donate a bag of candy? If so, please leave that in the tub in the hallway marked for Trunk-or-Treat.

Thank you for helping make this event a blessing for everyone! 🙌

Save The Date – Saturday November 15th – Christian Culture Conference 2025:

This years conference sessions will be cast in the great room on Saturday, November 15th. The format will be the same as last years with light b'fast and lunch, snacks and drinks provided. There will be 5 sessions each about 60 minutes. Breaks will be provided and registration will be requested to plan for food. Session Titles are: **Translating the Magdeburg Confession** (Rev. Dr. Christian Preus); **Natural Law: Classical, Lutheran, and Necessary** (Dr. Corey Maas); **Luther's View of Law & Gov't** (Rev. Col. John Eidsmoe); **The Lutheran Response to Tyranny** (Rev. Willie Grills).

Your servant in Christ,
Merry Zumwalt, Evangelism Committee

BACKPACK MINISTRY

We are collecting food items for the Love INC Backpack Ministry for the Tularosa schools. Please leave your donations in the tub in the south hallway. A list of items needed is posted above the tub. You may make a monetary donation if you prefer. Contact me at 575-214-9942 if you have any questions. Thank you for your support. Cheryl Richey.

Backpack Food Suggestions

Small boxes of Cereal	Cereal Bars
Fruit cups	Shelf stable milk boxes
Cheese Crackers	Small bags of Chips
Soups or stews	Tuna or Chickens salads
Juice Boxes	Fresh Fruits

Other suggestions are welcomed and appreciated!

REFORMATION MUSIC FESTIVAL

For Reformation this year, Ascension Lutheran is hosting a Reformation Music Festival. Pastor Schlak described this as a time of singing, music, and hymn-sing. (In other words, this is not a "Reformation Service," with the Lord's Supper and such, but a much more informal gathering for music and hymns.)

Time: October 26, 3:00PM.

Location: Ascension Lutheran Church, El Paso, TX.

There will be refreshments, but not a formal dinner or anything such as that.

Trinity Lutheran Church is, of course, invited. In addition, any Trinity members who would like to join in singing in the choir are invited to come early and join the choir.

Thank you!

Pastor Graff

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God 1529

God Is Our Refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Psalm 46:1

We think of Martin Luther as a great reformer, Bible translator, political leader, fiery preacher, and theologian. But he was also a musician, having been born in an area of Germany known for its music. There in his little Thuringian village, a young Martin grew up listening to his mother sing. He joined a boys' choir that sang at weddings and funerals. He became proficient with the flute (recorder), and his volcanic emotions often erupted in song.

When the Protestant Reformation began, Luther determined to restore worship to the German Church. He worked with skilled musicians to create new music for Christians, to be sung in the vernacular. He helped revive congregational singing and wrote a number of hymns.

Often he “borrowed” popular secular melodies for his hymns, though occasionally a tune brought criticism and he was “compelled to let the devil have it back again” because it was too closely associated with bars and taverns.

In the forward of a book, Luther once wrote: “Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world. It controls our thoughts, minds, hearts, and spirits...A person...who does not regard music as a marvelous creation of God...does not deserve to be called a human being; he should be permitted to hear nothing but the braying of asses and the grunting of hogs.”

Luther's most famous hymn is “Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott,” —“a Mighty Fortress Is our God.” Based on Psalm 46, it reflects Luther's awareness of our intense struggle with Satan. In difficulty and danger, Luther would often resort to this song, saying to his associate, “Come, Philipp, let us sing the 46th Psalm.”

This is a difficult hymn to translate because the original German is so vivid. At least 80 English versions are available. The most popular in America was done by Frederic Henry Hodge. But an older version appeared in the Pennsylvania Lutheran Church Book of 1868:

*A mighty fortress is our God, / A trusty Shield and Weapon;/
He helps us free from every need, / That hath us now o'ertaken.*

The British version of “A Mighty Fortress” is Thomas Carlyle's translation:

*A safe stronghold or God is still, / A trusty shield and weapon; /
He'll help us clear from all the ill / That hath us now o'ertaken.*



LWML SUNDAY

Sunday, October 12th

**Please sign up to help with the service and
bring an item for the bake sale.**

*****Wear purple if you have it!*****

OCTOBER 2025 STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

ELDERS

Oct. 5 Robert Rentschler
Oct. 12 Bob Klose
Oct. 19 Robert Rentschler
Oct. 26 Dick Dommers

SERMON

Oct. 12 Robert Rentschler
Oct. 26 Matt Anderson

LITURGIST

Oct. 12 Dick Dommers
Oct. 26 Bob Klose

TELLERS

Oct. 5 Vicki Leonard
Merry Zumwalt
Oct. 12 Dick Dommers
Merry Zumwalt
Oct. 19 Cheryl Sandenaw
Linde Van Cleave
Oct. 26 Lola Ableidinge
Nora Sotak

HOSTS

Oct. 5 Larry & Beverly Van Duyn
Oct. 12 Jericho Vertain
Merry Zumwalt
Oct. 19 Dick & Jan Dommers
Oct. 26 Benjamin Clark
Jennifer Sebring

SOUND TECH

Oct. 5 Vicki Leonard
Oct. 12 Jim Kline
Oct. 19 Bob Klose

USHERS

Oct. 5 Tom Blackmon, Jim Fladhammer
Larry & Bev Van Duyn
Oct. 12 Susan Kelly, Norbert Sanchez
Glen & Christine Schlehuser
Oct. 19 Robert Johnson, Trey Johnson
Bob Thede, Tammy Thede
Oct. 26 Gerald Moore, Sandy Klose
Cameron Maltz, Irvin Torres

MUSIC

Michael Cortez

OCTOBER FLOWERS

Oct. 5 Robert & Susan Rentschler
Oct. 12 Gerald & Gayan Moore
Oct. 19 Larry & Beverly Van Duyn
Oct. 26 Mike & Robin Haymes

OCTOBER ALTAR COMMITTEE

Christine Schlehuser
Beverly Van Duyn

OCTOBER ATTENDANCE

Cheryl Sandenaw

Oct. 26 Cindi Anderson



"I'm not real comfortable with using these
as offering plates during our harvest
celebration service."