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
Website: www.trinityalamogordo.org

Bible Classes and Sunday School 9:00 AM
Divine Service 10:15 AM

OCTOBER 2020 -- VOLUME 58 No. 10

FROM THE PASTOR

Matt. 22:21 They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Early next month we will get a chance to vote for our "Caesar." God has placed us into this nation to use our time and talents to bring the Good News of Jesus to those He brings into our lives. We have been the beneficiaries of others who have already lived their God given lives in doing what we have a chance to do ourselves. So how does that fact along with our call to bring the Good News to others have anything to do with our voting next month.

I hope all of you are registered to vote and you have at least started to check out what you will be voting for or against. Here are a few things that may help you to get ready:

Election day: November 3

Registration deadlines: By mail–October 6, Online–October 6, In Person–October 31

Voting deadlines: Application by mail–October 20, Submission by mail–November 3, Submission in person–November 3

Early Voting: Absentee voting begins Oct 6 while early voting begins Oct 2, ending Oct 31

You still have time to get ready. This information was given you so that you can vote but what about who and what to vote for? Where does your faith and belief cross-sect? What Biblical values do you have that will assist you in voting for the right person the right bill etc.?

Have you thought of the issues out there and the proclamation of those wanting your vote and how will it affect you and your neighbor? There are many choices that need to be made in looking at a person's stated preferred policies. Yes we get all sorts of ads to supposedly give you a good idea of how they are going to conduct themselves if they get in office.

We have a responsibility to look at what they say and yes, what they haven't revealed that we need to dig a little deeper and find out how and why they have said they have voted in the past the way they did. Thank God that we have the opportunity we have as citizens of this nation to vote and that our and others eligible to vote will only have 1 vote and that it will count. Let us all render a vote consistent with the Bible and with this nation and its constitution and laws.

Pastor

ELDERS MESSAGE

Is Your Lamp Full

The headline in an Israel Today article dated August 3, 2020, read "Israeli Rabbi Holding Meetings With Messiah".

The article stated Rabbi Yaakov Zisholtz was told by Rabbi Rabbi Chaim Kanievsky that he is already in direct contact with the Messiah. Rabbi Kanievsky is considered to be one of the top three rabbis of the ultra- Orthodox Jewish community in Israel.

Rabbi Zisholtz began his explosive interview with the warning: "..the process of redemption is about to start happening very quickly and at a fast pace. It is important that people remain calm and steady to act properly in the right time." He goes on to state "Everyone needs to know whether they are on the inside or if they are going to be left out." Why is this important to us? Is this claim valid?

In light of JESUS words in Matthew 24:36**"But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, But the Father only." ,** we should be skeptical.

However, the warning about being ready for the return of JESUS rings true.
The parable of the ten virgins waiting for the bridegroom reinforces our need to be ready for HIS return. Are you one of the wise virgins whose lamp is full of oil and you have extra in case the bridegroom is delayed? Or are you like the foolish virgins whose lamps were empty when the bridegroom arrived and were locked out of the wedding feast?

According to the Lutheran Study Bible, Matthew 25:3, footnote, the oil represents a faith continually sustained by the means of grace, thus able to endure until CHRIST's return.

KEEP YOUR LAMP FULL

James R. Wilkes, Head Elder

*****

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors met on September 17th.

Jim Wilkes, Head Elder, reported that Lee Wood will continue as organist when it is safe for her to do so. Garrett will continue as guest organist. Sarah will be backup pianist once she has her baby in Oct and recovers from her pregnancy. Garrett is being paid $100.00 as guest organist ($75.00 organist and $25.00 for travel expenses for commute from school in Las Cruces).

Pastor stated there had been issues with the Century Link equipment that has degraded our online streaming of services. Several tech visits by Century Link has not successfully solved the problem. Pastor will inquire with TDS as a possible replacement for Century Link. The elders asked that they be notified any time you have a need for care, i. e. hospitalized, need transportation, etc.

Vicki Leonard, Financial Secretary, reported total income for August was $20,568.26 of which $16,024.00 went to the general fund and $4,554.26 went to special funds.

Cheryl Sandenaw, Treasurer, reported the following: General Fund income for August 2020 was $16,024.00 (Envelopes + Loose Plate); expenses were ($17,173.75) giving net loss of ($1,149.75). Our year-to-date financial status: General Fund Income: $131,503.28 (envelopes and loose plate); Expenses: ($139,717.51) expenses exceeded income by ($8,214.23).

Cindi Anderson, Education Chair, reported: The Youth met at Pastor and Cindi's house on September 5th to have a mini Higher Things conference using the virtual material provided by the Higher Things organization. The event was a success with 14 youth and seven adults attending. They are using the recorded break-out session from the conference as lessons for the youth (6th through 12th grades) for Sunday Schools meetings. Jill Clark has agreed to teach a K through 5th grade class. The Youth Group has scheduled a monthly activity for the remainder of the year.

Allen Burmeister, Trustee Chair reported the following actions: Front flower bed was finished, and flowers planted, several loose rocks in the wall surrounding the altar have been re-installed, a leak in the women's bathroom was repaired, and a door closer on one of the north entrance doors was replaced. Upcoming actions needing attention are: replacing deteriorating sheetrock in the heating and soft water room with plywood, installing a drip system in the front flower bed, investigating a problem in the watering system in the back lot, and removing the badly weathered church sign on highway 70 west of town.

Unfished Business: We are waiting on the second proposal for the new sound/media system.

New Business:

1. The BOD continued working on the budget planning process for 2021.
2. At least one church member has agreed to be nominated for upcoming BOD openings for President, Vice-President, Financial Secretary, and the Board Chairs of Education and Evangelism. We still need nominees for two elder positions.

3. The BOD accepted Cheryl Sandenaw's letter of resignation from the position of church treasurer, effective December 31, 2020. The BOD will appoint her replacement (a volunteer has stepped forward).
4. The BOD voted not to create a budget line item as requested by Concordia University, Austin, TX. The letter requesting support will be posted on the bulletin board for members to support Concordia as they feel led.
5. The BOD voted to include the treasurer position in the end-of-year bonuses due to the amount of work required in performing the duties of that position.

Bob Klose, President

*****

Is God Calling You?

While searching for an article I thought I had written I came across the following. I called Dick to get permission to print his article, written in 2016, on the importance of listening to Jesus' call in our lives today.

THE CALL

One of my favorite hymns, one that I am sure most of you share is "Softly and Tenderly". We may tend initially to believe that Jesus is calling us to our final resting place with Him in Heaven. That He will do. But the call can also come when we have strayed from the path, which we do often. It can also come when He needs us for his work here on earth. "Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?

Could Jesus be pleading to us to do more for his kingdom on earth? I would certainly guess that, and I would bet that some of us hear that plea. "But...haven't I already done enough, Lord? I have served faithfully through many years, have been your servant in church, in meetings, in conferences, in evangelical activities. Just how much more do You need me?"

Perhaps you have heard this Call, perhaps you haven't. If you have, know, and believe that Jesus' work here within our church, our family our community is far from finished. Listen carefully. If our Lord calls, can you afford to tarry?

Yours in Christ
Dick Dommers- Elder

I am happy to report that we currently have at least one name for each of the BOD positions we will voting on November 8th, except for the two open elder positions. I know several men have been asked but all have declined. I ask that you take Dick's words to heart and reconsider.
Bob Klose, Congregation President

STEWARDSHIP

One of my favorite Bible verses is: Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Do you ever stop to think what that means? We know that Jesus says in Matthew 19:26 in answer to the disciples' question, "Who can be saved?' "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." So, what can you do through Christ who strengthens you? We have board elections soon. What will you do to serve the Lord here at Trinity? Remember, He will give you strength to do **any** job He calls you to do.

Please be in prayer, and when you are asked about a position remember, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

God's Blessings,
Sandy Klose, Stewardship Chairperson

*****

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

"Thank you pastor! These words are often spoken after a funeral service, wedding, baptism or some other special event over which a pastor has officiated. But how often do we acknowledge our thanks to the pastor at other times?

October has been designated as Pastor Appreciation Month. We are blessed to have Pastor Bill as our pastor. He's dedicated to the Lord and serves in many capacities we are not even aware of. I urge you to make a special effort to let him know how much he and Cyndi are appreciated this month and all year long.

Bob Klose, Congregation President

*****

A NEW CALL

Noted preacher Will Willimon received a frantic phone call from parents who feared their college-age daughter was throwing away her life. Asked to intervene, Willimon inquired why she was ending her studies to work with children of migrant farmers. What had motivated her radical decision?

"It was your sermon yesterday that started me to thinking," she replied. Willimon had talked about how God wants us to do something important with our lives, leading the young woman to choose a new path that would make more impact and hold more meaning. After a long silence, he stammered, "But I was just preaching!"

Willimon was just preaching, and the worshipper was just attending church while on home break. Yet she perceived a change in calling that led to a change in identity, security, priorities – and fullment.

---adapted from *The Wired Word*

LWML

CHRISTIANS - - BY Maya Angelou

A woman's heart should be so hidden in Christ that a man should have to seek Him first to find her.

When I say… "I am a Christian" I am not shouting "I'm clean living", I am whispering "I was lost, Now I am found and FORGIVEN".

When I say… "I am a Christian" I don't speak of this with pride, I am confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say… "I am a Christian" I am not trying to be strong. I am professing that I am weak & need his strength to carry on.

When I say… "I am a Christian" I am not bragging of success. I am admitting I have failed & need God to clean my mess.

When I say… "I am a Christian" I am not claiming to be Perfect. My flaws are far too visible, but, God Believes I am worth it.

When I say… "I am a Christian" I still feel the sting of pain. I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His Name.

When I say… "I am a Christian" I am not holier than thou, I am just a simple sinner who received God's Grace, somehow!

Then I say… "I am a Christian, Amen!"

UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 4 *– LWML Sunday. Ladies please sign up to help with the service. Signup on LWML Bulletin Board in Narthex.*

BAKE SALE – Muffins for Mites will be held after church services.

Oct. 10 - LWML Fall Rally – Each Zone Society will be hosting their individual Rally. Trinity's will be held in the Great Room . Time to be announced. RMD President, Debbie Yocky will conduct this rally by zoom (like June's Convention). Potluck will be shared. Hope to see all the Trinity family attend this Rally for Bible Study, Fellowship and social time. Zone President, Belinda Burmiester.

NATIONAL MISSION GRANTS 2019-2021

National Mission #15 - **Pre- and Post-Seminary Training for Local Church Workers**

Mission Training Center, Africa - $62,650 -- In villages across Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia, most local congregations are led by helpers, evangelists or seminary trained, and ordained pastors. Both the pre-seminary and post-seminary men are eager for opportunities to study theology in a community which will enable them to better serve their congregations. To enable those whom the church has

called into service as lay leaders of these congregations, The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Africa Mission Training Center provides continuing education opportunities for local pastors and their wives. The course may be taught by a church leader, a local seminary professor, or a missionary engaged in the work God has given him. This grant will provide basic theological training for lay leaders of congregations who serve under a pastor responsible for between five and 15 congregations. The training material allows the local pastor to work through a total of 22 workbooks (over two years) with his lay leaders. Lay leaders gather with their pastor for 5 days once a month. The program provides limited financial assistance to offset the costs of food and transportation.

DISTRICT MISSION GRANTS 2020-2022

#2 Concordia Theological Seminary Food & Co-op Financial Assistance - Grant amount: $8,000: Students and their families at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, are blessed to visit their Food and Clothing Co-op to help offset their financial needs. Often seminarians and their wives cannot find jobs to provide income for their families because they will only be in town for a short time. Being able to shop using a point system and volunteering at the Co-op provides these families with much-needed support during a time when they are being prepared for the ministry. This grant would provide roughly a month's worth of fresh food purchases, which on average includes 600 pounds of ground beef; 300 gallons of milk; 175 dozen eggs; 250 packages of cheese; 3,500 pounds of fresh produce; and 200 bottles of 100% fruit juice.

Any questions? Contact Yvonne, Belinda, Bev, Hannah, Christine or Cyndi H.
***LWML On The Go,* is available through your podcast provider, at lwml.org, and on the**

****

THE BEST MEDICINE

Near the end of his life, Protestant reformer Martin Luther suffered debilitating headaches. When told about a costly medicine that might offer some relief, Luther smiled and said, "My best prescription for head and heart is that 'God so loved the world, the He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but everlasting life.'"

That Bible verse became a refrain for Luther on his deathbed. "What Spartan saying can be compared with this wonderful brevity," he said of John 3:16. "It is the Bible itself!" After repeating the words that Gospel-in-a-nutshell verse three times in Latin, Luther exclaimed, "They are the best prescription for headaches and heartaches!"

IN WHAT IS OUR TRUST?

Guest Editorial – This Day Magazine, Feb. 1952
By Mary Elsnau

FEAR HYSTERIA is sweeping not only the nation but the world. We are going through a crisis, a transition period. Drastic changes loom before us, now that the atomic age is on the horizon.

People the world over feel it. A tenseness is in the air, a dread expectancy for, we know not, but nowhere is there confidence in what the morrow will bring. Nowhere is there a feeling of security. We fear the shrinking dollar, a third world war, and the atom bomb.

If we were more concerned with human souls rather than property, with spiritual strength rather than power politics, there would be less fear. This, then, is the core of our nervous tension -- lack of faith.

As a nation we have lost contact with our inner source of strength, the results which can be seen in the mental disorders that are filling our hospitals and our asylums to overflowing. It is see in our growing juvenile crime, our alcoholics, our moral laxity, and our continual involvement in the bog of war.

We have pulled up the anchor that connects us with God and are drifting. Individualism is lost in the routine of the assembly. The important thing now is the paycheck.

Thus, the striving citizen, not realizing why, is dissatisfied. He seeks here and there for an answer to his discontent. He looks, however, to his leaders rather that doing some self-searching and then looking to, and trusting in, the Almighty.

On the whole, this is not a God-fearing nation. Rather than seek God with their problems, many rush to be psychoanalyzed. Rather than face facts as they are and try to correct them, people avoid them by indulging in cocktails, night-club life, or other conscience-stultifying diversions. Man must turn to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for forgiveness and guidance.

Too many of us put our trust in material things in spite of the motto on our currency which reads: “In God We Trust.”

We seek aid from the State; we are no longer capable of independent thought or action; we want social security, socialized medicine, and civil service jobs besides our old-age pension. We demand security at any price, overlooking the fact that real security can come only from Him. The escape from fear is to seek and find that faith which puts its trust in God and His redeeming grace. When we remember that and cast our cares upon Him, there will be no question: “In What Is Our Trust’?

The Road of Life

At first, I saw God as my observer,
my judge,
keeping track of the things I did wrong,
so as to know whether I merited heaven
or hell when I die.
He was out there sort of like a president.
I recognized His picture when I saw it,
but I really didn't know Him

But later on
when I met Christ,
it seemed as though life were rather like a bike ride,
but it was a tandem bike,
and I noticed that Christ
was in the back helping me pedal.

I don't know just when it was
that He suggested we change places,
but life has not been the same since.

When I had control,
I knew the way.
It was rather boring,
but predictable. . .
It was the shortest distance between two points.

But when He took the lead,
He knew delightful long cuts,
up mountains,
and through rocky places
at breakneck speeds,
it was all I could do to hang on!
Even though it looked like madness,
He said, "Pedal!"

I worried and was anxious
and asked,
"Where are you taking me?"
He laughed and didn't answer,
and I started to learn to trust.

I forgot my boring life
and entered into the adventure.
And when I'd say, "I'm scared,"
He'd lean back and touch my hand.

He took me to people with gifts that I needed,
gifts of healing,
acceptance
and joy.
They gave me gifts to take on my journey,
my Lord's and mine.

And we were off again.
He said, "Give the gifts away;
they're extra baggage, too much weight."
So I did,
to the people we met,
and I found that in giving I received,
and still our burden was light.

I did not trust Him,
at first,
in control of my life.
I thought He'd wreck it;
but He knows bike secrets,
knows how to make it bend to take sharp corners,
knows how to jump to clear high rocks,
knows how to fly to shorten scary passages.

And I am learning to shut up
and pedal
in the strangest places,
and I'm beginning to enjoy the view
and the cool breeze on my face
with my delightful constant companion, Jesus Christ.

And when I'm sure I just can't do anymore,
He just smiles and says. . ."Pedal."

—author unknown

OCTOBER 2020 STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

ELDERS

Oct. 4 Glen Schlehuser
Oct. 11 Ray Bailey
Oct. 18 Jim Wilkes
Oct. 25 Matt Clark

ACOLYTES

Oct. 4 Reilly Quinn
Oct. 11 Madie Sanchez
Oct. 18 Zac Sanchez
Oct. 25 Ryan Sebring

HOSTS

Oct. 4 Shirley Enyeart
Vicki Leonard
Oct. 11 Wilma Jaecks
Yvonne Seeby
Oct. 18 Cheryl Richey/Cheryl Sandenaw
Oct. 25 Tom & Darlene Gilmore

READERS

Oct. 4 Vicki Leonard & Lisa Collins
Oct. 11 Bob & Sandy Klose
Oct. 18 Hannah Keeler & Gerald Moore
Oct. 25 Mary Leslie Schmitt & Vici Leonard

TELLERS

Oct. 4 Bob Klose & Patty Quinn
Oct. 11 Bob Klose & Joyce Macon
Oct. 18 Yvonne Steeby & Becky Worley
Oct. 25 Shirley Enyeart
Robyn Luevano

OCTOBER ATTENDANCE

Mary Leslie Schmitt

OCTOBER ALTAR COMMITTEE

Robin Haymes
Vicki Leonard

USHERS

Oct. 4 Tom Blackmon, Larry & Bev Van Duyn
Oct. 11 Matt Anderson Marvin Bunker,
John Marquardt
Oct. 18 Ray Krueger, Robert Johnson,
Bob Thede, Trey Johnson
Oct. 25 Gerald Moore, Bob & Sandy Klose

OCTOBER FLOWERS

Oct. 4 Robert & Susan Rentschler
Oct. 11 Bob & Sandy Klose
Oct. 18 Larry & Beverly Van Duyn
Oct. 25 Robin Haymes

"I hope you don't think I'm presumptuous. I died at a costume party."