



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

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

We all know this verse. We have seen it on signs at ball games and the like. From this verse we learn why God sent Jesus to the world and why He gave Jesus to the world. It was because of His love for us and the world. Be sure to look at the article Jim Wilkes provides this month as he talks about this month of “love.”

You will probably hear people say that they know God is a god of love so being that He is a god of love, surely He will love me no matter what and for a person to love another person of the same sex, should be OK with God since He is a god of Love.

We use the term “love” to cover various definitions of the word. The Greek has a few words for the word “love”.

The word for love that is used in the verse above is the Greek word *agape*. It is the kind of love we see as God’s love for us. It is an unconditional love, love that a person has for another no matter what. God loves us that way and proved it by sending Jesus to the world and to the cross for our sins.

The love that many would like God to have for His creation is the Greek word *eros*. You can probably see in this Greek word for love a word *erotic* that we use for this kind of love. It is a passionate love with sensual desire and longing. It doesn’t have to be sexual but it is a love for a person that may grow into a love that can grow for that person over time.

We all probably know the next word from a City in the East known as the city of brotherly love, Philadelphia. It gets its name from the Greek word *philia*. It is the love of friendship or affection. Included would be love for family, friends or maybe enjoyment of an activity or even lovers.

The fourth is *storge*. It is “affection” love. It is natural affection, like that is felt by parents for offspring. It is used almost exclusively as a descriptor of relationships within the family.

When someone talks to you about “love” you should take the time to find out what kind of love they are talking about and then point out the word used of the loving God who loves all of His creation with an unconditional love that doesn’t even require friendship on our part.

Pastor

LENTEN SERIES – 2021

“ A CALL TO RETURN”

GENERAL INTRODUCTION: In the Book of Joel, the prophet paints a vivid picture of the coming judgment of God, the Day of the Lord. The imagery is bold and terrifying: hordes of locusts swarming over the land and decimating everything. Joel’s prophecy has teeth even today as wars rage, natural disasters threaten and destroy, and our culture seems to be unraveling. But right in the middle of this frightening portent, we find a tender invitation from the Lord: “Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster” (Joel 2:13). God’s invitation and promise finds its fullness in Jesus Christ, who personifies and accomplishes all that God declares. During this season of Lent, we will consider the theme “Return to the Lord” and examine how the call to return played out in practical ways for the people who walked alongside Christ as He demonstrated and carried out God’s grace and mercy on our behalf, taking God’s wrath upon Himself, setting the stage for God to “turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him” (Joel 2:14). Each sermon in this series focuses on a particular event in the Passion, with a special focus on the people involved in the event. Studying the events and people helps to connect the hearers with Series Introduction Return to the Lord © 2020 Concordia Publishing House. Scripture: ESV®. 3 their own sinful nature, to emphasize how we have turned away from the Lord, and to reinforce and rejoice in God’s call for us to return to Him with all our heart.

ELDERS MESSAGE

WHO LOVES YOU BABY?

An iconic phrase uttered by none other than Telly Salavas (AKA KOJAK) in the TV crime drama from 1973-1978 on CBS. The lollypop eating NYPD detective whose persona dominated prime time TV and became a favorite of most crime drama aficionados. The phrase was usually interjected upon the demise of the criminal who was just vanquished by Kojak or to some other hapless attorney, cop or citizen.

February is the month of love. Love =\$\$\$\$

Just ask all the males of the species who shelled out an aggregate amount of over \$20 billion in 2020 on flowers, candy, cards and other gifts to cement relationships with their significant others. In some cases, it was penance for stupid remarks, actions or other transgressions deemed inappropriate by the top dog of the relationship.

The catch phrase is "Happy wife, Happy life."

HOWEVER, if you think you can bribe your way to forgiveness for a monumentally stupid action or utterance, WRONG BUCKO!!!! Won't happen. Not in this human lifetime. What's done is done, never to be lived down and it **WILL** be brought up at the most inopportune time.

To err is human, to forgive is Divine.

Only GOD will forgive your transgressions/sins, if you repent and believe in HIM and HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST.

WHO LOVES YOU BABY???

GOD

John 3:16

James R. Wilkes, Elder

DISTRICT CONVENTION DELEGATES

We have been asked to elect one lay delegate and one alternate delegate to the district convention that is scheduled for later this year (date to be announced). It is normally a three day commitment, at least partly over a weekend. This is a great opportunity to become familiar with the people and issues that affect our district. If you would like to serve as Trinity's delegate, please let Pastor or Dick Dommers know as we have a limited time to forward the information to district.

SYNOD CONVENTION

The tri-annual synod convention will likely be postponed one year from 2022 to 2023 due to covid considerations. However, congregations have been requested to submit nominations for candidates for certain offices. A document identifying the requested nominations will be posted on the bulletin board. Anyone who wants to submit a nomination should see Dick Dommers.

STEWARDSHIP

Dear Friends at Trinity,

The Apostle Paul writes in Ephesians 3:20-21, Now to Him Who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

I pray your new year is going well and you are staying healthy.

We here at Trinity are so blessed because we serve such an awesome God! He is able to do so much more than we can even imagine.

As most of you are aware, at the congregational meeting in November, our expenses exceeded our income by several thousands of dollars. During the month of December contributions from our congregation allowed us to end the year 2020 with over \$6,000 in the black! We serve an awesome God!! We give thanks to God for the generosity of all those who contributed to this outcome.

May God continue to bless our giving in this new year as we continue to give Him thanks for all His many blessings to us in His Church.

In Christ's Love,
Sandy Klose, Stewardship Chairperson

LWML

Frank and Katherine were raised to be thrifty, hard-working, God-fearing, children of God. They raised their children in the faith as well and enjoyed sharing Bible stories with their grandchildren.

Frank and Katherine were known to not waste a thing, washing, and reusing disposable items, ripping off the bottom half of a piece of mail that came, to use for scrap paper. They had been diligent savers, putting a portion of weekly income into an investment account.

Years ago, their advisor had directed them to put investments in annuities. Since that time, all growth on their investments had grown tax deferred. They never planned on spending any of it. They planned on giving it all to their children as inheritance. Little did they know that a large portion of that inheritance would simply be paid in taxes.

An LWML Gift Planning Counselor had presented at their church and raised the topic of wise tax planning. They brushed it off. They did not see the value. This couple that rejoiced about saving pennies at a time by reusing old things, threw away tens of thousands of dollars in taxes that could have enriched their children's inheritance or created a nice bequest to their church, enabling more people to hear about Jesus.

We often put off such work, because it intimidates us, as we venture into topics that we have never discussed before. Yet the story of Frank and Katherine illustrates for all of us, that a few hours of conversation and planning could potentially magnify the effect of a lifetime of careful stewardship of God's gifts. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact... LWML RMD: Elizabeth Weber weber4342@acsol.net Cell: (970) 361-0794

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Feb. 13th, 10 a.m. – Setup for "Valentine Extravaganza" fund raiser.

Feb. 14th, "VALENTINE EXTRAVAGNZA" After Church in Great Room.

February Mission Project – Soup Bowl of Caring.

Donations of canned soups & crackers (any kind) can be put in designated tables in Great Room. These will be given to local Soup Kitchens & Food Pantries.

Remember: ALL LADIES OF TRINITY ARE CONSIDERED MEMBERS OF LWML, & ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE.

You get can all kinds of information, resources, bible studies, devotions, support by going to the LWML website: LWMLRMD.org.

DISTRICT MISSION GRANTS 2020-2022

Introducing Muslims to the Savior — Lutheran Heritage Foundation Grant \$5,000

Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) supports the mission of the LCMS – bringing Christ to the lost. Fifty countries in the world have a Muslim majority, and LHF is at work in 14 of them. However, because Arabic is spoken around the world, materials from LHF have the potential to reach into Islamic regions where there are few or no active Lutheran missions. These translations are also needed here in the United States. In addition to Bibles, pastors use other resources, such as Luther's Small Catechism, hymnals, devotions, etc. to teach the Gospel. Many of these books only cost \$5 to translate into languages like Arabic, Farah, Bahasa Indonesian, or Kazakh. This grant would help LHF supply pastors and missionaries with over 1,000 of these Lutheran books translated in the languages of our Christian Brothers and sisters around the world.

NATIONAL MISSION GRANTS 2019-2021

Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care, El Paso, Texas \$98,400

The ministry of YLMHC impacts the lives of 400-500 students with educational programs, classroom space, and equipment. For the past 17 years YLMHC's music ministry has proven successful in reaching out to the unchurched by witnessing to the mercy and grace of Christ. The Adelante Ministries offers music classes and leadership training to youth and adults while it also provides service to the church and community. Through involvement in this music program, many students have come to faith in Christ. This grant will enable YLMHC to better equip their classroom and rehearsal space so they can serve and teach a larger range of students. It will also allow them to adapt existing space for music instruction, purchase recording equipment, create video tutorials for online instruction, fund a music intern position, and purchase musical instruments for students unable to afford their own.

by Yvonne Steeby, Trinity LWML President

Any questions? Contact Yvonne, Bev, Hannah, Christine, Belinda, or Cyndi H.

LWML On The Go, is available through your podcast provider, at lwml.org, and on the LWML App.

Valentine Extravaganza

February 14, 2021, LWML Fund Raiser

Head to the Great Room after church for yummy Valentine goodies



Valentine's day
14 February

A TEMPTATION TO FEEL CONDESCENSION TOWARD THE DISCIPLES

WHEN WE READ the Gospel story, we're tempted to feel a sort of condescension toward the disciples.

Poor fools! They didn't understand Jesus' words. They couldn't see that he wasn't going to be a military leader. They ran away when He most needed them, at the climax of the story.

If we had been there, of course, we would have behaved differently. We would have smiled and said, "obviously" at the words that baffled the disciples. We would have taken the miracles in stride. We would have told Judas where to get off. Would we have denied, like Peter, or doubted like Thomas?

Of course not.

It is hard for men of the West, 2,000 years later, to feel the terrible shock of the salvation story. By now it's so familiar it seems obvious.

When we read that disciples failed to comprehend the meaning of the paradoxical words and swirling events, we feel they must have been simple-minded fellows, unlike ourselves.

G. J. Chesterton reminds us, in his beautiful book "The Everlasting Man" that in order to understand the Gospel story we nearly have to forget it. We are too apt to miss the sense of amazement that was the perfectly natural reaction of the men who witnessed it.

They had a good idea of the sort of Messiah they expected: another David, warrior and conqueror. In their place, we would have expected the same thing. In any group of 12 ordinary men, it would have been rather remarkable, if there hadn't been at least one traitor, disappointed at the unheroic figure Jesus turned out to be, ready to turn Him in as if He were some sort of imposter. We need not look down on Peter for denying Him, or Thomas for doubting Him.

They expected a whirlwind, sweeping the world.

Instead, they got a still small voice, telling them bluntly to prepare to suffer, as He predicted Himself would suffer. Strangely, He both said He was the Messiah --- and more --- and yet expected to perish soon. He also said His words would outlast heaven and earth. He did not bother to write them down to ensure their immortality.

He knew what agony to expect: torture, desertion, humiliation, death. The disciples had a lesser but distinct agony: being unexpected, the denouement shredded their noblest hopes for the deliverance of Israel. They missed the point of the whole story they were privileged, above all other men, to participate in.

That is the point too: the fulfillment of so many mysteries and prophecies. So perfect, was also so unforeseeable. Not even Shakespeare could have conceived such a story, such a leading character. He certainly could never have written words that would remain so totally compelling, so completely undated, after 2,000 years.

Anyone who thinks the story must be a myth or a fraud simply lacks the imagination to see how far beyond merely human genius the story is, or how grotesque it is to suppose that a deceiver could have dreamed up, in the course of a forgery, the profoundest moral wisdom ever uttered. A liar might invent miracles; he could never invent a personality which, as Tennyson truly said, is the greatest miracle of all.

Aristotle was a great genius whose thought is still astonishingly valuable. Yet on nearly every page, we find evidence of how limited he was by his time. We have to make allowances for him, no matter how much we admire him.

With Jesus, there is no such necessity. The disciples seem dated, if only because we have an unfair advantage over them. Jesus Himself does not. He seems to have known exactly how his words would strike each of us. As Chesterton says: "He spoke as one conscious that everything was ephemeral, including the things that Aristotle thought eternal.

It was also Chesterton who observed that only Christianity has give God credit for courage. What a perfect way to express the mystery of the Incarnation, which I prepare to celebrate, hoping you do too.

-----*Joseph Sobran, a senior editor of National Review,
writes for the Los Angeles Times Syndicate*

CHALLENGE

Members of Trinity, I challenge us with the help of the Holy Spirit to raise more for The Pregnancy Help Center this year than last year. Our goal is \$1200, \$100 more than last year. There are baby bottles available for your donation, as those were returned with lots of change last year. If you prefer, just put cash or checks in an envelope, mark the outside with "Southern New Mexico Outreach," and leave the envelope in the basket provided in the narthex. (Please do not make checks to church or put your donations in the regular offering plate.) We've received the challenge. Let's get it done! Those of you participating in worship via the Internet, you may send your contribution to church or I will be happy to pick it up. Just give me a call. The money and/or baby bottles are due back no later than February 21st. Thanks. Hannah Keeler 491-9234

GUESSING GAME

Just for a little fun and to raise even more money for the Baby Bottle Campaign, We're having a guessing game. For a \$2.00 donation, you may guess how many pennies are in the bin. (The pennies were donated to the Baby Bottle Campaign by one of our members.) Take a look at the pennies in the bin, calculate your guess, then fill out the slip of paper with your guess, place your paper and \$2.00 in the can, and we'll see who the winner is at the end of this month. There will be a prize for the winner!

FEBRUARY 2021 STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

ELDERS

- Feb. 7 Glen Schlehuser
- Feb. 14 Jesse Elkjer
- Feb. 17 Jesse Elkjer (Ash Wed)
- Feb. 21 Jim Wilkes
- Feb. 24 Jim Wilkes (Midweek)
- Feb. 28 Glen Schlehuser

ACOLYTES

- Feb. 7 Madie Sanchez
- Feb. 14 Zac Sanchez
- Feb. 17 Ryan Sebring (Ash Wed)
- Feb. 21 Reilly Quinn
- Feb. 24 Madie Sanchez (Midweek)
- Feb. 28 Zac Sanchez

READERS

- Feb. 7 Ruth Wilkes/Lewis Thomas
- Feb. 14 George & Marianne Schweers
- Feb. 17 Shirley Enyeart/Gerald Moore (Ash Wed)
- Feb. 21 Dick Dommers/Cheryl Sandenaw
- Feb. 24 Hannah Keeler/Kelly Thomas (Midweek)
- Feb. 28 Shirley Enyeart/Susan Kelly

TELLERS

- Feb. 7 Joyce Macon/Bob Klose
- Feb. 14 Sandy Klose/Becky Worley
- Feb. 17 Shirley Enyeart/Patty Quinn (Ash Wed)
- Feb. 21 Megan Bowman/Dick Dommers
- Feb. 24 Cheryl Sandenaw
Linde Van Cleave (Midweek)
- Feb. 28 Lola Ableidinger/Nora Sotak

HOSTS

- Feb. 7 Dick & Jan Dommers
- Feb. 14 Shirley Enyeart & Vicki Leonard
- Feb. 21 Wilma Jaecks & Yvonne Steeby
- Feb. 24 Cheryl Richey & Cheryl Sandenaw
- Feb. 28 Cyndi Heithold & Jennifer Sebring

USHERS

- Feb. 7 Tom Blackmon, Larry & Bev Van Duyn
- Feb. 14 Matt Anderson Marvin Bunker,
John Marquardt
- Feb. 21 Ray Krueger, Robert Johnson,
Bob Thede, Trey Johnson
- Feb. 28 Gerald Moore, Bob & Sandy Klose

FEBRUARY FLOWERS

- Feb. 7 Robert & Heather Patrick
- Feb. 14 Larry & Beverly Van Duyn
- Feb. 21 Bob & Jan Thede
Darlene Oberling
- Feb. 28 Dino & Laurie Di Paolo

FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE

Hannah Keeler

FEBRUARY ALTAR COMMITTEE

Christine Schlehuser
Beverly Van Duyn



“Horace, what are we doing on the same cloud? Our vows said ‘till death do us part.’”

