



THE TRINITARIAN



THE NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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Bible Classes and Sunday School 9:00 AM
Divine Service 10:15 AM



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FROM THE PASTOR

“Return from Exile: A Lenten Journey.” is the Lenten series we will be using this upcoming Lenten season. There is more information on this series elsewhere in this newsletter. There is a daily devotion booklet that you will be given that goes along with this theme. Readings will be from both the Old and New Testaments.

This year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentines day. On Valentines Day most of us think about our spouse or maybe a girl or boy friend or if you are in grade school you like to exchange Valentines with those little candy hearts with a message printed on them. We don't normally think of ashes associated with Valentines day as ashes and love don't really go together. This Valentines Day though, we are dealing with Ash Wednesday and are thinking of our sins and what it cost Jesus to pay for our sins.

The devotion booklet that we have this year begins with a devotion for Ash Wednesday. I thought the daily devotion for Ash Wednesday was pretty appropriate as it deals with ashes. It also incorporates what some say is a girls best friend. I know a dog is man's best friend but a girl, usually has something a little more sparkly in mind, something called a diamond. Now what could ashes have to do with diamonds, black, burned up fuel and a clear, sparkly gem. Seems like there really is no connection.

The devotion for the day connects ashes with diamonds. It seems there are companies that can turn ashes into diamonds. Like they say with a little time and a lot of money, you could have the ash remains of a loved one or animal (some might say they are “loved” ones) turned into a ring or necklace that sparkles.

As the devotion goes, it talks of a change, a change brought about not by money and time but by Christ who works on our bodies as Paul writes in his letter to the Philippians, “. . .will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body.” What more sparkle or for that matter, what more eternal outcome could you want? When we think of the darkness of our sin and what Jesus has done for us on the cross, and then rising again so that we will have eternal life, what greater change could there be than from a lost and condemned sinner to an adopted child, brought from darkness into the light of a Savior who makes all things new?

As we journey this lenten season, it will not be a journey of miles but of a journey of our existence in the wilderness of sin and death to the destination established for us by Jesus' death and resurrection.

Come along with us on this journey each Wednesday with a soup and sandwich supper at 6pm and then the worship service at 7pm.

Pastor

ELDER'S ARTICLE

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
(1Thessalonians 5: 16-18)

As we watch or listen to the news, almost always emphasizing the negative aspects of our worldly existence, we are tempted to ask "What can we, as individuals, do about this horrible state of affairs?" Our society is on a seemingly endless retreat from the firm rules of order that God has given us, aided and abetted by government mandates. War is either upon us or threatened, economic stability is open to large disruptions, affecting the well-being of large segments of the population, and so on.

Electing individuals who possess firm Christian values is one instrument available to us, though not every country can boast the same privilege and many are suffering because of that. Even with that advantage, we often feel our individual voices go unheeded. We are prone to forget that even the most powerful individuals in our society and government are sometimes frustrated in effecting the changes needed to rectify bad trends and bring about peaceful solutions to international problems.

At this point it is well to remember what we are often prone to forget. **GOD IS IN CHARGE!**

"Pray without ceasing.." Our prayers are the one weapon we have to individually reverse

the direction of a fallen world. Our Heavenly Father is always listening, a loving ally when we ask Him to help us make this a better world. We know that He answers our prayers. Let us keep praying fervently and ceaselessly for His healing mercies to our sick society. Individually and collectively we can make a difference!

In Christ's Love,
Dick Dommers, Elder

BOARD PRESIDENT

The Board of Directors met on Thursday, January 18, 2018.

Dick Dommers, Head Elder, stated the elders will be writing intro letters to their assigned congregations members. Updated elder assignment lists were distributed and follow-up action for long absent members was discussed. Several new names will be assigned to the lists, and non-members who have not attended or who may have moved will be deleted. Delinquent members should be contacted by assigned elders.

Hannah Keeler, Financial Secretary, reported total income for 2017 was \$223,970.78 General Fund income was \$196,604.38. New offering envelopes for 2018 have been distributed.

Robyn Luevano, Treasurer, reported that income exceeded expenses by \$349.93 for the month of December. Her records indicate 2017 income exceeded expenses by \$11,923.02. Robyn stated we owe \$16,795.00 on the LCEF loan for the heating/cooling system.

Cheryl Sandenaw, Evangelism Chair, did not have an evangelism report. She did report the

following: Chamber of Commerce, all the Trinity Website links from the Chamber Website are functioning properly now, except for the Banner Links in all the places our banner appears. Bob Lenz, Brenda Dorsey, APS contact, told me we have a new contact Michelle Perry. She will be the person to help us get this program set up and coordinated. Brenda also told me that the Superintendent Salas had several people watch the videos etc. that provided. She said everyone that watched was very excited to have this come to our town.

Bob Thede, Trustee Chair, reported that the ballast in the sign in front of the church was replaced and the sign was cleaned. An LED bulb in the great room is failing. A replacement has been received and will be installed. The bulb was under warranty. The duct work in the sanctuary has been cleaned; airflow is now much better than before. An on-going project of replacing broken tiles in the sanctuary is in progress. The trustees are looking into the cost of replacing the carpet in the sanctuary.

The board voted to submit the names of the incumbents for the offices of president and vice-president of the Rocky Mountain District, LCMS.

Bob Klose, President

Psychrist: "Do you talk in your sleep?"

Patient: "No I talk in other's people's sleep...I'm a preacher

—Clergy Talk

STEWARDSHIP

Continuation of the 4 principles of stewardship. First two are listed in the January 18 Trinitarian

3. The principle of accountability.

A steward is one who manages the possessions of another. We are all stewards of the resources, abilities and opportunities that God has entrusted to our care, and one day each one of us will be called to give an account for how we have managed what the Master has given us.

This is the maxim taught by the Parable of the Talents. God has entrusted authority over the creation to us and we are not allowed to rule over it as we see fit. We are called to exercise our dominion under the watchful eye of the Creator managing his creation in accord with the principles he has established.

Like the servants in the Parable of the Talents, we will be called to give an account of how we have administered everything we have been given, including our time, money, abilities, information, wisdom, relationships, and authority.

We will all give account to the rightful owner as to how well we managed the things he has entrusted to us.

4. The principle of reward.

In [Colossians 3:23-24](#) Paul writes:

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

The Bible shows us in the parables of the

Kingdom that faithful stewards who do the master's will with the master's resources can expect to be rewarded incompletely in this life, but fully in the next.

We all should long to hear the master say what he exclaims in [Matthew 25:21](#):

Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!

As Christians in the 21st century, we need to embrace this larger biblical view of stewardship, which goes beyond church budgets or building projects, though important; it connects everything we do with what God is doing in the world.

We need to be faithful stewards of all God has given us within the opportunities presented through his providence to glorify him, serve the common good and further his Kingdom.

<https://tifwe.org/four-principles-of-biblical-stewardship/>

Juli Bailey, Stewardship Chair

MORE TO FOLLOW

The Window

By H. W. Gockel,

This Day magazine, July 1959

The story is told of a well-to-do man who died, having left detailed instructions as to the disposition of his wealth. Among other things, his wife was to turn over a certain sum of money to a poor minister who had frequently remembered the family with deeds of kindness.

The widow thought it would be best to turn the money over to the minister a little at a time, in regular installments; so she mailed him \$25.00 and inside the envelope she places a slip of paper upon which was written: "More to follow."

Every two weeks, without fail, the elderly man would find the identical amount of money in his mailbox with the identical message: "More to follow."

"More to follow!" That is Christ's unbreakable pledge to all who believe in Him. The blessings which we receive today are but a pledge of those which we shall receive tomorrow; and those we receive tomorrow will bear the pledge of heaven: "More to follow." His mercies are new every morning. His compassion fail not.

The evangelist St. John, in his Gospel, speaks of the inexhaustible riches of Christ and says: "Of His fullness have we all received—and grace for grace" (John 1:16). Literally, "grace upon grace." Christ's goodness pours in upon us as the waves of the sea. As the one comes, there is always another close behind, and then another and another. "Grace upon grace." Christ's capacity and willingness to supply our needs, both spiritual and material, are unlimited and eternal.

There is no need in our life, however great or small, that Christ does not know and which He will not fill, if it be necessary for our eternal welfare.

ASH WENDESDAY

As Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day this year, may we remember that Jesus' self-giving love is the greatest love of all.

EVANGELISM

If you or someone you know is suffering from depression, you will want to take a look at February's Tract of the Month – **Depression, Understanding the Pieces of the Puzzle.**

"Major depression is a cruel and horribly sad disruption of life. Most of us, by the grace of God are sufficiently resilient to endure small setbacks, reversals, and even longer periods of discouragement and loss. That kind of self-determined rebound, however, is not an option for those experiencing clinical depression."

"True clinical depression dwarfs any sadness the average person experiences. It's a life-crippling hurt that can wipe out the suffering individual. It gives those afflicted an overwhelming sense of hopelessness, isolating them from family, life, health and love. In this booklet, Dr. Beverly Yahnke, a licensed psychologist and university professor, will explore this devastating condition and offer help in detecting those struggling with it. Along the way, she offers insights and a fresh perspective into how others can respond – with knowledge and compassion – to those who are depressed."

Our first quarter mission for 2018 is the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute in El Paso, TX. The institute trains men and women as missionaries for service as evangelists, deacons and deaconesses to sow the seed of the Gospel among Hispanics throughout the United States and beyond... Mission Sunday is always the 3rd Sunday of the month, but you can give a mission offering on any Sunday you choose. This will be our mission until the end of March.

We are still in need of volunteers to pick up attendance sheets after church. It is a very easy job that really doesn't take much time. Volunteers serve for a month at a time. If you are interested in volunteering please put a note in my box or let me know.

The Evangelism Committee will be meeting Thursday, February 8th at 5:30pm.

In closing I would like to quote Ephesians 4:15-16 (NIV). "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

Yours in Christ,

Cheryl Sandenaw, Evangelism Chairman

SOUTH SUDAN MISSION

Retired pastor Rev. Kevin Cramm who has moved here from Oklahoma, isn't into playing golf everyday. Instead he has been assisting congregations in the area and has volunteered to teach at the seminary in South Sudan. He will be going over there this spring, and as he said last Sunday, he is wanting some help with expenses. He will need approximately \$5,000 for airfare, and books for some 30 or so seminarians. If you would like to help him go to Africa to train men there for the ministry, you can donate (make check payable to Trinity Lutheran Church and put in offering plate). Please put in the memo line **Africa Training**. This is his first time doing this so I'm sure prayers for his preparation and travels will be appreciated as well.

RETURN FROM EXILE A LENTEN JOURNEY

Fellow Redeemed,

Once again we prepare to enter into the Lenten season as we journey through the Church Year. Lent, however, is its own kind of journey. Lent is the journey we make as we travel with Christ from the Mount of Transfiguration to Jerusalem where He will face the cross and the grave for our sakes. It is a very sobering trip, a journey that often struggles to find joy. But there is Easter!

This year our theme for our Lenten worship will focus upon the journey, but perhaps not in the way we usually walk it. Our overall theme will be "Return from Exile: A Lenten Journey." All journeys must have a starting point; and in the preaching and teaching this Lenten season, we will consider our starting point a land of exile.

The land of exile from which we begin our journey is the wilderness of sin and death. Sin came into the world when our first parents were unfaithful and disobedient, eating fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve sinned, and we have inherited from them not only the sin itself, but also the result of that sin—separation from our Lord and God. From the first sin in the first garden, we have been exiled into the wilderness where we have wandered without any ability to find our way out.

This is the beginning of our journey: exile. But every journey also has a destination, an

ending point. Our return from exile brings us into the promised land. Our relationship with our God is restored by Christ's sacrifice. Our destination, then, is the perfect place, the new garden, the courts of heaven—the ultimate destination which was established for us by His death and resurrection. There is great joy in the journey as we see where our returning brings us; but there is also a somber attitude when we consider what Christ faced on account of our sin.

All journeys consist of many events that take place between the journey's beginning and its end. Our Lenten journey is no different. Each leg of our Lenten journey begins in the Old Testament and then continues into the New Testament, pointing us to the joy that is ours in Christ Jesus. Do not be surprised to discover that from the very beginning, even outside the gates of the Garden of Eden, it is Christ who travels with us. He has always been our guide, from the very beginning, and He will journey with us to the very end. Indeed, He has even gone before us to prepare a heavenly dwelling place.

Life is full of journeys. Life itself is a journey. We enter this Lenten season contemplating the reality of our earthly journey but with eyes fixed on its destination—the empty tomb and the open gates of everlasting life. What joy there is in knowing that we do not walk this way alone!

Return From Exile

Jonathan P. Boehne, Concordia Publishing House

Don't keep God in a box; include him at the table.

—*Focus on the Family*

DAILY DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERN HOUR MINISTERIES

“BLESSINGS”

Proverbs 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

At all of my congregations, both large and small, we had the custom of having families approach the Communion rail together.

Although it is not the custom in all Lutheran churches, in most, parents who are receiving the forgiveness of sins which is offered in the Sacrament are encouraged to bring their unconfirmed children with them to the altar for a blessing.

In my mind's eye, I can still see that procession of parents with their little ones in tow.

Those moms and dads knew that their children would, during the coming week, encounter all kinds of dangers, would hear all kinds of harsh words, be witnesses and recipients of cruelty and unkindness.

So their children might know the Lord was with them, these parents brought their children to the Savior for His blessing.

Having the pastor place his hands on their child's head and speak a few words of encouragement and blessing from the Savior carried a weight beyond words.

In bringing their children to the Lord, these parents were asking the loving Redeemer to

His favor rest upon their little ones. They were asking God to protect their children and allow them to live in His peace.

That's why those parents were more than glad to bring their children forward.

They might not have thought about it, but they were continuing a tradition that is 2,000 years old. They were standing by the side of those mothers who brought their children to Jesus for a blessing. And the children ... ah, the children, well, that's a different story.

I remember as I tried to place my hands on the heads, or shoulders, of these little ones, there were different reactions to getting a blessing from Jesus.

- Some were almost a picture postcard of perfection as they shut their eyes and patiently received God's good Word.
- The more mischievous ones, the ones with a smile on their faces and a twinkle in their eyes, made it a game where they squiggled and squirmed to get away from my hand. I got about 97 percent of them blessed.
- There were those who took one look at this big, bearded bear of a guy and let out a scream.
- And, of course, there was one boy who bit me. I showed him. (I gave him a really good blessing: "May the Lord allow you always to sink your teeth so readily into the cause of Christ.")

That's what I said. I'm sure Jesus would have

said something far better, which would have meant a lot more.

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, in a world which does its best to mess up our families and tear them apart, may Your blessing rest upon parents and children. Keep them safe so they may sing Your praises in this world and the next. In the Savior's Name I pray. Amen.

In Christ I remain His servant and yours,

Pastor Ken Klaus,
Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour

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TRUSTEE

We are considering replacing the carpet in the sanctuary. The existing carpet has come loose in a number of places and presents a tripping hazard. We have asked several carpet companies for cost estimates to do this. Initial indications are that it will be around \$6000. We will have a congregational meeting in the near future to get the opinions of our members on doing this.

The replacement bulb for one of the lights in the great room has been obtained and installed. Thanks to Robert Rentschler for the use of his scaffolding to use in doing the replacement.

Bob Thede
Trustee Chairman

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dear Friends at Trinity:

We do have Sunday School every Sunday at 9:00 AM. Pastor Heithold leads the adult class. They are currently studying the book of Hebrews. Pastor Cramm is instructing the Middle School and High School students. They are currently finishing their study of Luther. Laura Klose is teaching second through fifth graders. They are beginning a study of Jesus' ministry. Jill Clark or Sandy Klose will work with Kindergarten and first graders. Their curriculum is flexible, according to the needs of the students when they come.

I pray you will consider coming to Sunday School and bringing your children, so they might learn about the Word of God and how it affects their lives.

God's Blessings
Sandy Klose,
Sunday School Superintendent

COME LITTLE CHILDREN

*Come little children,
Come unto Me.
The Shepherd takes care of His flock.
No little lamb by the wayside can fall.
I am the Way and the Rock.*

*Come little children,
Come unto Me.
I am your Savior and Friend.
Rest upon Me, that you life may be strong
And, living in Christ, never end*

—Phyllis Johnson Pasqualitti

HYMN OF THE MONTH

IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY

So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived. Numbers 21:9

When the World Trade Center collapsed following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, workers excavating the site found a cross-shaped beam that, standing upright amid the ruin and debris, became a makeshift center of worship. The picture of that cross was published around the world and served as a symbol of hope.

A similar story is associated with this hymn. On the island of Macao in the region of Hong Kong, a magnificent cathedral was destroyed. Only the front wall remained. Atop it was a great metal cross, blackened with age, silhouetted against the sky. It is said that hymnist John Bowring was so inspired by the story of this cathedral that he wrote the hymn, "In The Cross of Christ I Glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time." RATHBUN, the tune to which hymn is set. It was composed by Ithamar Conkey, organist at Central Baptist Church in Norwich, Connecticut.

In 1849, Central's pastor had planned a series of sermons on the seven last words of Christ on the Cross. According to the *Norwich Bulletin*: "One Sunday during the series it was a very rainy day. Mr. Conkey was sorely disappointed that the members of the choir did not appear, as only one soprano came. Mr. Conkey was so discouraged and disheartened that after the prelude he closed the organ and

locked it and went to his home on Washington Street. The Pastor and choir gallery were at opposite ends of the church, and he could leave without attracting the attention of the congregation. That afternoon, as he sat down at the piano for practice, his mind was distracted with the thoughts of the sermons Dr. Hiscox had prepared and the words of the hymn, "In The Cross Of Christ I Glory." He then and there composed the music that is now so universally familiar in churches of every denomination, known as RATHBURN. He admitted afterward the inspiration was a vivid contradiction of his feelings at the morning service."

But why did he name his tune RATHBURN?

The one choir member who showed up on that rainy Sunday in 1849...that one faithful soprano...was named Mrs. Beriah S. Rathburn.

—*Then Sings My Soul*
Robert J. Morgan

TRINITY YOUTH GROUP 2018 WINTER/SPRING SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 18 AT 2:00 PM—White Sands or Bowling (depending on the weather) and Bible Study

MARCH 17 AT 5:00 pm—St. Patrick's Day Nacho Night

APRIL 1 Easter Breakfast served between the Sunrise Service and 10:15 am service. Breakfast will consist of casseroles, muffins, fruit and juice

APRIL 15 AT 2:00 PM—White Sands or bowling (depending on what we did on Feb. 18) and bible study

MAY—YOUTH GROUP INTERN WILL PLAN—watch for details

“WHAT DO I HAVE?”

What do I have, Lord, that You would need me as a servant?

Eyes, He said,
to see the beauty in all that I've made —
and My children as they travel life's highway..

Hands, He said,
to reach out and touch hurting souls,
to give a hug or encouraging pat on the back.

Feet, He said,
to lead My children through this world of strife
and to help them run from sin and follow Me.

Mouth, He said,
to lift up your voice and sing praises to Me
so others may hear the joy in your heart.

Ears, He said,
to listen to My still, small voice of love
to hear My children when they cry for help.

Heart, He said,
so you may know the full love of My Spirit
and love My children as I have loved you.

—Thomas Butler

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Ernest & Robyn Luevano

Feb. 21

LONG-TERM PRAYERS

Eric Bell, Caitlin Boverie, Red Chesbro,
Mike Debaar, Nicole Doth, Carol Fox, Renee Gocis,
Don Gressman, Tom Hollander, **Gene & Eldeen
Humphrey, Kristie & John Humphrey, Ty Landt**,
Myron Marquardt, Jackie Monso, Robbie Nowell,
Cindy Oberling, Mary Palmos, Alex Pearson,
Judy Piepkorn, Margaret Romero, Justin Salmon,
Carol Schultz, Jessie Sharette, **Judy Sharpe**,
Lynne Skinner, William Stewart, Austin Tice,
rvin Torres, Marea Turnbull, Eric Van Horn,
Vertein family, Ward family



“The heart-shaped communion wafers
were a nice touch for Valentine’s Day.”

FEBRUARY STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

ELDERS

- Feb. 4 Matt Clark
Feb. 11 Robert Rentschler
Feb. 14 Robert Rentschler (Ash Wednesday)
Feb. 18 Dick Dommers
Feb. 21 Dick Dommers (Wed. lent)
Feb. 25 Jim Wilkes
Feb. 28 Jim Wilkes (Wed Lent)

ACOLYTES

- Feb. 4. Miriam Collins
Feb. 11. Abby Anderson
Feb. 14 Emily Johnson (Ash Wednesday)
Feb. 18 EmmaLee Kommer
Feb. 21 Morgan Sebring (Wed. lent)
Feb. 25 Abby Anderson
Feb. 28 Miriam Collins (Wed Lent)

READERS

- Feb. 4 Dick Dommers & Cheryl Sandenaw
Feb. 11 Susan Weitzel & Gerald Moore
Feb. 14 Hannah Keeler & Yvonne Steeby
(Ash Wed)
Feb. 18 George & Marianne Schweers
Feb. 21 Bob & Sandy Klose (Wed. lent)
Feb. 25 Youth
Feb. 28 Vicki Leonard & Lisa Collins
(Wed Lent)

TELLERS

- Feb. 4 Lola Ableidinger & Bob Klose
Feb. 11 Joyce Macon & Nora Sotak
Feb. 14 Sandy Klose & Yvonne Steeby
(Ash Wednesday)
Feb. 18 Suse Lehmann & Robyn Luevano
Feb. 21 Megan Bowman & Bob Klose
(Wed. lent)
Feb. 25 Cheryl Sandenaw & Linde Van Cleave
Feb. 28 Shirley Enyeart & Pete Simank
(Wed Lent)

USHERS

- Feb. 4 Tom Blackmon, Glen Schlehauser
Larry & Beverly Van Duyn
Feb 11 Matt Anderson, Marvin Bunker,
Tyler Larson, John Marquardt
Feb 18 Ben Clark, Robert Johnson,
Trey Johnson, Ray Krueger
Feb. 25 Bob Klose, Laura Klose,
Gerald Moore,

HOSTS

- Feb. 4 Jack & Shirley McCastle
Feb. 11 Gerald & Gayan Moore
Feb. 18 Virginia Nielsen & Tammy Thede
Feb. 25 Denise Race & Cheryl Richey

FEBRUARY ALTAR COMMITTEE

Cheryl Richey
Hannah Keeler

FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE SHEETS

Etta Asendorf

FEBRUARY FLOWERS

- Feb. 4 Darrell & Sheila Anderson
Feb. 11 Darrell & Sheila Anderson
Feb. 18 Darlene Oberling
Feb. 25 Suse Lehmann

For God so loVed the world
thAt He gave His
onLy
begottEn
SoN,
thaT whoever
belIeves
iN Him should not perish
but havE everlasting life.

(John 3:16, NKJV)