

THE TRINITARIAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Pastor Simon Niemtschk
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

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FROM THE PASTOR

Adult Confirmation & Questions for Faith.

This advent season, I'd like to invite all new members, prospective members and any friends of family interested in adult faith study, to schedule time to meet with the pastor. This opportunity is especially focused on confirming all our friends with ongoing membership studies, but open also to explore questions we have about what it means to Confess Christ as Lord.

The word Advent means arrival and begins our Church Calendar, looking to the incarnation of the infant Christ. What the prophets spoke of in the time of Israel has at last come to be fulfilled, the arrival of the messiah, a joy to the world which brought even angel choirs to celebrate in song the hope we have in Christ. Drawn into the same love and anticipation, we commemorate this season as a time of watchfulness, introspection and hope. So what better time to seek meditation and prayer and to look more closely at what our faith means?

I pray part of this season means you can join me for time in the office. One of my favorite questions I've been asked since arriving at Trinity had been- *'When Jesus died, did he die as man or as God?'*

It's an incredible question because it doesn't end our celebration at Jesus who died for our sins, but draws ever closer asking about who Jesus really is. Perhaps you're curious yourself, what is the right answer? Firstly, there is one saving faith in Christ. What we confess isn't a matter of personal opinion, but as one body of the church we confess with one voice and affirm as we have from the days of Christ himself that Jesus, both true God and true man, died upon the cross.

Philippians 2:6-8 - *6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

We don't divide Jesus as part man and part God, he is fully both, always and forever; and this has greater implications for the incarnation, crucifixion and resurrection. As a man, there is no death which may save us from death also. Any number of pagan civilizations have tried human sacrifice and it has been an abomination in the eyes of God (Deuteronomy 12:31). Yet when God sent Christ to be for us a living sacrifice, we saw something different happen. Because it was not merely a man who died. God himself poured out Grace from the blood of Christ that by his wounds we would be healed (Isaiah 53:5). It was his human nature which enabled Christ to die and it was his God nature which carried a meaning in death.

Were Christ anything short of God in the flesh, we would have no salvation, but by submitting to death, Jesus rose again with the first fruits of the resurrection.

So absolutely! **Chist died as both true God and true man!** We don't have a human Jesus and a God-Jesus, there is one Lord and there is one faith. That faith is for you, and from God. So I pray this season of Advent, is a time of peace and meditation and that it invites you to reflect upon our shared faith. If you're interested, it would be my joy to field any questions you've had and maybe never had an opportunity to ask. There is no shame in ignorance, only wilful ignorance. But I'm proud of our faith and eager to share it. So if you have the time and especially if you're a new member, message pastor, ask after me at service and let's work to schedule a time when we can uncover more beauties of Christ's salvation.

In His service, Pastor Simon.

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BOARD OF ELDERS

Slowing Down to Behold Our Savior

As we enter the season of Advent and prepare for the birth of our Savior, we need to sit back, take a breath, and focus. Life will pass you by in the blink of an eye. If you don't believe it, think about the last thing you remember from this year. Chances are it was the calling, ordination, and installation of our new Pastor back in July. Before that, maybe Easter, but chances are your mind jumps all the way back to last Christmas.
Where has the time gone?

No matter what happens in our lives and how fast time seems to fly past, one thing remains certain: our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The fast-paced world will always be there, pulling at our calendars. Use this holy time and season to reflect and slow down. Get out your Bible and read the account of the birth of Jesus. Make some cookies and take them to our shut-ins. Come join the group as we sing Christmas carols to our shut-ins and at the local nursing homes. These acts are not only a way for us to slow down and enjoy the moment, but they are a vital opportunity to remind those who are isolated of the joyous occasion of the birth of Jesus.

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol often comes to mind this time of year. While we are not dealing with ghosts that will haunt us, it is the classic theme of time that resonates. In Advent, we remember Christ in the Past, Present, and Future:

1. The Past: We remember His incarnation and His humble beginnings in Bethlehem.
2. The Present: We receive His comforting presence with us today through His Word and Sacraments.

3. The Future: We look forward with hope to His final return in glory on the Last Day.
4. So, take time over these next four weeks to reflect on the year, cast your anxieties on Him, and rest in the joys that await us this season.

Matt Clark, Elder

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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 24th. 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

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ASSISTIVE LISTENING

At the request of some of our members the elders are looking into purchasing an Assistive Listening system to provide members with better hearing of the worship service. As you can imagine there are multiple systems with a wide range of costs available to make this happen.

We need your input to help us decide what we need. If you think you would utilize such a system, please provide Bob Klose with the following information:

1. If you wear hearing aids, what is the model or type?
2. Do you have a smart phone capable of downloading apps?

Bob Klose, Head elder

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A SPECIAL BABY

Mark Lowry, who wrote the lyrics to the Christmas song "Mary, Did You Know?" says he's always been amazed by Mary's silence at the cross, as her son was being crucified. Maybe she was remembering back to that first Christmas, he wonders, when she counted Jesus' fingers and toes.

"I wonder if she realized then that those were the same fingers that had scooped out the oceans and formed the seas. I wonder if she realized those were the same feet that had walked on streets of gold and been worshiped by angels. Those little lips were the same lips that had spoken the world into existence. When Mary kissed her little baby, she wasn't just kissing another baby; she was kissing the face of God." Mary silently watched her son die 33 years later, Lowry notes — not just for the world but also for his own mother. "The baby boy she had delivered on that first Christmas was now on a cross delivering her."----

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EVANGELISM

NOVEMBER–DECEMBER MISSION: The Lutheran Heritage Foundation: This mission was very "near and dear" to Pastor Kevin Cramm. Read testimonies of those who have been touched by the **Lutheran Heritage Foundation.** Scan the QR Code to the left to go to: https://lhfmissions.org/your-lhf-mission-gifts-at-work/. **The Lutheran Heritage Foundation** translates Lutheran books — the Small Catechism, Bible storybooks, devotions — into the languages of the world and gives them away free: over 1,500 titles in more than 150 languages, in almost 100 countries.

TRACT OF THE MONTH --*What about…Angels?* "It seems as though angels have captured the imagination of people everywhere. Unfortunately, there is a lot of misinformation about angels, along with superstitions and unscriptural understandings. This pamphlet will provide a Biblical perspective on angels." (*What about Angels?,* pg 1) Pick one up in the spinning rack in the Narthex. You can access and/or download, at no cost, any of the "What about…?"series by Dr. A. L. Berry at https://files.lcms.org/d/what-about-pamphlets in .pdf form.

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD: Last month I wrote that every saint has a story. This month, the story came to us. "**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us**" (John 1:14). At Christmas, God didn't just send a message about His love; He sent His Son. Born of the Virgin Mary, He lived the life we could not live and died the death our sins deserved. That is the Gospel: not what we do for God, but what God has done for us in Christ. We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone — faith the Holy Spirit creates through His Word.

So here is my Christmas challenge: bring one person with you to hear that Word. Maybe to a Christmas service, to hear the story again, or for the first time. You don't need the perfect words, because the Word does the work. God promises His Word will not return empty (Isaiah 55:11).

This is my last newsletter as your Evangelism Chair. ***Thank you*** for letting me serve this congregation, for every story you've told and every invitation you've given. The chair changes, but the Gospel doesn't — Christ has come, Christ has died, Christ will come again.

Merry Christmas!
Merry Zumwalt, Evangelism Chair

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Sent to Tell the Good News

Thank your Ron Chewning, Stewardship Advisor for the LCMS Michigan District, for the following message.

The season of Advent will provide an opportunity for us to reflect on God's great love for us fallen sinners that has caused Him to send His very own Son who came for the ungodly, even for those who will never acknowledge His sacrifice and who reject His free gift of salvation. Along with the joy that we have in our Savior, especially at this time of the celebration of Jesus' birth, the knowledge that not all experience this joy brings a sorrow to us as it does to the heart of our Lord.

Just as God in His love sent His Son into this world to save the lost, so we are now sent to tell others of that love. The shepherds at Jesus' birth did not hesitate to tell others. ***"And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had seen…" (Luke 2:20)***. Like the shepherds, our joy and mission are to share the good news with all people that Jesus came **"*to seek and to save the lost"* (Luke 19:10)**. By grace, we are invited to be participants who declare to the world how God has reconciled us to Himself through His Son. God makes His appeal to unbelievers through us, and, therefore, it is imperative that we share the Gospel, which is the life-giving truth. We are to preach and teach the Word of God.

God calls us to share our faith and to let His light shine brightly. You and I have something to share that is needed by others, and that is the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ, who came to us as a babe in a manger. In light of what Christ has done for us, we respond with a desire to serve and glorify Him. We are equipped and enabled by the Holy Spirit through His Word and Sacraments ***(2 Timothy 3:16-17)*** to be participants in His mission. We are the feet, eyes, ears, mouths, and hands who carry the message, who see the needs, who listen to the cries of those in need, who bring help to them, who tell them the message of reconciliation.

God's Word challenges us to use our time, talents, and money, so we can make an eternal difference in the lives of others. Because God is always with us, we can be faithful in our purpose to be God's participants in His mission to save all people.

May we all keep Christ as the heart of our Christmas and see Jesus as the reason for our joy. God's blessings on your Christmas worship and celebration with loved ones.

In Jesus name, Lola Ableidinger

-TLC has purchased rights to use materials by Ron Chewning, Stewardship Advisor

EDUCATON

The Education Committee met and had three members in attendance. The last of this year's activities were discussed.

The first item brought up was the Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins. We will meet at the church on Sunday, December 20th at 5:00 p.m. and carpool to the shut-ins. We hope you will join us in making our shut-ins a little happier.

The second item is the practice for the Christmas Eve Service on Tuesday, Dec. 22nd at 10:0 a.m. More details to come in the in the weekly bulletins in Dec.

The third activity is making the luminaries and placing them all around the church. Any church member who would like to help in sharing the Christmas spirit, please meet us at the church at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 24th. All are welcome to come and join in on all the fun.

The Christmas Eve Service is one of the highlights of the Advent season. The service starts at 6:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

The final events of Advent season will be the Children and Youth Activity Days during the school's Christmas break. More info to come in the Dec. 6th church bulletin.

We hope you will join in all the Christmas fun with our congregation.

If you have any questions, please contact Sue Kelly or any committee member.

Christmas Blessings,
Sue Kelly, Director of Education

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MEMORIAL FUND GUIDELINES

I. Memorial funds will be used to purchase items to spiritually and physically beautify the House of God or for a monetary gift to a mission or charitable foundation.

II. The establishment of the memorial fund is to be made to commemorate the passing of a servant of the Lord into glory.
   a) The memorial fund is created when a designated offering is received in memory of the deceased.
   b) The memorial fund will be open for ninety days after the first offering is made.
   c) The Stewardship committee will use the funds with the agreement of the family and friends of the deceased.
   d) Any additional designated offering received after the ninetieth day will be ac credited to a general memorial fund.

III. Guidelines concerning the use of memorial funds at Trinity Lutheran Church.

a) The Stewardship committee with the support of the family of the deceased and the pastor will allocate the memorial funds to enhance the House of God or for a monetary gift to a mission or charitable foundation.
b) The Stewardship committee will compile and maintain a list of memorial items which is acknowledged by the board of directors.
c) After the purchase of an item, any additional funds in that memorial will be transferred into a general memorial fund.
d) The general memorial fund can be used to maintain previously acquired memorials and to supplement smaller funds.
e) When the general memorial fund exceeds $500, the Stewardship Committee will purchase an item from the memorial list or designate to which item the monies apply if an item cost is over $500.

LONG-TERM PRAYERS

Sofia Banks, Brianna Bickham, Hunter Bednorz, Donna Belcher, Eric Bell, Janet Buckman, Pastor Kerry & Ruth Buttke, Brian Byrosovich, Arlene Calixto, Jim Coburn, Chuck Collins, Christopher Douglas, Janet Fidel, Ashton Flaco, Wayne Holmes, Shannon Jones, Richard Kestner, Jake Koller, Janet Landt, Ron Linn, Kiley Martin, Maria Martin, Susan Maynard, Grady Nicholson, Cindy Oberling, Tim Polling, Connie Prather, Karen Rawlings, Dick Richey, Margaret Romero, Jon Scarbough, Kyrie Selph, Jessie Sharrett, Lynn Skinner, Robert & Marilyn Spain, David Steeby, Roger Storm, Marlea Turnbull, Joel Van Duyn, Christine Vertain, Pastor Nicholas and Celestino from Concordia Seminary in South Sudan

Trinity Lutheran Woman's Missionary League (LWML)
News and Coming Events

Past Events

The Bake Sale held after the LWML church service netted $405.00. This amount was sent to the District LWML Treasurer to the Mites fund which supports missions. Remember, Missionary is part of our name. Current Mission Grant recipients for the Rocky Mountain District and National LWML are on the LWML bulletin board. Anyone and everyone is encouraged to leave mites (money) in the large Mite Box under the LWML Bulletin Board anytime!



Need a Mite Box? Pick one up, they are on the cart under the LWML Bulletin Board.

The LWML 2026 Prayer Service, "Praise, Remember, Ask, Yield, Excitement, Rejoice" was held on November 14 before the business meeting. Thank you, Susan Kelly for organizing and leading the service.

Six Families received Thanksgiving Food Baskets. Thanks to all who donated food and money.

DECEMBER EVENTS

December 5, 10:00 AM we will gather to decorate the church for Christmas. Refreshments after decorating will be potluck sweet and/or savory Christmas snacks.

Yvonne Steeby, Diane Kline, and Susan Kelly are organizing the Children's Christmas gift tree. You are encouraged to take one or more ornaments off the tree and buy the suggested/wanted gift. Please, wrap the gift, affix the ornament firmly on the gift, and bring it back to church by December 20. Yvonne needs help to deliver the gifts before Christmas, let her know you would like to help.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2027

January 9, 2027 at 10:30 AM we will meet to remove the church's Christmas decorations, followed by lunch at Pizza 9.

National LWML Convention is July 8-11, 2027 in Oklahoma City

Rocky Mountain District Fall Retreat is September 10-12, 2027 in Woodland Park, CO, Donna Snow will be the Bible Study Leader.

OH COME, OH COME, EMMANUEL

Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel. Matthew 123 (NKJV)

The origins of this plaintive carol date to medieval times. In the 800s, a series of Latin hymns were sung each day during Christmas Vespers from December 17 to 23. Each of these hymns began with the word "O", and were called the "Great" or "O" Antiphons (the word *antiphon* meaning psalm or anthem). These hymns were apparently restructured into verse form in the in the 1100s, and finally published in Latin in 1710. In the mid-1800s, they were discovered by an English minister named John Mason Neale, who wove together segments of them to produce the first draft of "O Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel," which was published in 1851. Neale's original version said, "Draw nigh, draw nigh, Emmanuel."

Neale is a man worth knowing. He was born in London on January 24, 1818, the son of an evangelical Anglican clergyman. He attended Cambridge University and proved to be a brilliant student and prize-winning poet. While there, Neale was influenced by the Oxford Movement and became attracted to Roman Catholicism. In 1841, he was ordained into the Anglican ministry; but his poor health and Catholic leanings prevented him from gaining a ministry.

He was appointed instead as the director of Sackville College, a home for old men. (Sackville College, started by Robert Sackville, Earl of Dorset, in the early 1600s as a home for the elderly, is still going strong today in East Grinstead, Sussex.) This was the perfect job for Neale, for he was a compassionate man with a great heart for the needy, but he was also a scholar needing time for research and writing.

As a high church traditionalist, Neale disliked the hymns of Issac Watts and longed to return Christianity to the liturgical dignity of church history. He was an outspoken advocate of returning church buildings to their former glory. He campaigned, for example, against certain types of stoves that spoiled the tastefulness and charm of English churches. He also worked hard to translate ancient Greek and Latin hymns into English.

In today's hymnals, we find Neale and Watts side-by-side, the old differences having been forgotten. We owe a debt of gratitude to John Mason Neale every time we sing one of his Christmas carols: "Good King Wenceslas," O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," "Good Christian Men, Rejoice," and his Psalm Sunday hymn, "All Glory Laud, and Honor."

-----Then Sings My Soul, Book 2
Robert J. Morgan

DECEMBER 2026 STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

ELDERS

Dec. 2 Dick Dommers-Midweek Advent
Dec. 6 Matt Clark
Dec. 9 Bob Klose-Midweek Advent
Dec. 13 Dick Dommers
Dec. 16 Matt Clark-Midweek Advent
Dec. 20 Bob Klose
Dec. 24 Dick Dommers-Christmas Eve.
Dec. 25 Matt Clark-Christmas Day
Dec. 27 Bob Klose

TELLERS

Dec. 6 Linde Van Cleave & Nora Sotak
Dec. 13 Lola Ableidinger
Cheryl Sandenaw
Dec. 20 Sandy Klose & Susan Kelly
Dec. 27 Bob Klose & Joyce Macon

HOSTS

Dec. 6 Cody & Merry Zumwalt
Dec. 13 Hannah Keeler & Susan Kelly
Dec. 20 Jim & Diane Kline
Dec. 27 Robert & Stacy Johnson

DECEMBER ATTENDANCE

Cody & Merry Zumwalt

DECEMBER ALTAR COMMITTEE

Diane Kline
Cheryl Richey

MUSIC

Michael Cortez

DECEMBER FLOWERS

Dec. 6 Gerald & Gayan Moore
Dec. 13 Cheryl Sandenaw
Dec. 20 Larry & Beverly Van Duyn
Dec. 27 Robert & Stacy Johnson

USHERS

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

SOUND TECH

Dec. 2 Sheri Cortez - Midweek Advent
Dec. 6 Matt Anderson
Dec. 9 Matt Anderson - Midweek Advent
Dec. 13 Jim Kline
Dec. 15 Jim Kline-Midweek Advent
Dec. 20 Vicki Leonard
Dec. 24 Vicki Leonard - Christmas Eve.
Dec. 25 Sheri Cortez - Christmas Day
Dec. 27 Matt Anderson

SPECIAL DATES FOR DECEMBER 2026

Second Sunday of Advent,
December 6, 2026
Third Sunday of Advent,
December 13, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Advent,
December 20, 2026
First Day of Winter, *December 21, 2026*
Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2026*
Christmas Day, *December 25, 2026*
New Year's Eve, *December 31, 2026*


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is the
reason
for the
season
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