



Joy Comes in the Morning:
Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 20, 2025

THE TRINITARIAN



THE NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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FROM THE PASTOR

Romans 5:6-8 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

This month we get to celebrate Easter, the day Jesus rose from the grave alive contrary to those who don't think a dead person can come back to life. With man it is impossible but with God all things are possible.

We look to this day every year as we even celebrate it weekly when we come to His house to hear from Him, His forgiveness and His hope for the future. We understand that Jesus is present with us and as He has now ascended bodily to heaven we look forward to the day we will get to be with Him forever.

We look anxiously for Easter but in the meantime, we are in Lent, focusing on our sins and our need for forgiveness. This year we have been looking at the hands of Jesus that did so many things for people as He used His human hands and His Word to do miraculous things for people in need.

As we look to Easter and the celebration and joy of knowing how much Jesus loved us, we once again will see that empty tomb as an encouragement to us as we deal with a world that may not have our best interests in mind but we have a God who always is looking out for us no matter what we might be going through or are challenged by what we are facing in our lives.

As we look to Easter, I don't think we will have to worry too much about wearing heavy coats out in the front yard this year, but as we look to the rising sun, we too can look to the Son who rose from that tomb and later ascended to be our go between with our Father in heaven.

Pastor

BOARD OF ELDERS

Our religious liberties and indeed, our faith, are continually under attack. During the COVID crisis, this was openly evident.

Religious freedom laws that have been in place for decades constantly come under attack and are always subject to repeal or serious revision that remove their protections.

Disturbing are the continuing stories of Christians around the world suffering torture and death for their faith. News stories like this make us angry and the nature of our human character makes us want to fight back. But, as Christians, how do we fight?

First, and most importantly, we must pray continuously. We have the greatest ally in our struggle, in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Through His Word, we know that His kingdom will ultimately triumph.

Asking for His help and guidance in combating the issues that secular society and government has put up against us is appropriate. And we can be certain our prayers will be heard and answered. Jesus said, "And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive". (Matthew 21:22) Our prayers should include our public officials. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

Secondly, we can best further our cause by showing love to those who oppose us. As difficult as it must be to express love for someone who is ready to slay us for our faith, Jesus' example on the cross in forgiving his executioners is our guidance. In most of the matters we will face in our society, the issues will be much easier to debate, and our forbearance and love toward those we oppose, while sticking to our spiritual principles, is the best way to fight.

Lastly, we in the church must work together to address the public policies that go against our faith. The collective voice of Christians will be heard regarding the rights granted to us by the founders of this great nation. It is a fight we cannot ignore and a fight we must win.

Dick Dommers, Elder

LWML

The LWML had a business meeting on Saturday, March 8th. The meeting was hosted by Wilma Jaecks and Hannah Keeler. Cheryl Richey conducted the meeting. A Bible study titled "What an Opportunity!" took a different approach of "giving" something up for Lent and instead using this time to add something good to our lives. Examples given: 1. Write a note to someone to thank them or let them know you are praying for them, 2. Read a different Psalm for 40 days, 3. Get up 15 minutes early and spend time with God, 4. Do an act of kindness each day. Many projects were discussed including the Spring Rally, the Mailbox program, the Stoles for South Sudan, and several others.

The stoles were displayed in the church during services last Sunday. Many hands helped in the process and now it is time to get them to Sudan. If you are wanting to donate towards this effort please contact Chris Schlehuser as they want the stoles to reach Sudan for graduation. This started as a vision from Pastor Cramm.

Saturday March 29th was the Spring Rally at Ascension Lutheran Church in El Paso. Six of our ladies along with Pastor Heithold attended. We collected coats and toys for children at Ysleta ages 5-12. Thank you to all who donated! The items will be greatly appreciated.

On Saturday April 12th we will begin our meeting a little early at 930 am so we can assemble our purses for COPE. We will have a speaker from COPE and give them the purses at this time. The purses contain female toiletry/personal items that they might not have time to grab when they leave home. The list of items needed is on the bulletin board. Bev Van Duyn and Nora Sotak are the hostesses. We will be also be having our elections on the 12th of April. Positions for election are Vice President and Secretary. Nora Sotak has agreed to run for Secretary and Yvonne Steeby for Vice President.

All ladies of the congregation are welcome to join us.

Vicki Leonard, President

HOLY WEEK and EASTER SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday and Sunday of the Passion, April 13th

10:15 A.M. Divine Worship with Communion

Maundy Thursday, April 18th

7:00 P.M. Maundy Thursday Service with Communion

Good Friday, April 18th

7:00 P.M. Good Friday Service

The Resurrection of Our Lord Easter Day, April 20th

7:30 A.M. Easter SonRise Service, outside weather permitting

8:15 A.M. Easter breakfast

10:15 A.M. Easter Divine Service (no communion)

Easter Goodie bags will be handed out to the children following the worship service.

DEAR TRINITY ALAMOGORDO

Thank you all so much for your generous support in funding my final colloquy classes This program has deepened my understanding of theology, church music, and its application in both the worship service and the classroom. I am incredibly blessed to have your encouragement and I look forward to where God takes me in my vocation. Thanks again and God bless you all!

Your brother in Christ!
Garrett Anderson

LITURGICAL COLORS AND THE SYMBOLS USED ON THE PASTORAL STOLES

Stoles were made by Trinity LWML for 19 Seminary Students at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Sudan and Sudan

White – Christmas and Easter, Birth and Resurrection

Red – Pentecost, Christ's sacrifice on the cross

Green – Epiphany and Trinity, a time of growth and renewal

Purple – Lent, a time of penitence and preparation for Easter

Blue – Advent, looking forward with Hope, the coming of our Savior

WHITE: purity, light, glory, joy.

CHRISTMAS

Budded Cross: This cross features three circular lobes at each end of its crosspieces, symbolizing the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Manger: The manger's most apparent symbolism lies in its portrayal of humility and simplicity. As a feeding trough for animals, it is a humble and unassuming object. Yet, it was this simple structure that cradled the newborn Jesus. *Luke 2:7*

Star: A star particularly the eight-pointed stylized Star of Bethlehem, is a central symbol in Christianity, representing divine guidance, hope, and the revelation of Christ. It connects to themes of light overcoming darkness, God's faithfulness, and the human search for meaning. *Matt. 2:1-2*

EASTER

Chi Rho: is a combination of the two initials of Christ in Greek. It was in use during the persecution of early Christians.

Alpha and Omega: The alpha and omega are symbols of the eternal nature of God, along with God's omnipotence. The alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet, while the omega is the last. The two letters are layered on top of one another to symbolize the beginning to end relationship. The bible references the alpha and omega in the Book of Revelation: *"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."* *Rev. 21:6*

RED: God's love, blood, fire

PENTECOST

FIRE: Fire is a central tenet of the **Pentecost story and focuses on the disciples' enlightenment through the Holy Spirit** and inner fire, symbolized by the tongues of fire above the heads of the disciples, which led them to proclaim the Good News with enthusiasm. **Acts 2:2-4**

DOVE: The dove represents the Holy Spirit. *Mark 1:10*

Candles: *Candles represent Jesus as the light of the world. Again Jesus spoke to them saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12 The four candles represent love, hope, joy, and peace.*

STAR: The New Testament Star shines as a beacon to announce the birth of Jesus Christ. (*Matthew 2:1-12*)

GREEN: life, and growth

Epiphany/Trinity

Overlapping fish in a circle: The three overlapping fish symbolize the idea of the Trinity - God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The circle is everlasting, God with no beginning and no end. The early Christians used the fish symbol as a means of identifying themselves to one another as Christian.

Dove on Cross: The dove represents the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus like a dove when He was baptized in the Jordan River. *Mark 1:10* The cross reminds us of Jesus sacrifice. *Matt. 27:32-35*

PURPLE: penance, sacrifice, preparation

LENT

Palm Branch: The palm branch is used to represent Christ's triumph over death. Palms are a symbol to commemorate Christ's triumphant return to Jerusalem. *Matt 21:8*

Latin Cross: The Latin cross is traditionally accepted shape of the structure upon which [Jesus Christ](#) was [crucified](#). *Matt. 27:32-35*

Lamb: In the Old Testament, the lamb is a common sacrificial animal. In the New Testament, John the Baptist himself refers to Jesus as the 'Lamb of God' (*John 1:29*). Jesus is seen as the Lamb of God who sacrifices himself for the sins of man in unconditional love.

BLUE: hope

ADVENT



EVANGELISM

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

Tract of the Month: “A Simple Explanation of Lutheranism ...There are over four thousand different religions in the world, with Christianity being just one of them. Within Christianity there are over fifty different denominations in the United States alone, with Lutheranism being just one of them. So, what makes Lutheranism different?

In this edition of *A Simple Explanations* series, learn what it means to be a Lutheran Christian. Answer questions about the basic Lutheran beliefs, the ninety-five thesis, the person of Martin Luther, Luther’s Rose, VDMA, and more in easy-to-understand language.” **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:*
- * *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.*
- * *PARTNER....with individuals, congregations and other organizations to extend Christian outreach among Hispanics*
- * *MULTIPLY...Hispanic missions throughout the US and beyond to fulfill the Lord’s Great Commission (Mt. 28:18-20).*
- * *NURTURE...new and existing workers and ministries in response to His Great Commandment (Mt. 22:37-40)*
- * *HONOR AND SUPPORT...Hispanic ministry efforts in either English or Spanish or both.*

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

In Closing... Jesus says in Acts 1:8: But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Yours in Christ,
Merry Zumwalt, Evangelism Chairman

EDUCATION

The Education Committee met On Monday, March 3rd at 5:00pm with four members present. The first item of business was working out the details of the St. Patrick's Day Potato Bar to be held after church on Sunday, March 16th. It was decided the Education Committee would provide drinks and baked potatoes. A sign-up sheet would be put up on the Education Bulletin Board for the congregation to sign-up for what potato toppings they would be willing to provide. Another sign-up sheet would be put up for the names and number of family members that would be attending. Cindi Anderson volunteered to make posters to put up around the church. Sue Kelly volunteered to purchase the potatoes. Cindi volunteered to cook all the potatoes in her smoker and bring them to church. The committee decided to postpone the BINGO game until the next quarter's fellowship activity.

The second item discussed was the Easter Breakfast and Children's Easter Egg Hunt to be held on Easter Sunday, April 20th. Cindi Anderson volunteered to oversee the Easter Breakfast, and a sign-up sheet will be put up for members of the congregation to volunteer to donate food items for Easter breakfast held between the Sunrise Service and the Regular Service. Suggestions: breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit, and muffins, breads or coffee cakes. Drinks will be provided by the Education Committee. The sign-up sheets will be put on the Education Bulletin Board by the first Sunday in April. The committee decided not to have an Easter Egg Hunt after the 10:15 am service but pass out Easter goodie bags to any children in attendance after the service. The bags, books, and another little toy will be purchased by the Education Committee. The congregation will be asked to donate candy for the bags.

The last item discussed was Vacation Bible School (VBS). It was suggested to have the topic brought up at the next Board of Directors meeting to get their input on whether we should have it this summer or not. Materials have been purchased, but they can be used next year.

The next Education Committee will be held after church on Sunday, April 6th in the library. The topics to be discussed at the next meeting will be ideas for the next three quarterly Congregational Fellowship Activities. Please feel free to come and share your ideas.

Susan Kelly, Education Chair

THE HAND OF THE LORD LENTEN SERIES

MIDWEEK 5

All things are in the hands of Jesus. There is no authority that is above Him, and He will continue to exercise that authority for us until the end of the age. Salvation itself is in the hands of Jesus. As we have seen throughout this series, Jesus continues to use those hands for our good and, above all, for our salvation. He has given that authority to the church for the sake of making disciples by baptizing and teaching. As we prepare to enter into Holy Week, we see the specific ways that those hands, into which the Father has given all things, have worked forgiveness, life, and salvation.

HOLY (MAUNDY)THURSDAY

Christ, seeing that all things were in His hands, chose to use them to serve His disciples (John 13:3). Taking the form of a servant, He took their dirty feet into His hands and washed them. Above all, He served His disciples by feeding them. He took bread and wine into His pure and holy hands, blessed them, and then gave us so much more: His very body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith.

GOOD FRIDAY

The Lord's hands, feet, and side were pierced for our transgressions. The hands that the Lord used to show compassion, lift up those who were afflicted, and bless the poor in spirit were pierced by nails driven into a cross, all for us. It is here on the cross where our Lord's outstretched hands show the heart of His compassion for us. On the cross, our Lord's outstretched hands show the heart of His compassion for us. By the mere sight alone, one would have to wonder how Jesus could do anything with His hands nailed to the cross. However, these are not just any hands. They are the hands of the Son of God, who has atoned for the sins of the world.

GOOD FRIDAY

The hand of the Lord is at work in all of creation, and all things were made through Jesus. On Good Friday, the lifeless body of our Lord was received into the hands of Joseph of Arimathea, who wrapped it and placed it in a new tomb. Pilate tried his best to secure the tomb that contained the hands of our Lord at rest. Just as on the Sabbath of creation, Christ rested from all the work that He had done—this time, work done on the cross to forgive and redeem us. Holy Saturday is not the end of the Lord's handiwork. A new day of creation is coming on Sunday, the first day of the week. Even on this day of rest, the Lord is calling us to trust that all things are in His hands.

EASTER VIGIL

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EASTER

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! When the women came to His tomb, carrying spices in their hands, they expected to find a dead body. However, they found a stone rolled away and angels proclaiming that Christ lives. Oh, how their sorrow turned to joy! It was necessary for Jesus to be delivered into the hands of the sinful men. He is not to be found in the place of death, and soon He will meet His disciples, all as He said. David knew this joy nearly a thousand years before Christ's resurrection. Jesus is the one who did not see corruption in the tomb and fulfills these words: "You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11). Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

APRIL 2025 STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

ELDERS

April 2 Robert Rentschler (Midweek 4)
April 6 Allen Burmeister
April 9 Dick Dommers (Midweek 5)
April 13 Matt Anderson
April 17 Dick Dommers (Maundy Thurs)
April 18 Dick Dommers (Good Friday)
April 20 Robert Rentschler (Easter)
April 27 Allen Burmeister

READERS

April 2 Sandy Klose & Ruth Wilkes (Wed Lent)
April 6 George & Marianne Schweers
April 9 Dick Dommers (Wed Lent)
April 13 Jill & Matt Clark
April 17 Jim & Ruth Wilkes (Maundy Thurs)
April 18 Gerald & Gayan Moore (Good Friday)
April 20 Bob & Sandy Klose (Easter)
April 27 Cheryl Sandenaw & Ruth Wilkes

TELLERS

April 6 Juli Bailey & Vicki Leonard
April 13 Lola Ableidinger & Nora Sotak
April 17 Cheryl Sandenaw & Linde Van Cleave
(Maundy Thurs)
April 18 Dick Dommers & Merry Zumwalt
(Good Friday)
April 20 Sue Kelly & Sandy Klose (Easter)
April 27 Bob Klose & Joyce Macon

HOSTS

April 6 Dick & Jan Dommers
April 13 Benjamin Clark & Jennifer Davis
April 20 Roy & Linde Van Cleave (Easter)
April 27 Ruth & Jim Wilkes

APRIL FLOWERS

April 6 Marvin & Joyce Bunker
April 13 Bob & Jan Thede
April 20 Rick & Nora Sotak
April 27 Robert & Susan Rentschler

APRIL ATTENDANCE

Diane Kline

APRIL ALTAR COMMITTEE

Gayan Moore
Hannah Keeler

USHERS

April 6 Tom Blackmon, Jim Fladhammer
Larry & Beverly Van Duyn
April 13 Susan Kelly, Norbert Sanchez
Glen & Chris Schlehuser
April 20 Robert Johnson, Trey Johnson
Bob Thede, Tammy Thede
April 27 Gerald Moore, Bob & Sandy Klose
Irvin Torres

SOUND

April 2 Vicki Leonard (Midweek Lent)
April 6 Bob Klose
April 9 Bob Klose (Midweek Lent)
April 13 Matt Anderson
April 17 Matt Anderson (Maundy Thursday)
April 18 Jim Kline (Good Friday)
April 20 Jim Kline Easter Sunday
April 27 Vicki Leonard

“My Easter Dove”

There came a dove, an Easter dove,
when morning stars grew dim;
It fluttered round my lattice bars,
to chant a matin hymn.

It brought a lily in its beak,
aglow with dewy sheen;
I caught the strain, the incense breathed,
and uttered praise between.

It brought a shrine of holy thoughts
to calm my soul that day;
I caught the meaning of the note,
why did it fly away?

Come peaceful dove, sweet Easter dove!
Above earth's storm and strife,
sing of the joy of Easter-tide,
of light and hope and life.

—Henrietta Cordelia Ray (1849-1916)