



THE TRINITARIAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Pastor Donavon W. (Bill) Heithold, Jr.

1505 College Avenue
Alamogordo, New Mexico 88310
(575) 437-1482

E-mail: tlchurchlcms@yahoo.com

Website: www.trinityalamogordo.com
Bible Classes and Sunday School 9:00 AM
Divine Service 10:15 AM



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FROM THE PASTOR

Jeremiah. 1:5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

Last month I wrote about how Christians are being persecuted and life seems to mean less and less. As I am writing this article for you, the Senate of the United States voted last night to block the bill that would have required a baby who lived through an abortion and was born, would have required that they would receive medical attention. There shouldn't have been a single senator that would have voted for infanticide by voting against providing medical treatment for an abortion that failed to murder the baby in the womb.

Today we have so much evidence that at conception that the baby is another human being that one would think that there would be no one who would vote against helping a live baby to live and yet the majority of the Senate did not support this bill. How could anyone have a baby, wiggling, crying and in possible need of medical care be left to die?

I pray one day that the people of this nation will rise up and vote out of office those who are so callous towards life. If little ones like these who can't stand up for themselves are treated this way, how much longer will it be that senior citizens who aren't able to take care of themselves are left to die or are aided in their deaths?

It would be good to take some time and send an email or a letter to our two senators who voted to block this bill and ask them how they could vote against a bill that would support a baby who depends on adults to keep them alive, attempted abortion or not. Once that baby exits the womb, it is not a woman's "choice" anymore.

I have a couple DVD copies of a movie about the trial of America's biggest serial killer, Dr. Kermit Gosnell that I have purchased. If anyone would like to see this movie, let me know and you can borrow it to look at it. It stars Dean Cain (Superman) and others. It is a movie that not only tells the story of this abortion doctor but it also tells of how the media establishment didn't want to cover his trial as they didn't want to shine a negative light on this abhorrent practice.

Pastor

ELDERS ARTICLE

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

I have been asked that question hundreds of times over the course of forty three years of living in Alamogordo. For me, it was the infinite wisdom of the USAF that sent me to Holloman AFB. In March, no less, when I blew in on the southwest wind. It is usually March when I get asked the question due to the wind and dust storms that are the hallmark of March weather.

This question came up in our Wednesday morning men's Bible study group. USAF assignment was Tom's response. Ray said it was a chance to continue his civil service career. Dick stated he liked the warm weather, sunshine and less crowded conditions than he experienced in Connecticut. I'm sure there are many other reasons why you are here, born here, brought here by family members or just passing thru on your way to somewhere else and sort of liked the place.

While there are many worldly reasons you are here, there is one overriding reason.

GOD PUT YOU HERE TO FULFILL HIS PLAN FOR YOU.

Your membership at Trinity Lutheran Church is also part of GOD'S plan. Your regular attendance at church, volunteering to do the necessary work of the church, partaking of His Holy Sacraments and living the Faith are integral parts of God's plan.

God's plan also includes your testimony to others about your Faith in God and His

blessed son Jesus Christ. Numerous scriptures tell us to be living examples of our Faith in our daily activities and interactions with others. Ask God to help you lead others to believe in Him.

Pray daily for God to make you an example of His love.

Jim Wilkes, Head Elder

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors met on February 21st. Jim Wilkes, Head Elder, reported that the elders continue reviewing member attendance. They are actively attempting to contact delinquent members to encourage them to return to regular church attendance.

The elders are taking steps to give our organist, Lee Wood, relief when she requests it. They have investigated the possibility of downloading hymnal music played through our sound system from a computer. The music is available through Concordia Publishing House. The Board of Directors will make the final decision on purchasing the software.

The elders asked that they be notified any time you have a need for care, i. e. hospitalized, need transportation, etc.

Vicki Leonard, Financial Secretary, reported total income for January was \$23,163.36. Special fund giving totaled \$6,731.61 leaving a general fund balance of \$16,431.75.

Robyn Luevano, Treasurer, reported that income exceeded expenses in January by \$3,208.50. General Income was \$16,431.75

and Expenses were \$13,223.25.

Cheryl Sandenaw, Bob Lenz project coordinator, reported that contracts have been signed with both the Bob Lenz organization and Alamogordo Public schools. She has secured motel rooms for the group, shown the PowerPoint presentation to the Ministerial Alliance, and produced posters for distribution around town. She has received some response from congregation members to assist with the multitude of tasks still to be done. Please let her know if you can help.

Cindi Anderson, Education Chair, reported: Vicar Andy Perry from Faith Lutheran in Las Cruces asked if we would be able to take 2 additional boys with us to the Higher Things Conference this summer. Faith would pay for their share of the trip. We will start looking at VBS programs this month.

Bob Thede, Trustee Chair, reported that the trustees are working on refinishing several of the interior doors in the church this is an ongoing project. The rekeying of the exterior doors to the church is complete. The professional organ tuner plans to be here early next month to give us an estimate for repair and tuning of our pipe organ.

Juli Bailey, Stewardship Chair, wasn't able to attend the meeting but reported that she had spoken with Lola Ableidinger about how she wanted Daro's donated memorial funds to be used. Out of several options Lola opted to use the funds to upgrade our computers and network system.

The board approved a motion to contract with Francisco Ramirez, CISSP, to upgrade our

computer/network systems using the funds.

Jim Wilkes brought up the issues of locking the entryway doors once worship services have started. After some discussion, the board moved to convene a congregation meeting to revisit the issue. The meeting will be held after church on March 17th.

Bob Klose, President

AFRICA TRAINING TRIP

Pastor Kevin Cramm will once again be returning to Africa to continue to teach students to spread the Good News in all its purity to a people who are desperate to hear the Gospel. Pastor Cramm is asking for donations to help fund the trip. There are some monies left over from last year but with three sites vs one sight to teach and 3x+ students it will take a little more money this year. Be as generous as the Lord leads you to give as he will be training men to bring the Good News to many.

Pastor Cramm's letter detailing the places he will be teaching, as well as a breakdown of the expenses for the trip, is posted on the bulletin board under Africa Training Trip. The estimated total for this trip to Africa is \$6,851. In addition the Lutheran Church in Yambio has asked us if we would donate \$1,500 so they can fix the out house connected to the church. Crossways International has generously offered to supply all their study books and leaders guide, free of charge, a savings to us of about \$1,500. What a great testimony to the support of missionary efforts in Africa.

Thank you for your continued support.
Pastor Cramm

BOB LENZ

Bob Lenz will be here on Monday March 18th!!! That date is swiftly approaching!!! We are in need of people to sign up to help out.

We need 5-8 good prompt people to show up at Chaparral Middle School at 7am on the 18th to help set up the stage. The set-up takes 2 hours. The event will run from 9am to 10am. When it is over the volunteers will need to help tear everything down. That will take an hour. We will then head over to the High School to set it up again at noon. (lunch may be provided) The afternoon event will be from 2pm to 3pm. Once the evening event is over, we will need to tear everything down again.

We are also in need of 12 – 15 people to volunteer to help with the evening event. Volunteers will help as ushers, Merchandise Sales, Compassion Outreach, and also to pray with kids after the event. These volunteers will need to be there at 5:30pm for training and rehearsal. (You will be fed!!!) The doors open at 6:30pm and the event runs from 7pm – 8:30pm.

Finally if anyone has a good speaking voice and isn't afraid to speak in front of large crowds, we need someone to introduce Bob and dismiss the event when it is over. The Bob Lenz organization will provide cards with what you are to say.

Even if you don't volunteer to help, we sure do hope you will show your support by coming to the evening event!! Please contact Cheryl Sandenaw if you have any questions.

BUILD UP

THESSALONIANS 5:11

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER AND BUILD ONE ANOTHER UP, JUST AS YOU ARE DOING.

The church is meant to be a place of unity – that is why it is described as the body of Christ. In order to function well, the body needs every part to be connected and working well together. When there is disunity or factions, the church suffers, as a sick person, unable to operate in a healthy way.

It is Very Important, then, that you belong to a healthy community of believers. It is even more important that you consider yourself a vital part of your church and that you recognize the need to encourage others within, so you can help strengthen the family of God. Again, as healthy muscles are built up and become stronger, so does a church that loves and encourages one another. Do you need to be the one who encourages your body of believers? Surround yourself with encouraging believers and watch your strength increase.

Prayer – Dear Lord in Heaven, Thank You for putting Good Christian people in our lives. I pray that we find ways to encourage each other, and build each other up. Allow us to be uplifted as we encourage others. Amen.

—Submitted by Yvonne Steeby, LWML President

“God proved His love on the cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, ‘I love you.’”

—Billy Graham

“It's spring again, The earth is like a child that knows poems by heart.”

—Ranier Maria Rilke

STATE ON ABORTION

On Jan. 22, 2019, the 46th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion on demand, the governors of both New York and Illinois signed laws to extend and promote abortion.

This is the evolution of humankind in America, said New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo as he signed the Reproductive Health Act into law. In Illinois, Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed an executive order to ensure taxpayer funding of abortions, saying that it would make his state the most progressive in terms of women's reproductive rights. Life, not death, is the goal of humanity. History testifies that death is never the means through which justice and human rights prevail. We do not advance on the graves of our children. Germany, which sought eugenics as the solution to problems, now has strict abortion laws. To defend and support life is the goal of every just government, and the right to life is the hallmark of a good society.

Yet abortion laws have allowed the abortion of more than 61,000,000 children since Roe v. Wade. That's nearly 50 times the number of American soldiers killed in all wars. The abortion industry and its proponents take great lengths to avoid facing the fact that abortion dismembers a living child in a horrid pool of its own blood. This is barbaric.

Abortion is a lie. Science is on the side of life. We shall stand against the barbarism of abortion until our dying breath. Abortion is illogical, as we slaughter babies in the womb while developing ever-better care for other unborn

children. Abortion contradicts the natural law written on human hearts that teaches us it is wrong to kill. Lawmakers and bureaucrats in our country have become emboldened to force citizens to go against their conscience. People publicly celebrate laws that lead to the deaths of children. How long, O Lord, how long?

Our Christian faith teaches us to value life and to love each and every person as our neighbor. Love is life, and life is the great gift of love. Death is our natural enemy. This can be seen in our lives and in our world each day. Even the birds that seek food in winter testify that life is the goal of their movements and their work. The flowers that grow toward the sun seek the light that enlivens them. We all live under God, who grants life to His whole creation.

And in the giving of His Son to be the Savior, God shows that He is the Lord of life. Jesus came to love. He taught us to love all people, including those whom we consider our enemies. He taught us to unconditionally love every person, even those whom this world considers unworthy of love. Jesus not only taught us to love. He brought healing and wholeness to the broken. He proclaimed peace to those who were troubled. He sat with those who were excluded. He lifted up those who were beaten down. But most of all, He loved through the sacrifice of His own life on the cross. He died to forgive the sins of all humanity. His forgiveness is a free gift for all who trust in Him, including those who suffer from guilt for aborting their child. He rose on the

third day. The resurrection of Jesus is God's grand statement that life is the goal of this creation. The resurrection of Jesus proclaims that all creatures find the goal of their existence in life. Just as God raised Jesus from the dead, so we learn that God treasures life over death. We live as citizens in this world, and we seek to be obedient to our nations laws. We thank God for our leaders and for this great land He has given to us and for its precious freedoms and opportunities. The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod advocates strong citizenship and active participation in government. We obey the laws of our land and encourage those around us to do so. We are, however, bound by our conscience to speak against those laws that are unjust and, especially, those laws that violate God's law and the natural law that binds all mankind. Abortion and other means through which humans kill humans violate these natural and moral laws that form the foundation of society.

Therefore, we stand against these actions and against all laws that sanction abortion or the taking of innocent life. We cannot stand silent when people elected to positions in which they are to protect citizens continue to pass laws and advocate for legislation that undermines the sanctity of human life. Our conscience is bound by both the Word of God and reason to speak for life as a precious gift of God and to speak against any and all who promote the killing of unborn children. We cannot hide the evil of these laws under the banner of rights or privilege. Childrens lives are at stake. They cannot speak for themselves. We will speak

for them, and we will work to protect their lives. And we will continue to work to love and support the women who face difficult choices or suffer from the consequences of abortion. We support young mothers who have chosen life for their children. We work to provide adoption and other opportunities to care for children in need. And we continue to show God's mercy to all, just as He, in Jesus, has mercy on all. We will work, love and pray that all might know the love of Jesus and trust in Him for salvation. In him was life, and the life was the light of men(John 1:4).

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Prayer

Gracious Father, as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are Your ways higher than our ways and Your thoughts higher than our thoughts. We do not understand the disregard for the work of Your hands and the wanton destruction of human life that has taken place through the atrocity of abortion. Bring an end to abortion, euthanasia and all other legal means to unjustly take life. Instill in Your people love for life as is pleasing in Your sight. Grant wisdom and strength of conviction to those who make, execute and administer our laws, that they might protect the unborn, the aged and all those whom they govern. In Jesus' holy name. Amen.

“The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug.”

—Mark Twain

2019 LENTEN SERIES

BEHOLD THE MAN!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.

. . . The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

—John 1:1–3, 14

“Behold the man!” proclaimed the unwitting preacher Pontius Pilate in one of the shortest, yet most profound, sermons ever recorded. This will be our endeavor this Lententide and Easter Sunday. Behold the man, God in human flesh, Jesus. His incarnation will provide the basis for our meditation and proclamation on His Passion. And His real, bodily suffering and death will provide the basis for our full-throated proclamation on Easter morning of a bodily resurrection, not just of Jesus but also for His saints. Real bodies that have suffered, wept, bled, prayed, eaten, hoped, and more will be those raised incorruptible from their graves on the day of Jesus’ return.

We will fix our eyes and our preaching on the man Jesus, contemplating the inescapable fact—indeed the most important fact in the course of human history—that God became man. The Second Person of the eternal, triune God, who we confess in the Nicene Creed as “God of God, Light of light, very God of very God . . . of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made,” became a living, breathing, flesh-and-blood human being, a man.

In some ways, you can understand that the first heresy the Christian Church had to contend with was that of Gnosticism, the hyper-spiritual religion that held that because no man could be God, the Christ could not be God. Gnosticism is alluring because it tidies everything up, gives Christianity a more attractive, spiritual veneer, and pulls its adherents out of the mire of this world and gives them something other-worldly to strive for.

Considered correctly, it becomes pretty hard to spiritualize Christianity—a religion that bases its existence on the enfleshment, the incarnation, of her God—into the mess of disembodied, matter-rejecting, hyper-spiritual Gnosticism. When God has flesh and blood, skin and teeth, cells and nuclei, DNA and RNA, it’s difficult to contend for the disembodied spiritual against the material. If God has a body, bodies must matter.

In case you aren’t convinced of the pervasiveness of the second-century heresy of Gnosticism, even in our twenty-first-century context, attend a funeral. If you hear talk only of heaven with nary a word of a bodily resurrection, you’ve witnessed firsthand modern-day Gnosticism. If the preacher doesn’t deal with the body in the casket as the real person whose death has assembled the mass of grieving relatives and friends, if he talks only about the bodiless soul in heaven, he hasn’t preached a genuinely Christian funeral. In other words, if he gives preference to the spiritual over the material, he succumbs to the Gnostic heresy the earliest generations of the Church sought to guard against by preaching

the incarnation and resurrection of Jesus.

This Lent, we will consider what it means that God became man. In preparation for the celebration of a real, bodily, flesh-and-blood, bone-and-sinew resurrection, the resurrection without which our faith and our preaching are all in vain, consider the body of Jesus that exists in order to be nailed to a cross. The spiritual, bodyless Son of God became the embodied, enfleshed, incarnate Son of Mary. In Jesus, God has human flesh, a body, just like you. What could be more profound?

Each week, we'll consider a different aspect of the body of Jesus Christ. What does it mean that, in Jesus, God has hands, feet, lungs, lips, eyes, and ears?

Behold the man! In sermon, in study, in devotion, behold the man!

TRUSTEE

We are continuing to replace doors in the church. We have recently replaced Pastor's door and are now working on doors to the Secretary's office, and the Sunday school office. We have rekeyed the entry doors to the church. Thanks to Larry Van Dyne for cleaning up and re-working the locks so that they all lock and unlock easily. Thirty-one of the new keys have been given out. The organ tuner that we have contacted plans to be in Albuquerque in April. He plans to come to our church to check out our organ on Apr 7 or 8.

Bob Thede, Trustee Chairman

TRINITY YOUTH GROUP ST PATRICK'S DAY POTATO BAR LUNCH!

The Youth Group will be hosting a Potato Bar Lunch fundraiser after church on St Patrick's Day, March 17. The menu includes delicious baked potatoes with all the trimmings: brisket, chili, cheese, broccoli, bacon and more! Be sure to mark your calendar to be there! Donations will be used for the Youth to attend the Higher Things Youth Conference in Irvine, CA this summer. The youth appreciate your donations.

YOUTH WATER FUNDRAISING EVENT

Are you thirsty? Would you like some nice cool water? We have got what you need. The Youth Group is now selling bottles of water out of the refrigerator (middle shelf) in the kitchen for \$.50. Just take a bottle and leave your money in the can in front of the bottles. Thanks!

MARCH/APRIL YOUTH ACTIVITIES

March 16, 9:00 am—Meet at church to set up for the Potato Bar Lunch

March 17 after church—St Patrick's Day Potato Bar Lunch

April 6, 3:00 pm—Bowling at the Family Fun Center

April 20, 9:00 am—Meet at church to set up for Easter Breakfast

April 21 between Easter services—Youth hosted Easter Breakfast

Cindi Anderson, Education chair

Jill Clark

Stacy Johnson

LWML

Paint the Planet Purple – What does this mean?



The official colors of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League are purple and gold. Purple, symbolizes royalty, and gold symbolizes

value and integrity. The vision of the LWML is to recognize that each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God given gifts as she supports global mission and serves the Lord with Gladness. When you use your gifts to serve God, "Jesus' Love in Action," you are spreading the word of Christ around the world. You are painting the planet purple!

March Mission Project - LWML challenges the congregation to bring in cans of coffee to be donated to our local homeless ministry – Chris King International Ministries. (They gave a presentation in the Great Room a few months ago.) The project is titled "Grounds for Grace" – in a literal sense (coffee grounds) and a figurative sense (God's grace comes only through His abounding love).

Our next Society LWML Meeting will be held Saturday, March 9, at 10 a.m. here at Trinity. Hope to see you there. Mission Project: Love Box Sign-Up.

\$5.00 MITE CHALLENGE: If every LWML Member donates just \$5.00 between now and

March 31, 2019 we can reach the Mission Goal. Remember ALL Women of Trinity are considered members of LWML. **DONATE NOW** Lutheran Women's Missionary League, 801 Seminary Place, Ste. L010, St. Louis, MO 63105

SAVE THE DATE-LWML Spring Workshop will be held Saturday, March 23, 9am—2pm at Ascension Lutheran Church in El Paso, TX. There will be a signup sheet on the Narthex bulletin board for those interested in carpooling. We will share in a Bible Study by Jill Clark, Zone President. Our Servant Activity will be marking Bibles to be distributed to prisons and immigration detention centers by Ysleta. Lunch will be provided, along with fellowship.

Yvonne Steeby,
LWML President

LWML MISSION TABLE

Thanks to our generous Church family we were able to send \$350 to Ysleta Lutheran Mission for the last quarter of 2018. That brought the total for the year to \$1,250. Your continued support for this project is greatly appreciated. Thanks again, Wilma Jaecks.

MISSION SUNDAY

Mission Sunday is the third Sunday of each month. The mission for March and April 2019 is for the Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute is at the Ysleta Missionary in El Paso.

LONG-TERM PRAYERS

Eric Bell, **Lois Babcock**, Caitlin Boverie, Pam Cerny,
Red Chesbro, Mike Debaar, **Valerie English**,
Renee Gocis, Pastor Timothy Green,
**Don Gressman, Gene & Eldeen Humphrey, Kristie
& John Humphrey**, Rhonda Jones, Hunter Landt,
Ty Landt, Myron Marquardt, Emericio Mutis,
Robbie Nowell, Cindy Oberling, Mary Palmos, Alex
Pearson, Margaret Romero, Justin Salmon,
Nanci Sanders, **Ila Schelter**, Carol Schultz, Jessie
Sharette, Lynne Skinner, William Stewart, Austin
Tice, **David Townsend**, Marea Turnbul,
Eric Van Horn, Vertein family,

MARCH FLOWERS

March 3 Terry Marquardt
March 10 Darrell & Sheila Anderson
March 17 Susan Weitzel
March 24 Henry & Rosanne Wehmeyer
March 31 Gerald & Gayan Moore

HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

Saturday, April 6th—Just a heads up that we will have a highway clean up on Saturday, April 6th. We'll meet at 10:00 a.m. just west of White Sands National Monument at mile marker 199 where Trinity's sign is. The standard instructions apply: Wear long pants, a hat, and sturdy shoes. Have water and gloves. If we get enough people there, the clean up won't take very long. Any questions or concerns, see Hannah Keeler. Thanks!



“Don't worry. I'm a church pastor. First little problem, and they'll find me.”

March 2019 STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

ELDERS

March 3 Robert Rentschler
March 6 Ray Bailey Ash Wednesday)
March 10 Matt Clark
March 13 Matt Clark (Wed Lent)
March 17 Robert Rentschler
March 20 Robert Rentschler (Wed Lent)
March 24 Jim Wilkes
March 27 Jim Wilkes(Wed Lent)
March 31 Jim Wilkes

ACOLYTES

March 3 Reilly Quinn
March 6 Zac Sanchez (Ash Wednesday)
March 10 Morgan Sebring
March 13 Abby Anderson (Wed Lent)
March 17 EmmaLee Kommer
March 20 Miriam Collins (Wed Lent)
March 24 Emily Johnson
March 27 Reilly Quinn (Wed Lent)
March 31 Zac Sanchez

USHERS

March 3 Tom Blackmon, Susan Weitzel
Larry & Beverly Van Duyn,
March 10 Matt Anderson, Marvin Bunker,
John Marquardt
March 17 Ben Clark, Trey Johnson
Robert Johnson, Ray Krueger
March 24 Bob Klose, Sandy Klose,
Gerald Moore

HOSTS

March 3 Robert & Susan Rentschler
March 10 George & Marianne Schweers
March 17 Cheryl & Coleen Sandenaw
March 24 Jerry & Jennifer Sebring
March 31 Youth

READERS

March 3 Beverly & Larry Van Duyn
March 6 Shirley Enyeart & Susan Weitzel
(Ash Wednesday)
March 10 Ben Clark & Lewis Thomas
March 13 Yvonne Steeby & Dick Dommers
(Wed Lent)
March 17 Lola Ableidinger & Susan Kelley
March 20 Cheryl Richey & Mary Leslie
Schmitt (Wed Lent)
March 24 Louis Mauriot & Matt Anderson
March 27 Cheryl Sandenaw & Hannah
Keeler (Wed Lent)
March 31 Youth

TELLERS

March 3 Megan Bowman & Bob Klose
March 6 Cheryl Sandenaw & Linde Van
Cleave (Ash Wednesday)
March 10 Shirley Enyeart & Pete Simank
March 13 Nora Sotak & Kelly Thomas
(Wed Lent)
March 17 Lola Ableidinger & Joyce Macon
March 20 Sandy Klose & Yvonne Steeby
(Wed Lent)
March 24 Megan Bowman & Bob Klose
March 27 Suse Lehmann & Robyn Levano
(Wed Lent)
March 31 Cheryl Sandenaw
Linde Van Cleave

MARCH ATTENDANCE SHEETS

Cheryl Sandenaw

MARCH ALTAR COMMITTEE

Belinda Burmeister
Hannah Keeler