



Check out our newly decorated nursery just to the north side of the Great Room.

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



APRIL 2026 -- VOLUME 61 No. 4

BOARD OF ELDERS

THE LILIES

Consider the lilies, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you even Soloman in all his glory was not arrayed as one of these. Luke 12:27

Jesus uses this example in His admonition to the disciples telling them not to worry about whether they would have clothes to wear. As we move from March into April, I am reminded of the harsher winters we endured in New England, where March was typically the last gasp of winter and April brought on the start of spring. Lilies did not appear in full bloom until later, but the first sprigs could often be seen by late April. Even here in the desert we will soon see the full renewal of life as trees blossom, wildflowers grow and the sun feeds us all with warmth. Our spiritual life receives a similar renewal as we ponder the gift of salvation that is assured through Jesus' resurrection, and thank and praise God for renewing His creation and our faith

Easter lilies symbolize purity, hope, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, serving as a reminder of new life and spiritual renewal.

Dick Dommers for The Board of Elders

EDUCATION

The meeting was held after church on Sunday, March 8th with 3 members in attendance.

Old Business: Details for the Baked Potato Bar on Sunday, March 15th were finalized. Matt Anderson will pick up 2 lg bags of potatoes from Sam's Club and they will be cooked early Sunday morning. It was brought up that Pastor Heithold brought brisket last year. The Education Committee decided to purchase brisket this year. Stacy and Robert Johnson volunteered to purchase and cook it. Cindi Anderson volunteered to get the green tablecloths for the tables. We will meet on Friday, March 13th to decorate the tables for the Potato Bar.

New Business: The first new business discussed was the Easter Breakfast served before the 10:15 Easter service. The breakfast will be a joint effort of Education, Evangelism, and Stewardship committees. Education will decorate the tables for the breakfast and put the information in the Trinitarian and bulletins. Stewardship and Evangelism will put up the sign-up sheets for the breakfast casseroles and provide the fresh fruit and juices for the breakfast. Everyone will help with clean-up. The breakfast will be served from 8:30-9:30am.

The next new business discussed was the Easter Egg Hunt being held after the Easter Service in the front and side grounds of the church. The Education Committee and the youth Sunday School students will meet at the church on Saturday, April 4th at 10 AM to stuff the eggs. The congregation will be asked to provide the candy for the baskets. (Please No

Chocolate) The eggs will be hidden during church service (at the time of the readings) by the designated youth and college students.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Yours in Christ,

Susan Kelly, Director of Education

EVANGELISM



Tract of the Month: What about Confession and Absolution? Are we poor, miserable sinners? What is Confession? What sins should we confess? By What authority does the church forgive sins? What do you believe according to the promise of God? Is confession and absolution a Sacrament? What is private absolution and what is its benefit? **These questions, are answered by Dr. A. L. Barry, former President of The LCMS.** Pick one up on the spinning rack in the Narthex.

Mission for 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. Learn more at the following website: lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/disaster-response

Other communication from the Evangelism Committee: The Evangelism Committee will meet again on Monday, April 13th, at 5:30 pm. This meeting will be followed by the Stewardship Committee. Please join us!

Your servants in Christ,
The Evangelism Committee

EFFECTIVE OUTREACH – PART 2

*“Effective outreach is the “planting and watering” (cf. 1 Corinthians 3:5-9) through which a congregation intentionally engages non-churched people in ways that ... **provide the congregation with means of continuing contact with the non-churched people.**”*

In other words, Effective Outreach is a congregation finding ways to engage people who are not connected to the Church.

Two more definitions:

Church (capital C) means the “one holy Christian and apostolic Church’ we confess in the Creed.” Church (ed) means anyone connected to any Christian Church, not just our own.

Non-churched means anyone that is not connected to the Church (capital C) in any way.

Engaging non-churched people means that we, as a congregation, are planning or doing something that enables us to interact with non-churched people through outreach ministries and activities we create (*example : vacation bible school, Trunk or Treat, or other activities that don't just target our church members or members from other churches*), or through community activities that we can support (*example : Christmas Parade, the fair, etc.*)

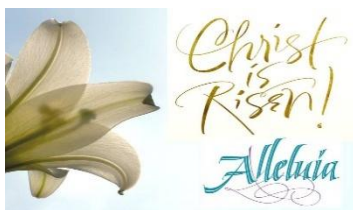
Many people want and are looking for a caring community of people to belong to. So, once the connections are made, follow-up must occur. This means we should let people know we would like to stay in touch with them and ask them to provide their contact information. "Some will, some won't. That doesn't matter. *What does matter is that we are intentional about asking for it.*" "We need to ask, not insist, and then not act surprised when they give it to us."

Our next Effective Outreach article will deal with building authentic relationships once the connections have been created.

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CHILDREN ARE WELCOME

To parents with young children: Because worship is our highest duty and greatest privilege, the Elders at Trinity urge you to bring even your youngest children into our church's services so they can start learning how to worship our great God and Savior as soon as possible. To provide something to occupy your children coloring and activity books, along with crayons, have been provided in the bags hung on the small coat tree in the northwest corner of the sanctuary. However, if it becomes necessary for you to take your child out, two rooms have been provided for your convenience. The first is a "listening room with a large window and audio feed behind the northwest corner of our sanctuary which can be entered from the hallway, on the right, just outside the double doors. The second is a "Nursery," equipped with a Wi-Fi connection you can use to watch and listen to the service, located in the Great Room northwest corner in the rear of the church. As soon as your child is ready to return, we urge you to bring them back into the service so they can continue to learn about worship. For their safety and that of other congregation members we ask that the children remain in the pews and not be allowed to roam during the service.

Your Board of Elders



Trinity Stewardship Ministry

Stewards of the Gospel

1 Peter 1:8-9 ...” you are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”

We all love to celebrate various occasions in our lives ~ birthdays, anniversaries, baptisms, marriage, fellowship, etc. We are quick to joyfully share with others these good news times. Easter is a time of glorious celebration. Christ the Lord is risen indeed! Hallelujahs and shouts of joy burst forth!

Christians are unique in celebrating Christ's birth and resurrection. Why? The Holy Spirit, through Scripture creates faith, and the enormity and consequences of sin in our hearts. We remember the intense and brutal suffering inflicted on Jesus, our Savior, and how He was “despised, rejected, stricken, and pierced” (*Isaiah 53*), enduring Calvary's cross for our sins and the sins of the whole world ~ past, present, and future, which were transferred on the perfect Son of God. Christ becomes sin for us. God declares us righteous.

Therefore, Scripture tells us in (*1 Peter 1:3, 6*) “In His great mercy, He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you to be revealed in the last days. In all this you greatly rejoice!”

How can we keep this Good News that God freely gives us to ourselves?

In his writings, Ron Chewning asks us an important question. “How clearly and how brightly are we reflecting Christ in our lives? There are lots of things that diminish our reflections. Willful disobedience to God's will, unconfessed sin in our lives, grudges and anger, grief and guilt diminish and tarnish our reflections. God created us to be reflections of Him. What is happening in our lives, minds, hearts, and actions affect the brightness of this reflection. God wants us to be His light, so others will be drawn not to us, but to Jesus.”

Easter is a celebration of the empty Tomb as stewards of the Gospel the Holy Spirit enables us to carry out Jesus' command ~ ***Go Tell. He is risen. Alleluia!***

In the confidence of the sure hope we have in Christ, let us spend our time in carrying on the work of Christ that the lost may be found and restored to their Savior. ***Go and Tell the Good News!***

In Jesus Name

Lola Ableidinger, Stewardship Chair

LWML

The LWML had their regular meeting on Saturday, March 14th. The meeting was opened with the LWML pledge and a short devotion led by Cheryl Richey. During the business meeting the ladies were informed that there had been a change of banks due to new charges being added to our account from the previous bank. We have changed to Pioneer. The transition went smoothly and the Wells Fargo account has been closed. There will be a group attending the Spring Workshop at San Pablo Lutheran church in El Paso. Diane and Jim Kline will take the ingathering items we collect as well as quilts from the quilting group. Thank you to all who donated items, there is a very nice collection of the items they requested. Chris and Belinda brought up the item of the Secret Sisters project. It will be tabled until the fall so that we can benefit from a whole year. April is the month we collect items for COPE. I spoke with one of their representatives and she stated they are in need of hygiene items. We will stuff the purses we have. Items can be regular or travel size. Suggested items would be toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, soaps, lotions etc. Please bring items on or before April 11th meeting. We are also looking for a President for the LWML. Elections will be held in April. Please prayerfully consider this position and let Susan Kelly or myself know if you might be interested. After the business meeting, Juli Bailey gave us a talk on the importance of exercise for balance, strength, and just in general for good health. She demonstrated some exercise techniques and stressed that you don't need fancy equipment. Another point was that it is more fun with a buddy whether you go to the gym, an exercise class, or just walking. Get out and move, you'll feel better. Chris and Belinda treated us to a wonderful assortment of goodies.

Come join us for our April meeting!
Have a Blessed Easter!

Vicki Leonard, President, LWML



HYMN MIX-UP WITH A MESSAGE

C. Gray Norsworthy, a pastor in Atlanta, once shared a story about the woman who prepared his worship bulletin. She was faithful in her work but didn't have much background in church hymns. One week, Pastor Norsworthy handed her a draft of the service and hoped she could decipher his handwriting.

When he reviewed the finished bulletin, he noticed the final hymn was titled "Just As I Am, Without a Clue."

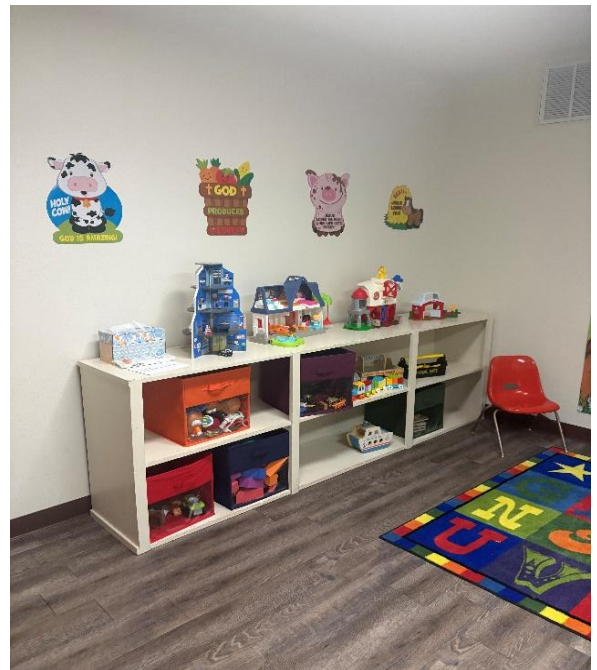
Whether it's "without a clue" or "without a plea," the truth remains the same: we all come to Jesus just as we are — and we all need him.

LONG-TERM PRAYERS

Sofia Banks, Hunter Bednorz, Donna Belcher, Eric Bell, Brian Byrosovich, Janet Buckman, Arlene Calixto, Chuck Collins, Christopher Douglas, Sammie Feldman, Janet Fidel, Ashton Flaco, **Darlene Gilmore**, Wayne Holmes, **Kristi Humphrey**, Shannon Jones, Richard Kestner, Jake Koller, Janet Landt, Ron Linn, Maria Martin, Susan Maynard, Cindy Oberling, Karen Rawlings, Dick Richey, Margaret Romero, Jon Scarbough, Kyrie Selph, Jessie Sharrett, Lynn Skinner, David Steeby, Marlea Turnbull, Sarah Van Dorn, Joel Van Duyn, Christine Vertain, Pastor Nicholas and Celestino from Concordia Seminary in South Sudan



Many thanks to Stacy Johnson, Cindi Anderson and Jill Clark for the new decorations in the in the nursery just off of the Great Room.



APRIL 2026 STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

ELDERS

April 5 Matt Clark
April 12 Allen Burmeister
April 19 Bob Klose
April 26 Allen Burmeister

SERMON

April 12 Bob Klose
April 26 Matt Clark

LITURGIST

April 12 Allen Burmeister
April 26 Allen Burmeister

TELLERS

April 5 Nora Sotak/Linde Van Cleave
April 12 Lola Ableidinger
Cheryl Sandenaw
April 19 Susan Kelly/Sandy Klose
April 26 Bob Klose, Joyce Macon

HOSTS

April 5 Cheryl Sandena/Wilma Jaecks
April 12 Cody & Mary Zumwalt
April 19 Hannah Keeler/Susan Kelly
April 26 Jim & Diane Kline

SOUND TECH

April 5 Matt Anderson
April 12 Jim Kline
April 19 Vicki Leonard
April 26 Sheri Cortez

APRIL ALTAR COMMITTEE

Diane Kline
Cheryl Richey

APRIL ATTENDANCE

Cody & Merry Zumwalt

USHERS

April 5 Tom Blackmon, Jim Fladhammer
Larry & Bev Van Duyn
April 12 Susan Kelly, Norbert Sanchez
Glen & Christine Schlehuser
April 19 Robert Johnson, Trey Johnson
Bob and Tammy Thede
April 26 Sandy Klose, Cameron Matz
Gerald Klose, Irvin Torres

APRIL FLOWERS

April 5 Larry & Bev Van Duyn
April 12 Marvin & Joyce Bunker
April 19 Rick & Nora Sotak
April 26 Robert & Susan Rentschler

MUSIC

Michael Cortez

SWEET PROMISE

So far away, so long ago,
The time and place my Savior died!
And yet, what wondrous grace to know
He walks forever by my side!

So long ago, so far away,
The crucifixion of our Lord,
And yet, for all who live today
There is salvation, through His Word!

—*Billee Eckert, St. Louis, MO*

