



THE TRINITARIAN



THE NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Pastor Donavon W. (Bill) Heithold, Jr.

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Bible Classes and Sunday School 9:00 AM
Divine Service 10:15 AM



JULY 2024 -- VOLUME 62 No. 7

FROM THE PASTOR

Rom. 6:16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness.

This month we celebrate our nation's independence. The people of this nation found that they couldn't be a free people by living under the tyrannical rule of England. There will always be discussions among Christians as we wonder if we broke the command in Romans: Romans 13:2 *Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.*

Yes, those who proclaimed independence from England lost a lot. They knew they could be killed and yet they went on, with the help of God, to stand up to England and form a new nation, one overseen by the Constitution. The Constitution was to be the overriding authority that was to be the document that was to rule over those who are elected to serve the people of this nation.

Independence from England was the goal. That freedom required responsibility on the part of citizens and those voted in to serve.

We as people of this nation talk of freedom but what about being slaves to Christ. That is who we are as Christians. We have been bought with the great price of the shed blood of Jesus. When a person is bought, then their responsibility is to the slave owner. The Jews were told to go about life, planting and harvesting while they were slaves in Babylon. They, even though they were slaves were to continue to live life, to look to the Lord for their lives even while they were benefiting those who had enslaved them.

The Bible may talk of us being slaves to Christ. Being the independent people we like to be, we might think that being a slave to Christ isn't a good thing. We too might get to thinking that we should declare independence from Jesus in order to have independence.

Wait a minute. We did declare independence from God. That independence began in the garden when Eve and Adam decided to break that one law and eat from the tree they were not to eat from. From the moment we were one cell, we were in the independence camp. It wasn't until those baptism waters did the work of drowning the Old Adam and creating a dependent child of God that we were then truly free, free to obey and to be declared righteous because of what Jesus has done.

Celebrate our independence in this nation and our dependence on Jesus He allows us much independence as we bring His Word to those around us who think they are independent of God but are dependent on sin which in the end will be something they will wish they knew.

Happy Independence Day in your dependence on Him.

Pastor

BOARD OF ELDERS

“I Say a Little Prayer”

The opening lyrics to this song by Aretha Franklin are “The moment I wake up, before I put on my makeup, I say a little prayer for you.”

Well, after I wake up, I'm not concerned with my makeup, putting lipstick, eyeliner and blush won't change this face!!

But, I do as many of you, say that prayer to the LORD to guide me through the day and do HIS will. Not what the world dictates, but what HE wants me to do. Do I fail to do HIS will? Of course, but that's why I ask for forgiveness and try to repent for my sins. It is a battle for my soul, between me and satan. We all suffer from the same internal conflict. The little prayers certainly help me to put my fate in the hands of GOD and JESUS CHRIST.

We all can seek GOD's help just by “Saying a little prayer.”

We know prayer works because of our prayer chain that routinely beseeches our LORD to intervene in our lives and the lives of all who need his guidance and care, with astounding results.

We must choose to adhere to GOD's will, follow his commandments, repent of our sins and believe in HIS GRACE to attain SALVATION.

John 3:16 should guide our lives.
Big or little, PRAYER WORKS.

JAMES R. WILKES, ELDER

STEWARDSHIP

PRAYER CHAIN

Pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

The email Prayer Chain at Trinity Lutheran Church is alive and well! We can get 35 people praying for your concerns or praises through the email. To place a prayer request on the prayer chain, call or email one of the ladies below:

Nora Sotak, 434-5247 or 439-7524 or noraricksotak@gmail.com

Diane Kline 909-649-1165 or dkline@pacbell.net

Jan Thede at home 575-921-3696 or rjthede@msn.com

Jan Thede at church 575-437-1482 or tlchurchlcms@yahoo.com

Would you like to be part of this email prayer group? Talk to, call, or email one of these ladies.

So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church. Acts 12:5

Nora Sotak, Stewardship Chair

FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

June 2024

Total Income	\$16,090.09
Ordinary Expenses	<u>(\$14,603.16)</u>
Profit/Loss	(\$ 1,486.03)

YEAR-TO-DATE April 30, 2024

Total Income	\$169,008.74
Ordinary Expenses	<u>(\$ 86,648.50)</u>
Profit/Loss	\$ 88,135.43 due primarily to \$80,500 gift from the Virginia Nielsen estate

Bob Klose, Vice-President

EVANGELISM

Tract of the Month: A Simple Explanation of World Religions – Trusting in Jesus as Lord and Savior, Christians can confidently speak to others about their religious beliefs, understanding the differences while joyfully sharing Jesus' message of salvation for all people. The first step to meaningful conversation is understanding the different worldviews. This guide focuses on the major religions and philosophies of the world that differ from Christianity – Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Judaism, and Islam – and offers a Christian response to aid in your conversations with others.

The mission for July & August is the LCMS Joint Seminary Fund: The LCMS Joint Seminary Fund was established to supplement the Synod subsidy by directly soliciting the church for charitable donations. Gifts to the LCMS Joint Seminary Fund are restricted exclusively to supporting both of our world-class seminaries. Our LCMS seminaries have only three sources of operating revenue: 1) Investment income from endowment, 2) Tuition paid by students after financial aid is awarded (often in the form of student loans), & 3) Financial gifts graciously supplied by God's people.

Cheryl Sandenaw, Evangelism Chair

EDUCATION

The Education Committee had a brief meeting after church to give feedback on this year's Vacation Bible School (VBS). Attendance for this year's VBS ranged from 8 – 15 students and 3 teenage helpers. All the students and helpers had a good time. The volunteers who worked this year's VBS agreed that the curriculum was very good and engaging for the various ages of students we had in attendance. All the students enjoyed the variety of snacks and crafts done each day. The volunteers also liked the idea of combining music as part of the opening. Many compliments were received on the benches that Pastor made for the kids to sit on, both from the children and the adults. Overall all those who participated were pleased with how well it all worked out.

There were a few areas that need to be considered/changed for next year's VBS. They were: put crafts in a separate room from the big room; start putting out the word about VBS in the community earlier, if we have some student who need to be separated to help with group control it needs to be done at the beginning of VBS if possible, and make sure fat pencils (kinder pencils) are purchased for the younger students to use.

A comment was made by Jill Clark that the school district is offering more and more week long camps for the kids during the summer months. It is something that needs to be taken into consideration when planning next year's VBS.

VBS

Thank you to everyone who helped make our VBS a success. Thanks to all for the food and monetary donations. A special thanks to all of the adults and teenagers who gave their time to share God's Word. A special thanks to Jill Clark for volunteering to be the VBS director.

YOUTH ACTIVITY DAYS

Thank you to Abby Anderson for all your hard work with the planning and executing of the two Activity Days for the youth. Abby had 9 kids in attendance in the first activity day and 12 in the second day. We hope to try 2 more activity days this next school year One during the first part of Thanksgiving break and one during the first part of Christmas/winter break. More information to come later.

Susan Kelly, Education Chair

Letter from Pastor Rust of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Ruidoso, NM

NEW PLAN! That's been my phrase each of the days this last week. New needs arise, rain comes, flooding happens...You each have had to make some new plans this last week and will continue to do so in the weeks to come.

NEW PLAN! There are needs. Most of those needs are quick access to funding. There are two ways you can help!

- **General Fire Relief:** These funds will be given to those in our congregation and surrounding community who have lost homes and businesses and have immediate and longterm relief needs. When you send in a check to the church for this fund, please write in the note: General Fire Relief
- **Ruidoso Firefighter Relief:** Four of our Ruidoso Firefighters lost their homes while they were working to save the lives and property of others. Many in the Lincoln County and emergency responders community have reached out to offer help. We need a place for all these funds to go and be distributed from. I offered Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church as a registered 501-c3 to receive those funds, keep track of them and then distribute. The community is being made aware of where to send these funds. If you would like to contribute especially to the firefighters please write in the note: Ruidoso Firefighter Relief.

Blessings to all of you. Be patient with the evacuation orders. The situation with the fire is looking better and better as the work of the fire crews and the rain are a good combination. The rain is also bringing complications of its own with some flooding. The infrastructure in town has been hit hard. Power lines are down. Gas pipes have been broken. Water systems have been contaminated. The parts of town that have infrastructure intact are fragile. Patience is the word of the day, even as much as it grates on me as I long to be with you all again as soon as possible.

The peace of Christ be with you all and I will see you at Immanuel Lutheran in Roswell on Sunday.

In His Love and Service,

Pastor Rust, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Ruidoso

CONGRATULATIONS

Abigail Anderson has been selected as the Alamogordo High School Representative for the Alamogordo School board for the 2024-25 school year. Congratulations Abby! This is Abby's senior year in high school.

Bobby Anderson was offered, and has accepted a music teacher position for Explora Academy in Las Cruces. This is the first year the music will be established at the academy so Bobby will develop the music program for the school. Very exciting Bobby. Bobby has been teaching music in the Alamogordo Public schools for the past 3 and a half years.

PASTOR SCHLAK'S INSTALLATION

Pastor Richard Schlak will be installed as the new Pastor for Ascension Lutheran Church in El Paso, TX. The installation will take place at Ascension (6520 Loma De Cristo Drive, El Paso 79912) at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 20, 2024. Pastor Schlak's previous ministry was as the Director of the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute in El Paso. Everyone is invited to the installation. Pastor Schlak has been our guest pastor here at Trinity many times.

BENEFIT RECITAL

FOR THE



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO

ALL PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT THE
IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM RECOVERY
NEEDS FOR THE PEOPLE AND PLACES
AFFECTED BY THE DEVASTATING WILDFIRES

Jane Anderson, trumpet

Garrett Anderson, organ

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31ST

6:00PM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1505 COLLEGE AVE

ALAMOGORDO, NM

DONATE TO THE
GREATEST NEEDS
IMPACT FUND FOR
LINCOLN & OTERO
HERE:



Page approved for color by the Board of Directors

JULY 2024 STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

ELDERS

July 7 Jim Wilkes
July 14 Matt Anderson
July 21 Matt Anderson
July 28 Jim Wilkes

READERS

July 7 George & Marianne Schweers
July 14 Dick Dommers & Ruth Wilkes
July 21 Gerald & Gayan Moore
July 28 Cheryl Sandenaw & Jill Clark

TELLERS

July 7 Dick Dommers & Merry Zumwalt
July 14 Cheryl Sandenaw & Linde Van Cleave
July 21 Lola Ableidinger & Nora Sotak
July 28 Susan Kelly & Sandy Klose

HOSTS

July 7 Gerald & Gayan Moore
July 14 Robert & Susan Rentschler
July 21 April Rentschler & Cheryl Richey
July 28 Norbert & Rhonda Sanchez

SOUND TECH

July 7 Bob Klose
July 14 Matt Anderson
July 21 Jim Kline
July 28 Vicki Leonard

MUSIC

July 7 Garrett Anderson
July 14 Lola Ableidinger
July 21 Cyndi Heithold
July 28 Lola Ableidinger

JULY ATTENDANCE

Cheryl Sandenaw

JULY ALTAR COMMITTEE

Stacy Johnson
Sandra Krueger

USHERS

July 7 Tom Blackmon, Jim Fladhammer
Larry & Bev Van Duyn
July 14 Abby Anderson, Emily Johnson
Susan Kelly, Norbert Sanchez
July 21 Robert Johnson, Trey Johnson
Bob Thede, Tammy Thede
July 28 Gerald Moore, Bob & Sandy Klose
Irvin Torres

JULY FLOWERS

July 7 Bob & Jan Thede
July 14 Goldie Gressman
July 21 Bob & Jan Thede
July 28 Dick & Cheryl Richey

INDEPENDENCE DAY

By Verna B. Scott

Wer're going to have a picnic
And fish and swim and play.
We're going to see the fireworks
On Independence Day

Everyone is happy
Because our land is free
Our country take a holiday
To show our liberty

I'm glad I have in my life
TWO independence days.
I'm thankful Jesus won me
Free from the devil's ways.

So with the freedom banner
Flying high in our dear land
There also flies another,
For Jesus holds my hand.

Our nation's well-loved emblem
Make us free to worship true.
So freedom Day means lots to me:
I hope it does to you.

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY AMERICA!

