



Check out our 'Shepherds of the Flock' display- we've added Pastor Simon!

THE TRINITARIAN



THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Pastor Simon Niemtschk

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Bible Classes and Sunday School 9:00 AM

Divine Service 10:15 AM



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FROM THE PASTOR

Knowledge Puffs Up, but Love Edifies

In the fourth century, Emperor Constantine's conversion inaugurated a long history of Christianity in the West. Yet at first, many new converts were unaware of the biblical stories, or even who Christ was. They came from an age of divine pantheons and cultic worship. Pastors like St. John Chrysostom therefore preached with the hardships of those converts firmly in mind.

For outsiders, the language of faith can be very new and it can take time to decipher what Christians are talking about. St. John Chrysostom put it best in his sermon on 1 Corinthians 8. In those days St. Paul noted that some in the church were anxious about eating food formerly offered to idols. Temple food was often redistributed to the poor. Could Christians afford to decline a free meal, even one tainted by idolatry?

Chrysostom reflects St. Paul's answer: we ought to do nothing that injures the faith of another. In our own day we do not wrestle with sacrifices to pagan gods, but we are returning to an age when many of our friends and neighbors won't know the story of Christ. We cannot expect them to know everything at once. After all, can we claim full knowledge of the mysteries of God? Let love prevail in all our works. Jesus Himself leads us by example. The call of the Gospel is not first a demand that they master Christ's teachings. It's an invitation, spoken in language they can hear, to the Lord of our salvation. I pray God bless our lips for the proclamation of love in Christ.

In His service,
Pastor Simon

MISSION SERVICE QUILTERS

Mission Service Quilters meet on the first and third Thursdays of the Month at 9:30 AM. We have lots of quilt tops and we will get together to layer them with backing and batting, tie them, then take them home to finish the edges. We hem the quilts instead of binding them, easier to do and looks great!

We have given quilts to Ysleta Mission, Love INC, COPE, Runner's Refuge, and the Alamogordo Public School's HUB. Occasionally we will put a quilt to sell on the Mission Table, so a little more money can go to Ysleta. You can also buy one of our baby quilts to give as a gift.

You are invited to help tie the quilts. No sewing experience needed, the only skill you need is how to tie a knot. If you have questions about the quilting group, ask one of the regulars, Diane Kline, Bev Van Duyn, or Nora Sotak

BOARD OF ELDERS

Are we missing the opportunity to spread God's Word? Does it have to be big and flashy? Does it have to be perfect? The answer is, no. We just need to plant the seed, the Spirit will do the rest.

I had to do one of the hardest things in my life, go back to work after Sarah's death. I was not ready to go back and honestly I questioned whether I should be back at work often. As a result of my job, I know a lot of people around the state and found out that Sarah knew a lot of people as well. Some knew her, others learned of her from the memorial services. I needed to try and figure out what my new normal looks like. To find it I went back to work and back to doing things I had done before and attend conferences that I had registered to attend before her death.

The first conference I knew was going to be hard as I would meet people that knew Sarah and myself. While there I had a good friend and fellow Emergency Manager who came up to me, hugged me and offered his condolences. Not only did he do that he stood there and witnessed to me, and the couple others that were there with us. He told me that at times like this he thinks about a small verse in the Bible. "Jesus wept." In reference to standing outside the tomb of his friend, Lazarus, Jesus knew that he was going to bring Lazarus back from the dead, but he was also man and cried. Jesus, the man, stood there and cried. He cried for his friend, his friend's family, and he cried for us. My friend told us that if Jesus can stand there and cry, it is okay for us to stand there and cry. Men can have emotions as well and it is okay for us to show those emotions. Did he need to tell me this? No, but he chose to and use this as an opportunity to plant a seed not knowing if any of us there were believers. He took the opportunity that was there and planted that seed to all of us.

This experience has taught me to not be afraid to share my faith with others. It does not have to be profound or perfectly thought out. Luke 12: 11-12 says, "And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." (Excerpt from The Lutheran Study Bible, © 2009 Concordia Publishing House, Scripture text © ESV)

Are you missing the opportunity to increase the church triumphant by worrying about what someone will think if we share our faith? As you attend events or speak with strangers and friends, do not be afraid to witness to those around you. Whether it is by your actions or

your words, take the opportunity that is presented to you. Remember, you just plant the seed, the Spirit will do the rest.

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Matt Clark, Elder

TRINITY LWML NEWS

Extra-Extra Read all about it! The Rummage Sale made \$3,439.50.

Praise God!

Forty percent goes into our general fund and ten percent will be sent to each of the following missions: Pregnancy Resources Plus, Runner's Refuge, Africa Teaching Pastors, APS Hub, Mariachi Youth-Ysleta Mission, COPE

Trinity LWML Board met August 14 to begin planning for our meetings, the Fall Rally, and Mission possibilities. We think we have an exciting, mission minded year ahead of us. Most meetings are scheduled for the second Saturday of each month.

The first meeting is September 12. We will have sign-up sheets for various committees and meeting hosts, a calendar of meeting dates, and a list of mission ingathering for each month. The ingathering for September is underwear and socks (any adult sizes) for Runner's Refuge Homeless Shelter, the same gathering as the Rally. The Fall Rally is September 26 and Trinity LWML is hosting (see invitation below). We will talk about food, favors, table decoration, etc. at the September 12 meeting.

We plan on seeing you on September 12, 10:00 for our first LWML meeting of this year. Serving the Lord with Gladness your Trinity LWML

Board President Belinda Burmeister, Vice President Yvonne Steeby, Treasurer Diane Kline, Secretary Nora Sotak



Rio Grande Zone Fall Rally

September 26, 2026

Trinity Lutheran Church

1505 College Avenue, Alamogordo, NM 88310

Coffee, Pastry and Visit 8:30 to 9:30

Greetings and Bible Study 9:30 to 11:30

Lunch 11:30 to 12:30

Business Meeting/Elections 12:45

EDUCATION

The Education Committee met on Sunday, August 9th after church service in the library. There were 6 members in attendance.

Old Business

- 1) Youth Sunday School starts for the 2026-2027 school year on Sunday, August 23rd at 9:00 am. Two classes will be taught, kinder- 5th and 6th- 9th.
- 2) Curriculum being used by the older class will be a pre-confirmation one from CPH and the younger class will be using the children's Bible lesson books from the library.
- 3) Church Bulletins for the Youth- We tried ordering ones from CPH for the summer months as a trial, but they never arrived. Sue will be looking into other possible resources to use.
- 4) The Summer Youth Activity Days went well and a big thank you goes out to Abby Anderson and Pastor Simon for a great job!

New Business

- 1) Vacation Bible School (VBS)-Two members of the congregation suggested it be done at a different time of the year instead of summer this year like fall or winter. The committee discussed it along with Pastor Simon and decided to do a single day event in November focused on "Being Thankful". It will be on Tuesday, November 24th from 1:00-3:00 pm. It will continue with one or two in December during the Christmas break focused on the birth of Jesus, and another one near Easter focused on Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection. Abby Anderson said she would plan and lead the first one in November. More info to come out later.
- 2) The next Quarterly Congregational Activity will be Trinity's Oktoberfest on Sunday, September 27th after church service, hosted by the Education Committee. More information to come in the September 6th bulletin.
- 3) Arch books will be ordered and put in the Thanksgiving baskets of families with children. Books will also be put in with the gifts from the "Christmas Gift Tree."
- 4) The Education Committee will be setting up the date and time for caroling for our shut-ins for Christmas but will not be hosting the church Christmas party.
- 5) The Education Committee will be working with Pastor Simon on the Christmas Eve Service.
- 6) Confirmation Class will start in September.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer given by Pastor Simon.

Yours in Christ,

Susan Kelly, Director of Education

EVANGELISM

Tract of the month: What About Christian Stewardship, by past LCMS president A.L. Berry, answers questions such as: Why Are We Here? What went wrong? How did God deal with our greatest need? What is the steward's highest priority? How do Christian stewards use their material blessings?

Welcome to our church: I want to take a moment to call out a publication in our library called "Welcome to Our Church: A Handbook for Greeters and Ushers" written by Annette Schroeder and published by Concordia Publishing House. This handbook for greeters and ushers answers questions such as When is the best time to seat latecomers? How can I be friendly toward visitors without appearing overzealous? And, what do I do if someone faints during the worship service (it could happen!). We all want visitors to feel welcome at Trinity Lutheran Church in Alamogordo. This booklet is a way to maintain consistency in our efforts as greeters and ushers. *Everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way* ~ 1 CORINTHIANS 14:40.

Mission for September and October is The Luther Classical College, a college for Lutheran' 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.

Save the Date: October 31st, Trunk or Treat
Merry Zumwalt, Evangelism Chair



Trinity Stewardship Ministry

"Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment." (1 Timothy 6:17)

Money is a good thing to have, isn't it? We need it to provide for our basic bodily needs like shelter (a home), clothing, and food. We need it for things that people used to think were luxuries but have now become necessities, like cell phone service. Like all good things, money is a gift from God (James 1:17). God knows what we need and, although money doesn't rain down from Heaven like the manna did for the Israelites (Exodus 16:4-18), it is still God's gift, for it is God Who gives us bodies and minds so that we are enabled to work and produce an income (Deuteronomy 8:18).

Some have the idea that, if they give something to God, the rest is theirs to use as they please, but we know that God expects us to be responsible with our money and to remember that it's really His money – it's only ours to use. There are God-pleasing ways to use money and other ways that do not please Him.

In his letter to Timothy, St. Paul talks about the place money should have in our lives: *“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment”* (1 Timothy 6:17). God wants us to enjoy His gifts!

Looking forward to October and November more information will be on:

- (1) “Pledging part of your financial gifts to the ministry of God’s kingdom. Prayfully ask God to help you manage your money for His glory and the good of His people.”
- (2) “Prayfully consider the gifts God has given you in serving His church. A handout “Ministry Interests for Trinity Lutheran Church,” will give you many ideas.”

Gracious Heavenly Father, give me a grateful heart and a desire to use everything I am and have in ways that please you.

In Jesus’ name, Lola Ableidinger

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SEPTEMBER 2026 STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

ELDERS

Sept. 6 Bob Klose
Sept. 13 Matt Clark
Sept. 20 Bob Klose
Sept. 27 Dick Dommers

TELLERS

Sept. 6 Lola Ableidinger & Nora Sotak
Sept. 13 Susan Kelly & Sandy Klose
Sept. 20 Bob Klose & Joyce Macon
Sept. 27 Becky Worley/Yvonne Steeby

HOSTS

Sept. 6 Cheryl Sandenaw &
Wilma Jaecks
Sept. 13 Cody & Merry Zumwalt
Sept. 20 Hannah Keeler & Susan Kelly
Sept. 27 Jim & Diane Kline

SOUND TECH

Sept. 6 Vicki Leonard
Sept. 13 Sherri Cortez
Sept. 20 Matt Anderson
Sept. 27 Jim Kline

SEPTEMBER ATTENDANCE

Hannah Keeler

SEPTEMBER ALTAR COMMITTEE

Sheila Anderson
Wilma Jaecks

MUSIC

Michael Cortez

SEPTEMBER FLOWERS

Sept. 6 Bob & Jan Thede
Sept. 13 Bob & Sandy Klose
Sept. 20 Juli Bailey
Sept. 27 Larry & Beverly Van Duyn

USHERS

Sept. 6 Tom Blackmon, Jim Fladhammer
Larry & Bev Van Duyn
Sept. 13 Susan Kelly, Norbert Sanchez
Glen & Christine Schlehuser
Sept. 20 Robert Johnson, Trey Johnson
Bob and Tammy Thede
Sept. 27 Cameron Maltz, Gerald Moore
Irvin Torres, Cody Zumwalt



"Heaven nice day!"

