



Farwell Pastor and Cyndi

THE TRINITARIAN



THE NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Pastor William Graff, Interim Pastor
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Alamogordo, New Mexico 88310
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FROM PASTOR HEITHOLD

John 15:25-27 “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

As you read the above verses, you understand Jesus is saying it. He wanted to reassure those He was leaving behind that they will not be left alone but He would send the Holy Spirit, the helper who would be sent by God the Father who would teach and remind them of what Jesus taught while He was with them.

I have heard the comment that I could just as well stay here and yet you know, because of the health of Cyndi, that she will be able to breathe better at a lower altitude of either High Rolls or even Alamogordo. Things will be a little different but being able to breathe better will be one less thing to deal with.

Jesus sent a helper. As it is, you don't know who will fill the calling of God to be your new pastor. I can imagine that those Jesus spoke to would wonder about Jesus leaving and before the Holy Spirit came to them on Pentecost they would be a little apprehensive as they would be wondering how things were going to be with Jesus gone.

Until the Holy Spirit was given on Pentecost, what were seven of the disciples doing? They had gone back to fishing. They were comfortable fishing, going back to something they could count on, to look to, to help them to deal with all that had taken place.

Jesus appeared again to them after the meetings in the upper room. He appeared to them very much, bodily, alive as He, calling from the bank after asked them if they had any fish and they saying they hadn't caught any were told to cast their nets on the other side of the boat. Upon doing that, they pulled in 153 large fish, some which were cooked to eat with Jesus.

I will be leaving this area after some work on the property and moving our belongings to Texas. One thing I know even though I won't be with you, Jesus, through His Holy Spirit will continue to be with you as you look to the future for the church and yes, even for yourselves.

I don't know what plans the Lord has for this church. As you get a new pastor, be willing to let his strengths lead you to grow in your faith and your commitment to the Lord. Be open to what he has for you here in Alamogordo and as He opens your eyes to the needs here and, as in the past, throughout the world.

I want to thank all of you and the Lord of placing me and my family with you over these many years. It has been great and I look forward to the Lord doing even more with you and for you and His Word in the future.

Love through Christ,
Pastor Heithold

BOARD OF ELDERS

THE MAGIC WORDS

Do you remember hearing the question, "What's the magic word?" It was a reminder early in our development after we had either asked for or received something. And, of course, if we had not remembered it earlier, the magic word was either "Please" or "Thank you."

It is not inappropriate to remember those magic words when we pray, as we are either thanking God for his many blessings or asking him for something that we or someone else may need. The word "please" as we use it in supplication is really short for "If it pleases you.." We sometimes say this or, in another way as Jesus taught us, "Thy will be done.."

There is another application of these magic words in our spiritual life that we may not have considered. Knowing we are saved by God's grace through our faith, we cannot please God enough through our works to earn salvation. *So then, those that are in the flesh cannot please God*" Rom 8:8. Thus, when we perform some good work, it is not in the sense of pleasing God, rather it is more like saying "Thank you, Lord" for your wonderful gift of saving grace.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High" Ps 92:1

Dick Dommers, Elder

1 Peter 5:1-2 "So I exhort the elders among you² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you"

Dear Members of Trinity,

As you are probably aware Pastor Heithold is retiring. He served as our pastor for 22 years and will be sorely missed.

In the interim Pastor Warren Graff, a retired LCMS pastor from Las Cruces, has agreed to be our vacancy pastor. He will conduct services and serve Communion on the first and third Sundays of the month. The elders will conduct a service on the second, fourth and fifth Sundays.

The elders are also available to help fulfill the spiritual needs of the congregation. Their names and contact information are as follows:

Dick Dommers, head elder

(575) 434-8735

Email: usnabgo@yahoo.com

Matt Anderson

(575) 921-6933

spiritof1776@fastmail.com

Bob Klose

(575) 491-3407

b.klose@hotmail.com

Allen Burmeister

(832) 817-3454

allemburmeister73@gmail.com

Robert Rentschler

(575) 446-9140

rentschler@zianet.com

Please feel free to contact any one of these men if you are need of help, have a family emergency, are hospitalized, etc.

We covet your prayers that God will lead and guide us all as we await the man, He has selected to become our new pastor.

In His service,

Trinity Board of Elders

EVANGELISM

Tract of the Month: “A Simple Explanation of Christian Denominations ...In today’s world, there are more than four thousand religions. And within Christianity itself, there are countless denominations. These numbers can cause many Christians to wonder what those differences are that make each denomination unique and how we, as Lutherans, can respond to those differences, especially when it comes to beliefs about salvation, the Sacraments, the role of Christ, and even sources of doctrine. This easy-to-use, compact booklet features brief summaries of seventeen Christian denominations. These summaries will help readers better understand each denomination’s differences, history, source of doctrine, and beliefs about Jesus Christ and the Sacraments.”

The mission for May and June is Luther Classical College. During May and June, our congregation is blessed with the opportunity to uplift Luther Classical College as our chosen Mission. Luther Classical College is committed to providing faithful Lutheran education, shaping young minds in wisdom, truth, and a deep understanding of God's Word. By directing our gifts to this mission, we are investing in the next generation of church leaders, educators, and faithful Christians who will serve and strengthen our communities. Please prayerfully consider making a donation to Luther Classical College and joining in this important work of faith and education. Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference!

Facebook: Follow us on FB and be a platform for the Gospel among your own FB friends list by sharing posts from our church as well as from Portals of Prayer, LCMS, KFUEO Radio, etc. Search for us on FB using “TrinityLutheranAlamogordo”.

“The Chosen”: Our next showing of “The Chosen” will be on **Sunday, May 11, 2025** after the worship service. Join us in the Bible Study room after Divine Service for a special viewing of two back-to-back episodes. Bring your lunch and enjoy watching together in fellowship and community!

In Closing... Each of us, being a witness in Jesus Christ (Acts 22:15), is called to proclaim the Gospel (Mark 16:15). With no shortage of despair in our world, in our own community, we can and should be a true light in the darkness. I encourage you to share your story of hope in a Risen Savior with those who need to hear it. We have each been given the power to do this (Acts 1:8) so don't be afraid to share the Good News!

Yours in Christ,
Merry Zumwalt, Evangelism Chairman

LWML

LWML had a busy April Meeting. Bev Van Duyn and Nora Sotak were our hosts. We started our meeting early so we could prepare Easter Baskets for our homebound. Seven baskets were made and delivered. We also assembled 11 purses for COPE with items from their list. They were presented to COPE at the meeting.

Two of the staff from COPE and their comfort dog presented us with a large amount of information about their shelter, how they help, and what services they offer. They take care of a lot of people in need. In addition to the purses that they give to the women, they can also us kitchen items, food for their pantry, bedding, clothing and some furniture. If you would like more information call (575-434-3622) and they will be happy to help you. There is an open invitation to visit the facility. The speakers were very informative and cleared up some misconceptions I know that I heard.

We had our elections as well. Yvonne Steeby and Nora Sotak have graciously accepted the positions of Vice President and Secretary respectively. Thank you to Cheryl Richey (outgoing Vice president) and Susan Kelly (outgoing secretary) for their service the past two years. It has been a pleasure to work with both of you.

Plans for our year end social are still in the planning stage and will be announced in the bulletin and by email in the next week.

Vicki Leonard, LWML President

EDUCATION

Education Report April 6, 2025—The meeting was held after church service on April 6th with four members in attendance. The old business topics discussed were events on Easter Sunday, April 20th and Vacation Bible School (VBS). The sign-up sheet for those willing to donate for the Easter breakfast will be put up on the Education bulletin board this week. It was decided that we would be doing Easter baskets for the children and they would be passed out after the second service (10:15 am). Items for the baskets would be purchased with the leftover petty cash from VBS. The congregation can donate candy if they want. A book about Easter will be purchased by the Education committee for the baskets and Sue Kelly volunteered to make little Easter bunnies for each of the baskets. The second topic was VBS. It was decided we would try doing a one day VBS on a week day around June 11th. The time frame we are looking at is from 11am till 2pm with lunch being provided. The day and times may vary depending on the volunteers we get to sign-up to help. More info will be put in the church bulletin starting in May.

New Business-When the 2nd Quarterly Congregational Fellowship activity would take place and what the fun activity would be. We are looking at the second weekend in June for Dominoes & other games with Nachos Night. More information to come in May. The committee also decided that we would like to collect free will donations supporting South Sudan ministry or Lutheran Disaster Relief occasionally during our Quarterly Fellowship activities.

The next Education Committee will be after church on Sunday, May 4th in the library. If you are interested in helping with VBS please try to attend this meeting.

Yours in Christ,
Susan Kelly, Director of Education

CONGRATULATIONS

ELI COLLINS: Eli will graduate from New Mexico Mining and Technology on May 17th with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering and he passed the Fundamentals of Engineering Exam. Eli has accepted a job with the Public Works of the City of Ketchikan, Alaska! Congrats Eli. Eli is the son of Lisa Sotak and the grandson of Rick and Nora Sotak. Congratulations Eli and stay warm in Alaska!

GARRETT ANDERSON: Garrett has finished his colloquy in Parish Music from Concordia University in Ann Arbor, MI. and is an official rostered Organist for the LCMS. Currently Garrett is the Director of Parrish Music at Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Toledo, OH, and also teaches band and choir for the 5th through 8th grade at the Trinity school. He received his Bachelor's in Music Performance from NMSU specializing in trombone. He is the son of Matt and Cindi Anderson and grandson of Bob & Jan Thede. Great job Garrett.

ABIGAIL ANDERSON: Abby is a 3-year Golden Scholar, a member of the National Honor Society and is ranked 4th in her graduating class. She was awarded the Golden A award for English and was awarded the NMSU Hadley Honors Scholarship, the Sertoma Club Dr. Rex Hutchinson/Donna Columbus Memorial Scholarship, and the Otero County Prison Facility Scholarship. Abby serves as the Student Ex Officio on the Alamogordo School Board and is also part of the Guiding Coalition, a committee that put together to develop a framework of the future of the school district. Abby plans to attend NMSU in the fall and study Finance. Graduation is on May 23rd. Congrats Abby!

Sunday, May 11, 2025 is Mother's Day!

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL THE MOTHERS OF TRINITY

MAY 2025 STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

ELDERS

May 4 Dick Dommers
May 11 Matt Anderson
May 18 Robert Rentschler
May 25 Bob Klose

SOUND

May 4 Bob Klose
May 11 Matt Anderson
May 18 Jim Kline
May 25 Vicki Leonard

TELLERS

May 4 Yvonne Steeby & Becky Worley
May 11 Vicki Leonard & Merry Zumwalt
May 18 Dick Dommers & Merry Zumwalt
May 25 Cheryl Sandenaw & Linde Van Cleave

HOSTS

May 4 Cheryl Sandenaw & Becky Worley
May 11 Irvin Torres & Merry Zumwalt
May 18 Tom Blackmon & Wilma Jaecks
May 25 Nora Sotak & Jericho Vertain

MAY FLOWERS

May 4 Bob & Sandy Klose,
May 11 Lola Ableidinger & Goldie Gressman
May 18 Bob & Susan Kelly
May 25 Juli Bailey

USHERS

May 4 Tom Blackmon, Jim Fladhammer
Larry & Beverly Van Duyn
May 11 Abby Anderson, Emily Johnson
Susan Kelly, Norbert Sanchez
May 18 Robert Johnson, Trey Johnson
Bob Thede, Tammy Thede
May 25 Gerald Moore, Bob & Sandy Klose
Irvin Torres

MAY ATTENDANCE

Merry Zumwalt

MAY ALTAR COMMITTEE

Robin Haymes & Susan Rentschler

LWML APRIL MEETING WITH COPE

