



LENTEN SERIES 2023 - PROMISED TREASURES

# 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](mailto:tlchurchlcms@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.trinityalamogordo.org](http://www.trinityalamogordo.org)

Bible Classes and Sunday School 9:00 AM

Divine Service 10:15 AM



**FEBRUARY 2023 -- VOLUME 61 No. 2**

## FROM THE PASTOR

An article recommended by Pastor Andrew Packer caught my eye and I thought you might like to read some of the highlights of the article by Reverend Larry Beane titled: “**I don’t get anything out of the service.**”

He writes: A Lutheran can never say this, at least if the service is liturgical, and especially if the service includes the Most Holy Sacrament. In a liturgical setting, people will hear the Word of God. And that is always efficacious-even if it is read poorly. Traditional Lutheran hymns are also confessions of Scripture and grounded in our Lord Jesus Christ, and they also convey the Gospel-even if they are played too slowly or sung out of tune. Preaching, likewise, so long as it is the proclamation of the Word of God and not yammering on about pizza or the latest football game, is also efficacious-even if the preacher’s voice is grating, he is too loud or too soft, or is merely reading a manuscript and never looking up.

In other words, if the service is traditional Lutheran liturgy, you are getting something out of the service. And not just **something**, you are getting **everything** out of the service. You are getting forgiveness, life and salvation. You are receiving the gift of “the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.”

When people say they “don’t get anything out of the service,” they usually mean that they aren’t being entertained. And this lust for constant dopamine hits come from the world, as we are surrounded by 24-7, high-octane, on-demand visual and audio stimulation. It’s naked girls and car crashes all around. To the world, a liturgical service with preaching, hymns and Holy Communion is a staid affair by comparison.

They (our fathers in the faith) knew objectively, we get something out of the kind of worship centered on Word and Sacrament as opposed to innovations that tickle the ears of sinners obsessed with themselves and filled with hubris, believing that they know better than their fathers in the faith. Unlike church bodies from which Lutherans have imposed their non-liturgical worship forms, we authentic Lutherans confess the efficacy of Word and Sacrament, and that our justification is monergistic (we are regenerated only by the work of the Holy Spirit) rather than based on a decision on our part that can be manipulated by feelings and emotions and musical seduction. For eventually the dopamine hits fail to come, and the “exciting new way of doing church” becomes stale and boring to the self-centered soul. And like an addict, the unsatisfied ego must continue to wander, “not getting anything out of it” and looking for greater titillation elsewhere.

It is only by defiantly offering a bold alternative, something that stands apart, that we will get people-perhaps a remnant-to start realizing that when it comes to the vacuous pop culture that has come into the church like a Trojan Horse, they truly “don’t get anything out of it.”

We do get everything to of the service that is needed for our lives, especially for our eternal lives with Him as we go to a world that cannot give what He gives each and every week.

Pastor Heithold

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### PROMISED TREASURES MATTHEW 13:52

This Lenten season, we have a fresh opportunity to embrace God’s amazing love for us, His baptized children, in new ways. St. Paul clearly says that “faith comes from hearing” (Romans 10:17), but the Gospel is also communicated through the physical senses of sight, smell, touch, and taste. Jesus mentions that a good teacher not only brings out new treasures but reminds people of old and rich treasures as well (see Matthew 13:52). So, each Wednesday in Lent, we will take a weekly journey to concretely see, smell, touch,

and taste a number of biblical elements. Our Lenten series is called Promised Treasures. Just as Israel wandered through the wilderness under Moses for forty years, awaiting the Promised Land, we await heaven in the wilderness of this life. Life as exiles in the wilderness of this world is not easy and pain-free. In this vale of tears, we await our real home, the new promised land of heaven. Until we enter our eternal promised land, however, the Lord calls us to be His light in this dark world (see Colossians 3; Ephesians 4). This series will begin with ashes, then proceed to salt, water, light, bread, and finally, palms. Then, during Holy Week, the focus shifts toward water and blood, wood, fragrant oil, and finally, on Easter, milk and honey. All these beautiful Old and New Testament elements will remind you of God's eternal love in Christ, fill you with renewed hope, and increase your joy, knowing that because we are His baptized children, God is near to us now more than ever

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## **ELDER MESSAGE**

LOVE is the operative word in February.

We celebrate Valentine's Day in many diverse ways to show our love for the special people in our lives.

GOD's love is evident every day of our lives. We sin daily and would suffer the consequences if not for GOD's love for us by sending His SON JESUS CHRIST to suffer and die for our sins.

We can practice our love for GOD by repenting from sinning, receiving HIS GRACE through the Sacraments, and praying for His guidance as we live our daily lives.

Following GOD's plan and doing HIS will is the certainty of eternity with HIM.

The true expression of love is JOHN 3:16.

James R. Wilkes, Elder

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## **EVANGELISM**

**Biblical Response series:** Over the course of this next year, we will be bringing to you a new series of booklets that have been put out by Concordia Publishing. "The Biblical Response series offers easy-to-read summaries of important cultural topics for people who want to know what God's Holy Word says about cultural issues that touch our lives". The topics covered include Transgenderism, Satanism, Addiction, Suicide, Witchcraft, Divorce, Homosexuality, Abortion, Islam, Liberal Christianity, Mormonism, and Cults. Our first tract will be "A Biblical Response to Abortion". We hope you will take the time to look at this series each month.

**"The Chosen":** We will continue showing this series beginning February 12<sup>th</sup> after the church service. The showing will be in the Bible Study room. Please supply your own lunch.

**The mission for January & February is Ysleta Lutheran Mission Care, El Paso.** This very active mission needs the support of other churches to survive. Not only does the mission conduct worship services, Bible Studies, Sunday School and VBS, but it also attends to the needs of the poor through many, many outreach services.

**Evangelism Hosted Luncheon for our January & February Mission:** In keeping with our established tradition of inviting a speaker for our bimonthly missions, our next speaker will be Pastor Heimer of Ysleta Lutheran Care, El Paso. Pastor Heimer will join us on Sunday February 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be a sub sandwich luncheon in the Great Room after the church service where Pastor Heimer will give us an update on all that Ysleta is doing these days.

**The Next Evangelism Committee meeting will be** Monday February 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. Visitors are always welcome.

**In closing** I would like to quote Psalm 51:10-13 & 15 (NIV). “10Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. 13Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you. 15O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.”

Yours in Christ,  
Cheryl Sandenaw, Evangelism Chairman

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### **LWML**

On January 7<sup>th</sup> we completed the undecorating of the sanctuary, narthex, and Bible study room. Lunch followed at Lescombes with 12 ladies in attendance. The food and fellowship was very enjoyable.

There have been inquiries about our past Lunch Bunch Group so we are looking for someone to take charge of this. I will put a sign-up sheet on the LWML Board. All you have to do is sign up for the month and put reminder notes in the boxes. In the past, it has usually been the last Monday of the month, but you can certainly pick another day. You choose the restaurant and make reservations. It can also just be a bring your own lunch to the church day.

If you are interested in receiving a printed copy of the Tidings please get with Nora Sotak prior to February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Trinity LWML has two fund raisers per year 1. Meal for Mites and the 2. Annual Church Garage Sale. Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> will be our Meal for Mites following the church service. All ladies will meet on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 am to prepare the food and set up the tables etc. Please come join us.

The next LWML meeting will be held on March 11 at 10 am. There will be a Bible study along with the meeting and selection of a nominating committee. Hostesses will be Bev Van Duyn and Cheryl Richey.

### **RMD Mite Report**

The 2021–2023 fiscal period is April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2023.

### **Mite Offerings Received**

Amounts as of December 31, 2022

**Mission Goal for 2021–2023 Biennium:** \$2,150,000.00

**Amount Received:** \$2,154,511.75

***Mite Report December 2022 posted 1/16/2023***

### **CELEBRATE THE LORD OF THE NATIONS WITH LWML IN MILWAUKEE — June 22–25, 2023.**

Convention registration opened January 9, 2023. This year registration will be entirely online. Read all the details in the winter issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* or on the LWML website at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org). Come and “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations” in Milwaukee. Early registration continues through March 14<sup>th</sup> and is \$160. There is information regarding hotels, things to see and do, speakers, food and entertainment and much more.

God's Blessings,  
Vicki Leonard, LWML President

**BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN**

Please continue to fill your baby bottles with change, bills or checks. Please return your bottles on or before February 19<sup>th</sup>. Please make your checks to **Southern New Mexico Outreach**. Thanks!

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**FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT**  
**OUR MONTHLY RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE**

General Fund \$34,034.14 (Includes online giving YTD)  
Expenses (\$ 8,813.49)  
Profit/Loss \$25,220.65  
Estimated Monthly Budget Requirement: \$ 17,866.34

**YEAR-TO-DATE December 30, 2022**

Giving (Actual) \$211,160.61(Includes online giving YTD)  
Expenses (Actual) (\$190,958.28)  
Profit/Loss \$ 20,202.33  
Budgeted \$ 215,120.80

**OUR WEEKLY RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE**

**January 1, 2023**

General Fund: \$4,025.00  
Estimated Weekly Budget Requirement: \$4,137.00  
Difference: (\$ 112.00)  
Other Designated Giving:  
Dollar Project \$ 9.00  
Mission Ysleta \$ 50.00  
Lutheran Witness \$ 22.56  
Luther Classic College \$ 50.00  
Flowers \$ 72.00  
Total Designated Giving \$ 203.56

**January 8, 2023**

General Fund: \$1,520.00  
Estimated Weekly Budget Requirement: \$4,137.00  
Difference: (\$2,617.00)  
Other Designated Giving:  
Dollar Project \$ 10.00  
Lutheran Witness \$ 22.56  
Flowers \$ 36.00  
Total Designated Giving 68.56

**January 15, 2020**

General Fund: \$4,930.00  
Estimated Weekly Budget Requirement: \$4,137.00  
Difference: \$ 793.00  
Other Designated Giving:  
Dollar Project \$ 12.00

Flowers	\$ 76.00
Lutheran Witness	\$ 45.12
Memorial: Virginia Nielsen	\$ 25.00
Mission Ysleta	<u>\$ 304.00</u>
Total Designated Giving	\$ 462.12

**January 22, 2023**

General Fund:	\$0
Estimated Weekly Budget Requirement:	<u>\$4,137.00</u>
Difference:	(\$0)

**January 29, 2023**

General Fund:	\$0
Estimated Weekly Budget Requirement:	<u>\$4,137.00</u>
Difference:	(\$0)
Other Designated Giving:	

Financial Secretary, Vicki Leonard, transferred \$20,540.00 from the LCEF ACH (Online giving) account to our 1<sup>st</sup> National account to close out 2022 giving.

**Estimated reserve funds currently available. \$40,222.00**  
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**EDUCATION**

Hi Everyone! My name is Susan (Sue) Kelly and I am the new education chair.

The education committee and I have met and have started discussing ideas on how to better meet the needs of our Sunday School program. If you have any ideas or suggestions to share, please contact me or join us at our next meeting. It is also time for us to start looking at program ideas and themes for our 2023 Vacation Bible School. I hope to see anyone interested in sharing your ideas for Sunday School and/or Vacation Bible School at our February education meeting. Please check the weekly bulletin for the date and time of our February meeting.

Blessing!  
Sue Kelly, Education Chair,  
Phone 575-430-2100

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**DOLLAR PROJECT MISSIONS**

Whenever anyone nominates a new mission for the Dollar Project, they need to submit complete information on the address and contact for that mission.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

Romans 8:39 "...nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

I am so blessed and thankful for all that God has given to me. For me, this verse is the promise I cling to every day! I am sure I am not alone when I share that I experience pain daily. Frequently, when I am in pain my thoughts and focus stray from God and wander into doubts and fears. I do not like these thoughts! As soon as my focus returns to God, I ask for forgiveness and thank God for His promise to not let anything separate me from His love in Jesus Christ my Lord!

Valentines Day is coming soon. Most of us want to do something special for our loved ones on that day. We buy special cards and gifts in an attempt to tell them of our love for them. God loved us first and gave us our loved ones!! I would like to challenge you to take time out and write God a love letter. No one deserves it more than God! Have a blessed Valentine's Day!

God's Blessings,  
Sandy Klose, Stewardship Chairperson

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## **LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE MEALS FOR MITES**

Come One, Come All  
February 26, 2023 after the Church Service  
All you can eat Chicken Tetrazzini, Bread, Salad,  
and Yummy Desserts  
Price – Your donation to Mites (LWML Missions)

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## **ATTENTION ALL COMMITTEE LEADERS, BOARDS, MUSIC LEADERS, YOUTH BIBLE STUDY LEADERS, QUILTERS, GIDEONS, PEO, TOPS ETC.**

In an effort to better coordinate activities here at Trinity, I would like to propose a meeting either Saturday, February 18th at 10:00 am or Wednesday, February 15th at 7:00 pm for 1 or 2 representatives of all above named to be present so we can put a calendar together for 2023. Of course it will not be perfect, but it will at least give us some projections so that when we are making plans we have a snapshot of what is going on at the church. For example, we won't be having back to back potlucks or someone wanting to do something when others are here. I'm even asking if we can project the possible VBS dates. I understand with everything going on that either of these meeting dates might not be possible for everyone. If you aren't able to attend in person please email a list of activities for the year to [vleonard1@yahoo.com](mailto:vleonard1@yahoo.com) before the 15th of February. I will post all dates on the calendar in the hallway as well as making certain that all dates are given to the church secretary. We will probably have to have updates but I'm hoping that after 1 meeting we will just be able to make adjustments along the way. Thank you for all your help--any other suggestion are greatly appreciated.

Vicki Leonard,  
Financial Secretary

**FEBRUARY 2023 STEWARDS FOR CHRIST  
& BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARIES**

**ELDERS**

Feb. 5 Matt Anderson  
Feb. 12 Jim Wilkes  
Feb. 19 Robert Rentschler  
Feb. 22 Glen Schlehuser (Ash Wed.)  
Feb. 26 Matt Anderson

**HOSTS**

Feb. 5 Tom Blackmon & Hannah Keeler  
Feb. 12 Megan & James Bowman  
Feb. 19 Ed & Nancy Branch  
Feb. 26 Marvin & Joyce Bunker

**READERS**

Feb. 5 Ruth Wilkes & Sandy Klose  
Feb. 12 George & Marianne Schweers  
Feb. 19 Dick Dommers & Cheryl Sandenaw  
Feb. 22 Shirley Enyeart & Yvonne Steeby  
(Ash Wed.)  
Feb. 26 Sandy & Bob Klose

**TELLERS**

Feb. 5 Cheryl Sandenaw & Linde Van Cleave  
Feb. 12 Lola Ableidinger & Nora Sotak  
Feb. 19 Sandy Klose & Susan Kelly  
Feb. 22 Joyce Macon & Bob Klose (Ash Wed.)  
Feb. 26 Yvonne Steeby & Becky Worley

**SOUND TECH**

Feb. 5 Ben Clark  
Feb. 12 Bob Klose  
Feb. 19 Matt Anderson  
Feb. 22 Jim Kline (Ash Wed.)  
Feb. 26 Jim Kline

**FEBRUARY FLOWERS**

Feb. 5 Colleen Sandenaw  
Feb. 12 Vicki Leonard/Darlene Oberling  
Feb. 19 Bob & Jan Thede  
Feb. 26 Robin Haymes

**FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE**

Bob Klose

**FEBRUARY ALTAR COMMITTEE**

Hannah Keeler & Gayan Moore

**USHERS**

Feb. 5 Tom Blackmon, Jim Fladhammer  
Larry & Bev Van Duyn  
Feb. 12 Marvin Bunker, Susan Kelly  
Glen & Christine Schlehuser  
Feb. 19 Robert Johnson, Trey Johnson  
Ray Krueger, Bob Thede,  
Feb. 26 Gerald Moore, Bob & Sandy Klose  
Dave Teller

**MUSIC**

Feb. 5 Lisa Cramm  
Feb. 12 Lola Ableidinger  
Feb. 19 Lisa Cramm  
Feb. 22 Cyndi Heithold (Ash Wed.)  
Feb. 26 Lola Ableidinger