



2025 LENTEN SERIES

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

Psalm 139:13 *For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.*

You may have heard in the news of the president wanting to make it easier for couples to take advantage of In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) in order to have a child. It is very expensive and if the costs associated with using this procedure, getting pregnant and having a child were less, more couples could have children.

We read about couples throughout time who had trouble getting pregnant and having a child. The most famous is Abraham and Sarah who went even so far as to have Abraham take Sarah's maid and have a child by her. We know how that went down. Others include Jacob and Rachel, Zechariah and Elizabeth, Elkanah and Hannah and Samson's Dad and Mom (her name is not mentioned).

Each are finally blessed by the Lord so they could conceive and bear a son. These sons play a role in the history of the Bible and in the accounts we tell our children about.

President Trump signed an executive order that on the surface seems good but when looked at critically, may not be as good as it seems.

What do you know about IVF? IVF means to have a fertilization outside of the body, ie test tube baby. In order to do that, a woman, most of the time the mother, takes certain drugs in order for her to produce many eggs. These eggs are then provided with live sperm and then put into a woman to try to carry to birth. This sounds good but what else is happening?

Not all the fertilized eggs are usually put into the would be mother. There are usually too many and to carry more than one baby to term at a time complicates the pregnancy. If they were to come early, what happens? There is the expense of having to place the child in the NICU for a while as some of you know which is very expensive too. Another problem is that many of the fertilized eggs are discarded and knowing that a new human is began at the moment of fertilization, many single cell or early formed babies are discarded for one reason or another. Many babies are killed.

That is bad enough but what Jennifer Lahl a 25 year pediatric critical care nurse and hospital administrator knows, is that the procedure is not that safe, either for the mother or the child.

When her grandson was born they recognized that he had congenital heart problems. The doctor's first question to the parents was "Was this an IVF child?" (he wasn't). She said congenital heart defects are more common in IVF children. Not only that, but there are certain cancers that are more prevalent in IVF children as well.

She said a better solution that has a greater chance of success and is inexpensive is Restorative Reproductive Health where a counselor would work with the couple to minimize possible things that keep them from conceiving, which is safe.

Why IVF then? A lot of money can be made by the medical community and because it may take more than one time to conceive, it would be very expensive. Then there is many times wanting things to happen yesterday.

IVF may be touted as something good but after looking into it, morally I would have to say this is not the way to go. Let us promote life and not death or possible defects that will cost not only for the procedure but might cause a lifetime of challenges and suffering for the child.

Pastor

BOARD OF ELDERS

THE DAY BEFORE....

A recent radio ad that you may have heard invites our attention to planning ahead for a potential disaster by describing our actions during a normal day, that is identified as “the day before...” The day before what? The ad makes the point that the next day may bring on a disaster or event for which we have not prepared, thus we should be thinking about planning for such an event, today!

Doesn't this same admonition apply to our spiritual life? Do we ever ask ourselves if this is really “the day before”, are we ready for the next day should we be called before the Lord?

Jesus provides a graphic example of the consequences of unpreparedness in the parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25. Those who had taken the time to provide oil for their lamps were ready to meet the bridegroom. Those who had neglected this detail, perhaps intending to do it later, found that they could not make up for the neglect, and were denied access to the wedding. Jesus was referring to his coming at the time of Judgement. “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming” (Matthew 25:13). Yet our preparation should also consider earthly death, and our readiness for it. Proper preparation includes our regular discourse with God through prayer, seeking forgiveness through His grace for Jesus' sake. It should also include preparations to ease the financial and administrative burdens on our loved ones left behind to the maximum extent possible.

Hopefully, this is not “the day before” for any of us, but we must be ready if it should be.

Dick Dommers, Elder

LWML

On February 9th, the ladies of the LWML served a meal to approximately 40 guests to raise money for Mites. Funds were contributed by Thrivent to purchase food items. In a festive decorated room, a Mexican inspired menu was served. \$580 was raised for the Mite program. Thank you to Chris and Diane for all the logistics and planning and to all who helped prepare, decorate, clean up, and anything else necessary to make this event a success!

We are about to begin Lent on the 5th of March. Lent is a time of preparation and remembrance of our Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection. During these weeks it is important to attend services and participate in all that leads up to the celebration of Easter.

Our next meeting is on Saturday, March the 8th at 10am. Please come join us. Following the meeting, those who would like to go to lunch will carpool up to Knuckleweed for lunch.

On Saturday, March 29th our Spring Rally is being held at Ascension Lutheran Church in El Paso. As usual we will carpool from the church. For the moment, I would say we will leave the church at 8:00 am. The ingathering will be a collection of jackets and toys for children ages 5-12 for Ysleta. There will be a table in the Great Room for donations. A poster will be on the LWML board.

Many things are yet to come this spring so keep an eye open for articles in the bulletin or on the bulletin board. The board met on Thursday, February 27th to finalize some plans and catch up on projects we have going.

Vicki, LWML President

THE HAND OF THE LORD

Whether tightening a bolt, crocheting, or typing on a computer, there is so much that we do with our hands. The Greek physician Galen called them *the instrument of instruments*. Indeed, hands are instruments that can do a great deal of things. Hands can be used to heal or hurt, work or wreck, build or break, seize or surrender, and on and on. Hands are so often central to the ways we interact with the world that they have also become figurative symbols of power, control, craftsmanship, and possession. We daily speak of hands in many phrases, such as “Lend a hand,” “Things are out of hand,” “Working together hand in glove,” and “Close at hand.” Moreover, in our modern era of robotic, machine, and computer processing, adding “hand” as a prefix to many words can often communicate something that is personal and intentional. Labeling something as handpicked, handwritten, or handmade adds a personal touch and significance. Our Creator has bestowed on us these amazing instruments.

It is no surprise that mentions of hands appear all over the Bible as God’s Word speaks to us in ways that we can understand. All things are the work of the hand of the Lord (Psalm 102:25). The Lord’s hand is referred to over two hundred times in the Old Testament. The Lord’s hand is active in creation, power, control over happenings of the world, judgment, and salvation. The hand of the Lord was upon Ezekiel when He gave him a vision (Ezekiel 3:22), and the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines in the days of Samuel (1 Samuel 7:13). The hand of the Lord is both Law and Gospel.

Perhaps surprisingly, specific references to the “hand of the Lord” are not all that frequent in the New Testament. However, it is precisely in the New Testament where the hand of the Lord takes on literal meaning. The One through whom all things were created took on real, literal hands in His incarnation (John 1:1–14). We have several examples throughout Scripture that speak of the way that Christ used His hands alongside His life-giving words to bring forgiveness, life, and salvation. The work of Christ’s hands helps us to see the merciful and personal way that He has condescended to us. He has given us something to grasp, even as He holds us. Jesus used His hands to save drowning Peter, to feed the multitudes, to touch those who were unclean, to stop a funeral procession in its tracks, to lift up Jairus’s daughter, and to bless the children. The hand of the Lord has come to us in Jesus.

On the other hand, the literal and figurative actions of mere human hands in the Bible are often the means of our own sin. After all, our own Lord was “delivered into the hands of men” (Luke 9:44). However, on a greater level, we know that it was the hand of the Lord at work all along, most especially in His crucifixion. Christ laid down His life of His own authority as He allowed Himself to be delivered into the hands of sinful men (John 10:18). His hands were pierced for the sins of the world. His hands rested on Holy Saturday. Yet, on the third day, He rose again. He now holds us in His hands, and no one can snatch us from His hand (John 10:28). Our Lord has hands, real hands. Jesus has accomplished all that we need. Amazingly, He takes our manipulative, distorted, self-serving hands and restores them into useful hands for His purposes, both to literally use them in service and to make our whole lives into His instruments of witness, service, and praise.

LENT SOUP & SANDWICH SUPPERS

Our Wednesday night Lenten Soup and Sandwich suppers begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5th. The soup and sandwich suppers are at 6:00 p.m. and the worship services follows at 7:00 pm. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for individuals to provide soups and sandwiches each week during Lent. Sign up and join the fellowship.

EVANGELISM

Save the Date: October 31, 2025 “Trunk or Treat” (more information to come).

Tract of the month: “The Divine Service: A Guide ... Whether you’ve been in church every week since you were young or you’re new to the whole worship experience, the Divine Service can be a bit of a head-scratcher. It’s beautiful and intentional and treasured—but words like *kyrie* and *pax domini* can be unfamiliar and confusing. This small volume unpacks the basic elements of the church service as you walk through it from Invocation to Benediction.” **Be sure to pick up a copy of this month’s tract to read.**

Visitor Mugs: The Evangelism Committee has prepared coffee mugs for our visitors, which are conveniently located inside the Guestbook podium. This is a handy spot for you to grab a mug to offer to visitors when you invite them to sign the guest book. On the Sundays you are hosting, please remember to give out ONE mug per family, visitor, or group. If it appears that multiple people in a group would benefit from having a mug, feel free to distribute more than one. Thank you for your assistance with this!

The mission for March & April is the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute (LHMI).

From their website <http://www.MissionaryInstitute.org/>:

- *“The mission of the LHMI is preparing workers to multiply healthy Hispanic Ministries.*
- **WE COMMIT TO:**
 1. *TRAIN.....men and women as missionaries, lay leaders, and leaders who will go on to serve as called church workers – with a spirit of humble obedience (Philippians 2:5-8), sowing the seed of the Gospel among Hispanics.*
 2. *PARTNER....with individuals, congregations and other organizations to extend Christian outreach among Hispanics*
 3. *MULTIPLY...Hispanic missions throughout the US and beyond to fulfill the Lord’s Great Commission (Mt. 28:18-20).*
 4. *NURTURE...new and existing workers and ministries in response to His Great Commandment (Mt. 22:37-40)*
 5. *HONOR AND SUPPORT...Hispanic ministry efforts in either English or Spanish or both.*

“The Chosen”: Our next showing of “The Chosen” will be on **March 23**. Please plan to join us after Divine Service in the Bible Study room.

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, KFUE Radio, and others. Search for us on FB using “TrinityLutheranAlamogordo”.

In Closing... “*And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”*” (Mark 1:17, ESV) Brothers and Sisters, evangelism can take many different forms and I encourage you to continue without ceasing to be on the lookout for opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Yours in Christ,
Merry Zumwalt, Evangelism Chairman

EDUCATION

The Education Committee met for a very short meeting after the Call Committee meeting on Sunday, February 16. Three members were present. The committee decided that our first quarterly congregational fellowship activity would be a Potato Bar with all the toppings, after church on Sunday, March 16th. More details will be

included in the upcoming Sunday bulletins. The rest of the old business will be discussed at our next meeting on March 2nd after church service.

Susan Kelly, Director of Education

STEWARDSHIP

\$635.00 in memorial funds will be given to Trinity LWML to purchase 19 backpacks for the Seminarians graduating from Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Sudan and Sudan - ELCSS/S Seminary.

The memorial funds come from Virginia Nielsen (\$585) and Harriet Douglas (\$50) memorials. Nora Sotak and Goldie Gressman have agreed to the use of these memorial funds.

A check for \$635.00 made out to Trinity LWML should be given to Diane Kline, LWML Treasurer.

Serving the Lord with Gladness, Nora Sotak, Stewardship Chair

“IF THOU BUT SUFFER GOD TO GUIDE THEE”

For this is God, Our God forever and ever; He will be our guide Even to death. Psalm 48:14 (NKJV)

The newer hymnbooks list this as “If You Will Only Let God Guide You.” I still like the older, archaic phrasing, since that’s the way I learned it; but never mind—it’s a glorious hymn, however it’s rendered, especially when you know the tender story behind it.

In 1641, a bright German youth, Georg Neumark, twenty, packed his few belongings and left his home in the Thuringian forests. By hard work and frugality, he had saved enough for his first year at the University of Konigsberg. Seeking to travel with others because of roving thieves, Georg joined a group of merchants in Leipzig. But after passing through Magdeburg, they were waylaid and robbed on the Gardelegan Heath. Georg lost everything except his prayer book and a few hidden coins.

His university hopes dashed, the young man retraced his way through villages and towns, looking for work. Months passed, and the onset of winter found Georg poorly fed, scantily clothed, cold and homeless. Just when he was near despair, a pastor named Nicolaus Becker of Kiel befriended him.

Becker wanted to help Georg secure employment, but how? There was nothing. Just then, a position opened unexpectedly---a tutoring job in the home of a local judge named Henning. Georg was hired on the spot, and that very day he composed “If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee.”

While tutoring, Georg conserved his money, and the next year he proceeded to Konigsberg and enrolled in the university on June 21, 1643. Shortly afterward, he again lost everything, this time in a fire. But by now, he had no doubt in God’s ability to both guide and provide.

In 1657, “If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee” was published in Neumark’s own book of songs, set to a melody he himself had written. The seven stanzas were entitled “A hymn of consolation. That God will care and preserve His own in His own time—based on the saying, ‘Cast Thy burden upon the Lord, and He shall sustain thee’ (Psalm 55:22).”

In later years, Neumark recorded the circumstances of the hymn, saying that his “good fortune, coming suddenly as if it had fallen from heaven, greatly rejoiced me, and on that very day I composed to the honor of my beloved Lord the well-known, hymn, ‘Wer nur den lieben Gott lasst walten.’” (‘He Who Only lets the dear God rule’)

-----*Then Sings My Soul, Book 2, Robert J. Morgan*

Note: In the Lutheran Service Book, the hymn is named “If Thou But Trust in God To Guide Thee”

MARCH 2025 STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

ELDERS

March 2 Matt Anderson
March 5 Dick Dommers (Ash Wednesday)
March 9 Robert Rentschler
March 12 Robert Rentschler (Midweek)
March 16 Dick Dommers
March 19 Dick Dommers (Midweek)
March 23 Matt Anderson
March 26 Dick Dommers (Midweek)
March 30 Robert Rentschler

READERS

March 2 Cheryl Sandenaw & Jill Clark
March 5 Jim & Ruth Wilkes (Ash Wednesday)
March 9 Sandy & Bob Klose
March 12 Jim Wilkes & Susan Kelly (Midweek)
March 16 Cheryl Sandenaw & ????
March 19 Gerald & Gayan Moore (Midweek)
March 23 Larry & Bev Van Duyn
March 26 Ruth & Jim Wilkes (Midweek)
March 30 Cheryl Sandenaw & Susan Kelly

TELLERS

March 2 Nora Sotak & Yvonne
March 5 Cheryl Sandenaw & Linde Van Cleave
(Ash Wednesday)
March 9 Lola Ableidinger & Nora Sotak
March 16 Sandy Klose & Susan Kelly
March 23 Joyce Macon & Bob Klose
March 26 Yvonne Steeby & Becky Worley

HOSTS

March 9 Nora Sotak & Yvonne Steeby
March 16 Bob & Jan Thede
March 23 Irvin Torres & Merry Zumwalt
March 30 Larry & Bev Van Duyn

SOUND TECH

March 2 Vicki Leonard
March 5 Vicki Leonard (Midweek)
March 9 Bob Klose
March 12 Bob Klose (Midweek)
March 16 Matt Anderson
March 19 Matt Anderson (Midweek)
March 23 Jim Kline
March 26 Jim Kline (Midweek)
March 30 Vicki Leonard

USHERS

March 2 Tom Blackmon, Jim Fladhammer
Larry & Bev Van Duyn
March 9 Susan Kelly, Norbert Sanchez
Glen & Christine Schlehuser
March 16 Robert Johnson, Trey Johnson
Bob Thede, Tammy Thede
March 23 Gerald Moore, Bob & Sandy Klose
Irvin Torres
March 30 Volunteers

MARCH FLOWERS

March 2 Larry & Beverly Van Duyn
March 9 Henry & Rosanne Wehmeyer
March 16 Wilma Jaecks
March 23 Jim & Hannah Keeler
March 30 Gerald & Gayan Moore

MARCH ATTENDANCE

Cheryl Sandenaw

MARCH ALTAR COMMITTEE

Christine Schlehuser
Beverly Van Duyn

MUSIC

Michael Cortez



"Really? No additives, preservatives,
or artificial flavoring?"

