



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



JANUARY 2026 -- VOLUME 61 No. 1

EVANGELISM

TRACT OF THE MONTH: The Small Catechism by Dr. Martin Luther

Pick up a pocket-sized 16-page pamphlet version of the “The Small Catechism” published by CPH St. Louis. Contains The Ten Commandments, The Apostle’s Creed, The Lord’s Prayer, The Sacrament of Holy Baptism, The Office of the Keys and Confession, The Sacrament Of The Altar, and the Morning and Evening Prayers – all with explanations.

Result of Congregational Vote on Bi-Monthly Mission Assignments: The results of congregational voting for the six bi-monthly missions in 2026 are as follows:

Ballot Order (#)	Mission Name	# of Votes	Mission Month
1	Ysleta Lutheran Mission Care, El Paso	22	Jan / Feb
9	LCMS Disaster Response	21	Mar / Apr
2	Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute, El Paso (LHMI)	20	May / Jun
10	LCMS Seminary Student Financial Aid Fund	18	Jul / Aug
3	Luther Classical College	16	Sep / Oct
4	The Lutheran Heritage Foundation	15	Nov/Dec

Mission for January / February: Ysleta Lutheran Mission Care, El Paso: From their website at <https://ylm.networkforgood.com/projects/66129-mission-programs>: “There is no deeper need than to know the God who created all things and who has addressed the problem of sin, evil, and death. YLM works in partnership with 11 affiliated mission sites/congregations in 13 distinct communities across El Paso and Northern Mexico. Our network of missions and churches exist to bring spiritual healing, by grace in Jesus Christ. Classes, pastoral counseling, hospital visitation, jail visitation, and other services are provided by the congregations affiliated with Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care.”

Other communication from the Evangelism Committee: The Evangelism Committee will meet again on Monday, January 12th, at 5:30 pm.

Your servant in Christ,
Merry Zumwalt, Evangelism Committee

2026 MISSIONS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY: (YLM) Ysleta Lutheran Mission Care, El Paso — This very active mission needs the support of other churches to survive. Pastor Karl Heimer ministers with nine other churches in the Juarez area through support of their pastors' worship services, Bible Studies, Sunday School, VBS and meet the needs of the poor along with servant events building and repairing homes, and much, much more.

MARCH/APRIL: 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, working through LCMS districts and congregations, international Lutheran churches and other partners. We build partners' capacity to respond with Christian care to needs within the church and their communities.

MAY/JUNE: The Lutheran Heritage Foundation - Translating, publishing, distributing, and introducing books and materials that are Bible-based, Christ-centered, and Reformation-driven. (This is what Pastor Cram used for support for Africa trips.)

JULY/AUGUST: (LHMI) Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute, El Paso — The institute trains men and women to be missionaries who partner with other Lutheran congregations to bring the Gospel to Hispanics throughout the US and beyond.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER: Luther Classical College - Luther Classical College is a college for Lutherans by Lutherans. Lutheran congregations are essential to its existence. First, because the mission of the college is to teach Lutheran men and women to value Christian culture and to live it out in their homes and their Lutheran congregations. Second, because the college relies on support from congregations to supply it with Lutheran students and to fund its building.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER: LCMS Seminary Student Financial Aid Fund — A single contribution can assist students at both LCMS seminaries and offer hope to congregations praying for a pastor to serve them. Each & every donation helps ensure that each seminary's pledge of full tuition support is a powerful blessing to students and their families.

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim Wilkes, President

Jim Kline, Treasurer

Vicki Leonard, Financial Secretary

Lola Ableidinger, Stewardship Chair

Sue Kelly, Education Chair

Dick Dommers, Elder

Matt Clark, Elder

Glen Schlehuser, Vice President

Jill Clark, Secretary

Norbert Sanchez, Trustee Chair

Merry Zumwalt, Evangelism Chair

Allen Burmeister, Elder

Bob Klose, Elder

STEWARDSHIP

Greetings from Lola to TLC!

As you can see from the above headline, this letter is about Stewardship in our church. I'd like to jump in with some food for thought written by Pastor Larry Reinhardt in the "Stewardship: A to Z" (LCMS) resource.

Bill and Marry Collins recently moved to a new location and began attending a Lutheran church in town. As they prepared for worship one Sunday, Bill was looking at the service folder. Two words caught his eye. He turned to Mary and said, "This congregation must be getting ready to put a budget together." "Why do you say that?" Mary asked.

"Look at the bulletin. See, it says today we will be talking about Christian stewardship."

"Bill, it's July. Churches don't do budget work in July!"

"O no," Bill replied, "It must mean that this church is behind in its budget and we are going to get a pep talk for raising more money."

"Shh, Bill, the service is starting."

To Bill's great surprise, there was no specific mention about money during the service, not in the sermon or in any special announcements. Instead, the "stewardship" emphasis was about vocation and serving the people around you according to the roles God has given you in life.

After the service, Bill made a point to talk to the pastor and share his fears about the service dealing only with money and the church's budget because the word "stewardship" was mentioned in the service folder.

The pastor told Bill that a number of years ago many of his members might have thought the same thing when they saw or heard the word "stewardship." However, with patient

and consistent preaching, teaching and modeling, he and the congregational leaders developed an understanding of stewardship that was broader than dealing only with money. They helped their fellow members understand that stewardship is about using all that God has given to us according to the vocations that He has placed in us.

This wider view of looking at stewardship through vocation not only includes finances but also managing our time, gifts, skills and whatever else the Lord has given us.

Can TLC and each of us personally become better stewards of all the gifts God gives us?

When in the process of learning how to do so, it is very important to always remember all that our Heavenly Father has done for us through His Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit creating faith in our hearts through God's Word. Sinners that we are, He declares us holy and righteous because Jesus lived the perfect life for us, crucified to pay the price of our sin, rose from the dead so that we may live eternally in heaven with Him! And so we rejoice and thankfully serve Him! Yes, Lutheran Christians already know this. All we strive to do for our Lord, which includes stewardship is always under the umbrella of God's grace.

My heartfelt thanks to Chris Schlehuser and Merry Zumwalt for volunteering to serve on this committee. We meet after Evangelism meeting. Cheryl Sandenaw also volunteered. It is a privilege and a joy to serve TLC and our Lord with my sisters in Christ!

Until next month the Lord's love, peace and guidance be with you.

Lola Ableidinger, Stewardship Chair

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

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Good morning. Meditate on the bible passage as we start the new year. Peace of our Lord be with you. 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Prayer for the New Year

Dear Master for this coming year
Just one request I bring:
I do not pray for happiness
Or any earthly thing —
I do not ask to understand
The way Thou ledest me,
But this I ask:
Teach me to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.
I want to know Thy guiding voice,
To walk with Thee each day.
Dear Master make me swift to hear
And ready to obey.
And thus the year I now begin
A happy year will be —
If I am seeking just to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.

Contributed by Hannah Keeler and her brother, John

LWML LADIES

Time to undecorate the church at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 10th followed by a no host lunch in the backroom at Pizza Patio. Enter from the patio, not the front door. Reservations are for 11:30 a.m. so even if you're not coming to church—join us for lunch! Plenty of room.

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

Hopefully you've begun saving your change for those baby bottles for the start of the campaign on January 18th, Sanctity of Life Sunday. 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 ultrasounds and the building blocks exchange. 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. This year funds are being raised to launch a marketing campaign with a new marketing firm. The marketing will be aimed at the younger generation who seem to get their information from social media. You may pick up a baby bottle after church on January 18th for your change and bills. You may also write a check to Southern New Mexico Outreach and place it in the envelope provided on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please do not contribute through our church collections.

JANUARY 2026 STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

ELDERS

Jan. 4 Bob Klose
Jan. 11 Dick Dommers
Jan. 18 Matt Clark
Jan. 25 Bob Klose

SERMON

Jan. 11 Bob Klose
Jan. 25 Dick Dommers

LITURGIST

Jan. 11 Dick Dommers
Jan. 25 Bob Klose

TELLERS

Jan. 4 Vicki Leonard/Yvonne Steeby
Jan. 11 Dick Dommers/Merry Zumwalt
Jan. 18 Nora Sotak/Linde Van Cleave
Jan. 25 Lola Ableidinger &
Cheryl Sandenaw

HOSTS

Jan. 4 Robert & Stacy Johnson
Jan. 11 Cheryl Sandenaw &
Wilma Jaecks
Jan. 18 Cody & Merry Zumwalt
Jan. 25 Hannah Keeler & Susan Kelly

SOUND TECH

Jan. 4 Vicki Leonard
Jan. 11 Sherry Cortez
Jan. 18 Matt Anderson
Jan. 25 Jim Kline

MUSIC

Michael Cortez

USHERS

Jan. 4 Tom Blackmon, Jim Fladhammer
Larry & Bev Van Duyn
Jan. 11 Susan Kelly, Norbert Sanchez
Glen & Christine Schlehuser
Jan. 18 Robert Johnson, Trey Johnson
Bob Thede, Tammy Thede
Jan. 25 Gerald Moore, Sandy Klose
Cameron Maltz, Irvin Torres

JANUARY FLOWERS

Jan. 4 Lisa Cramm
Jan. 11 Bob & Sandy Klose
Jan. 18 Robert & Susan Rentschler
Jan. 25 John Marquardt

JANUARY ALTAR COMMITTEE

Hannah Keeler
Gayan Moore

JANUARY ATTENDANCE

Hannah Keeler

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.