



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DECEMBER 2017

# 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**

Matt. 6:34 “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

It is already another year, 2018. I must be getting old as they say time really flies as you get older.

As the years seem to roll by, it seems there are so many concerns that makes us anxious. We have so much going on in our world. There are terrorists that are looking to take people out. We have governments, even our own that don't seek to have the best in mind for the people they serve. Morals seem to be degraded more and more each day. Life seems to have lost its importance and more and more we see less and less respect for other's lives, especially life in the womb.

Later this month we will once again have baby bottles available to fill and bring back to support the Pregnancy Help Center here in town. There has been a little downturn in the use of the Pregnancy Help Center by young girls. It isn't known if it is because the younger generation is less promiscuous or if the morning after pill is so easy to obtain. I would pray it is the former. Even though #'s have been down, we need to think about the fact that even one child born instead of aborted is worth so much.

Sometimes we look to the “easy” route in our lives but the taking of life, even from the womb it is more than just a procedure, where you go in and come out and never more will it cross your mind. The life taken can be a reminder throughout the rest of life, wondering what it would have been like to have that child alive, wondering what they would have been like etc.

So many choices we make that we think are no big deal and if we look at the verse from Matthew, it would seem we shouldn't be anxious. But there is the trouble we have each day that we can go to the Lord with. We can go to Him so that He can deal with it for us. So as we make decisions in our anxious days, each day, prayer should be a big part of what we do.

Jesus went to His Father in prayer as He was challenged in this life. Luther thought prayer was important even if he had a busy day before him, “I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer.”. I don't know of too many of us that spend 3 hours a day in prayer, yet where should we go for the day to be set up for us to make it productive?

Might each day of the year start with prayer, asking Jesus to provide for the coming day of trouble as He lays out our day for us? We are just joining Him on His mission of bringing the Good News of salvation to the world.

Pastor

## **ELDER'S ARTICLE**

How did you deal with stress of the holidays? Stress, what stress? How about the stress of creating the perfect meal for both Thanksgiving and Christmas? Or choosing the right gifts for all the family members? And don't forget the stress associated with the inevitable multiple trips to the zoo called Walmart or the mall crawl in El Paso or Las Cruces. And remember the family gatherings that you wished to go smoothly despite the impatient child or cranky adult. And when the festivities ended and all the participants were traveling back to their homes, waiting for the telephone call, text message or email that confirmed their safe arrival was another stressor.

What methods eased your stress? In an article by Yonat Shimron, (Fewer Americans pray to ease stress, Religious News Service, Alamogordo Daily News, 23 Dec 17), he claimed that listening to music and exercising were the two most popular ways to relieve stress. Shimron stated that only 29 percent of Americans prayed to relieve stress, a decline from 37 percent in 2008.

Shimron cited a paper by Blake V. Kent of Baylor University, where Kent stated that people's view of God determines whether prayer is an effective way of managing stress. "Where the perception of God is secure, warm and loving, then prayer is associated with positive mental health outcomes and coping with stressors." Kent said. "But when the perception of God is distant or disconnected, prayer is associated with negative outcomes."

The coming year will be filled with stressors for all of us, external ones such as relationships with our coworkers, friends and just other

people we meet in the course of our daily lives. We also face illnesses of our own and those of family and friends.

Seeking the guidance of God through prayer is the only sure way of coping with the stress of daily life. We, as Christians, can be secure in the fact that our God is a warm and loving God who has provided us with the way to eternal life.

**PRAYER IS THE ANSWER!!!!**

Jim Wilkes, Elder

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## **BOARD PRESIDENT**

**IN GOOD HANDS:** HAPPY NEW YEAR!! It's the time of year for looking back and for looking forward. God blessed us in 2017 with four baptisms, two confirmations, and four members transfer in. We had one family transfer out and He called home two of His children. Monetarily we ended the year "in-the-black." We had some major facility improvements in the past year, mainly, the installation of the heating and cooling units. Thanks to all who were involved in making this happen.

I want to thank all members of the Board of Directors (BOD) for their faithful service and dedication to our Lord and our church. A special thanks to the outgoing members Pete Simank, elder; Nora Sotak, stewardship chair, and Yvonne Steeby, secretary. Thanks also to those incumbents who volunteered to continue to serve, Robyn Luevano, treasurer and Bob Thede, trustee chair. Thanks to Juli Bailey, stewardship, Matt Clark, elder and Susan Weitzel, secretary for agreeing to be nominated and elected. A special, special, thank you to Ray Bailey and Jim Wilkes for stepping up and volunteering to be elders. We will have full compliment of elders (five) for 2018.

Jeremiah 29:11 says, ""*For I know the plans I have for you,* declares the Lord, *"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* (NIV)

This was the Scripture from the daily devotion I'm reading this year. The author talked about how we plan, predict, etc. but the bottom line is God is in charge! "When you feel apprehensive or anxious, fearing what might happen during the next year, the next month, the next day, or the next moment, thinks of these hopeful words in Jeremiah, God has good plans for your life. Your future is secure in God's hands." (Zondervan: Once a Day Devotional for Men, 2012 by The Livingstone Corp.)

Bob Klose, Congregation President

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### **EVANGELISM**

*"We all have backgrounds filled with an assortment of experiences and people. Throughout our lives it's easy to build our perception of self – good or bad – on these variables. We do this at our peril; however, for we are flawed by sin from the beginning, unable on our own to fully discern our true identities. But there is One who knows us best, understands us fully, and loves us anyway. Whether our self-image is inflated by pride or beaten down by self-accusation, our identity – our fullest identity – is found in Jesus. He alone has paid the price for our sins and redeemed us to be new creations in Him."* The Tract of the Month for January 2018 is "The Mystery of You, Clues to Your True Identity". This Tract is full of fill in the blank, & other self-help tools. So if you (or someone you know) needs to get a better perspective of yourself as a person or perhaps even as a Christian... read this!

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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 not be meeting in January.

In closing I would like to quote Psalm 51:10-13 & 15 (NIV). "10Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. 13Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you. 15O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise."

Yours in Christ,  
Cheryl Sandenaw, Evangelism Chairman

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### **LWML MISSION TABLE**

WOW, What a way to finish the year! We were able to send \$520.00 to the Ysleta Mission. We could not have done it without your generous donations or your generous spending to purchase the treasures. Thanks to all. Please continue to support this project.

Wilma Jaecks, Treasurer of LWML

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### **WHAT CAN I GIVE?**

What can I give Jesus, poor that I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I'd give Him a lamb.  
If I were a wise man, I would speak my part,  
But one thing I can give, I give Him my heart.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

### **THE 4 PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP**

Happy New Year everyone! My name is Juli Bailey and I am the new Stewardship Committee Chairman. I was googling the definition of "Stewardship" and I came upon this article. I think this is a good description for Stewardship. I look forward to working with each one of you in the upcoming year.

Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.

C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

In a recent blog on stewardsip we asked the question, "What does stewardship look like in our lives today?" Unfortunately many Christians today only associate the idea of stewardship with sermons they have heard about church budgets and building programs.

But for us at the Institute for Faith, Work & Economics, the idea of biblical stewardship is about something much more expansive. We believe it is where the concepts of faith, work and economics intersect. Bill Peel over at The High Calling recently wrote an excellent essay entitled Leadership Is Stewardship. His essay can help us build a framework to begin unpacking this biblical idea of stewardship.

Peel suggests that there are four important principles about biblical stewardship we must understand: 1) The principle of Ownership, 2) The principle of Responsibility, 3) The principle of accountability and 4) The principle of reward.

This month we will look at the first two principles.

#### **1. THE PRINCIPLE OF OWNERSHIP:**

The Psalmist begins the 24th psalm with, The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

In the beginning of Genesis, God creates everything and puts Adam in the Garden to work it and to take care of it. It is clear that man was created to work and that work is the stewardship of all of the creation that God has given him. This is the fundamental principle of biblical stewardship. God owns everything, we are simply managers or administrators acting on his behalf.

Therefore, stewardship expresses our obedience regarding the administration of everything God has placed under our control, which is all encompassing. Stewardship is the commitment of one's self and possessions to God's service, recognizing that we do not have the right of control over our property or ourselves.

Echoing Deuteronomy 8:17 , we might say: "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But Deuteronomy 8:18 counsels us to think otherwise:

Remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.

#### **2. THE PRINCIPLE OF RESPONSIBILITY:**

In explaining responsibility, Peel writes, Although God gives us "all things richly to enjoy," nothing is ours. Nothing really belongs to us. God owns everything; we're responsible for how we treat it and what we do with it. While we complain about our rights here on earth, the Bible constantly asks, What about your responsibilities? Owners have rights; stewards have responsibilities.

We are called as God's stewards to manage that

which belongs to God. While God has graciously entrusted us with the care, development, and enjoyment of everything he owns as his stewards, we are responsible to manage his holdings well and according to his desires and purposes.

Juli Bailey, Stewardship Chair.

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## THE WINDOW

By Herman W. Gockel, *This Day Magazine*, June 1959

### "HE KNEW THE SHEPHERD"

It happened many years ago. A group of well-educated people were gathered at the home of a friend for a sociable evening. Among them was a popular actor of the day.

During the course of the evening the actor was asked to give a reading, and he obliged by reading the Twenty-Third Psalm. All were impressed by his deep, rich voice, his clear enunciation, and the rhythmic rise and fall of the well-measured tones. Here was an artist!

After he had finished, the group asked an elderly clergyman to read the Psalm. Timidly he declined. But he asked permission to explain certain of its verses, both against their historical and geographical background and in the light of their New Testament fulfillment in Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

As the clergy man expounded the beautiful Psalm, he became more and more absorbed in its message, completely forgetting himself in the process. And at the end, almost involuntarily, he quoted the entire Psalm—as the humble confession of his believing heart.

Particularly moving was the confidence with which he repeated the words: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and

Thy staff, they comfort me." The light of faith shone in his eyes as he concluded: "Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the day of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

A hush fell over the group as the elderly clergyman sat down. There had been a difference in the two readings, of which they were all aware. And yet—just what was the difference?

Later that evening one of the company put his finger on the difference when he was heard to observe: "The actor knew the Shepherd's Psalm, but the Pastor knew the Shepherd."

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## LWML RIO GRANDE ZONE RALLY

Plan ahead to attend the Zone LWML Workshop on February 3, 2018 here at Trinity. Our special guest Bible Study leader is Donna Pyle. Here is a short bio of Donna's Bible study career.

*Donna Pyle has written over 25 Bible studies and magazine articles and travels throughout the United States and internationally to teach from scripture. She has authored three DVD Bible study series in partnership with Lutheran Women in Mission and published four books through Concordia Publishing House including Forgiveness: Received from God; Extended to Others. Her books will be available for purchase and can be autographed.*

There will also be an In-Gathering of items to assemble Hygiene Kits for Ysleta Lutheran Mission, El Paso.

Items needed include: Shampoo, Soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Combs, Brushes, Deodorant, Lotion, New Underwear, New Socks, Feminine Hygiene Products, Nail Clippers. A collection tub is under the LWML bulletin board in the Narthex. If you want more information talk to your Zone officers, Yvonne Steeby, Jill Clark, or Nora Sotak

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## LONG-TERM PRAYERS

Eric Bell, Caitlin Boverie, Red Chesbro, Mike Debaar, Nicole Doth, Carol Fox, Jennifer Fultz, Renee Gocis, Haney family, Tom Hollander, **Gene & Eldeen Humphrey, Kristie & John Humphrey, Ty Landt**, Timothy Mach, Myron Marquardt, Chad McCastle, **Cindy McKee**, 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, **Irvin Torres**, Marea Turnbul, Eric Van Horn, Vertein family, Ward family

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## TRUSTEE

The ballast for the light in the sign in front of the church has been replaced and the light is now working again. We have also used a pressure washer to clean out cobwebs and dirt from the sign and have painted the beam that supports it.

We are still waiting for a replacement bulb for one of the lights in the great room. This replacement bulb is being provided under the warranty on these bulbs.

We have done more work at cleaning out the heating ducts in the sanctuary. These ducts consist of card board tubes in the concrete under the floor. Some of this cardboard is collapsing and partially blocking the duct. Some of this was removed several years ago but more has collapsed and that has now been removed.

Bob Thede, Trustee Chairman



"I suspected it was done that way."

# JANUARY STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

## ELDERS

- Jan. 7 Robert Rentschler  
Jan. 14 Dick Dommers  
Jan. 21 Jim Wilkes  
Jan 28 Ray Bailey

## ACOLYTES

- Jan. 7 Miriam Collins  
Jan. 14 Emily Johnson  
Jan. 21 EmmaLee Kommer  
Jan 28 Morgan Sebring

## READERS

- Jan. 7 Lola Ableidinger & Matt Anderson  
Jan. 14 Cheryl Richey & Dick Dommers  
Jan. 21 Mary Lesile Schmitt & Lisa Collins  
Jan 28 Tyler Larson & Laura Klose

## TELLERS

- Jan. 7 Sandy Klose & Yvonne Steeby  
Jan. 14 Suse Lehmann & Robyn Luevano  
Jan. 21 Bob Klose & Vicki Leonard  
Jan 28 Linde Van Cleave/Cheryl Sandenaw

## HOSTS

- Jan. 7 Bob & Sandy Klose  
Jan. 14 Ray & Sandra Krueger  
Jan. 21 Vicki Leonard & Robyn Luevano  
Jan 28 Tom & Joyce Macon

## JANUARY ALTAR COMMITTEE

- Robin Haymes  
Sandra Krueger

## JANUARY ATTENDANCE SHEETS

Shirley Enyeart

## JANUARY FLOWERS

- Jan. 7 Colleen Sandenaw  
Jan. 14 Virginia Nielsen  
Jan. 21 Hannah & Jim Keeler  
Jan 28 Denise Race

## USHERS

- Jan. 7 Tom Blackmon, Glen Schlehauser  
Larry & Beverly Van Duyn  
Jan. 14 Matt Anderson, Marvin Bunker,  
Tyler Larson, John Marquardt  
Jan. 15 Ben Clark, Robert Johnson,  
Trey Johnson, Ray Krueger  
Jan. 22 Ray Bailey, Bob Klose  
Laura Klose, Gerald Moore,

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## **'TWAS A SHEEP**

'Twas a sheep, not a lamb, that went astray  
In the parable Jesus told,  
  
'Twas a grown-up sheep that wandered away  
From the ninety and nine in the fold.  
  
And out on the hilltops and out in the cold,  
"Twas a sheep that the Good Shepherd sought;  
  
And back to the flock and back to the fold,  
"Twas a sheep that the Good Shepherd brought.  
  
Now, why should the sheep be carefully fed  
And cared for still today?  
  
Because there is danger, if they go wrong,  
They will lead the lambs astray.  
  
For the lambs will follow the sheep, you know,  
Wherever they wander, wherever they go.  
  
If the sheep go wrong, it will not be long  
Till the lambs are as wrong as they;  
  
So still with the sheep we must earnestly plead  
For the sake of the lambs today.  
  
If the lambs are lost, what a terrible cost  
Some sheep will have to pay!

*Author Unknown*