

# 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: <u>tlchurchlcms@yahoo.com</u> Website: <u>www.tlcalamogordo</u>. ible Classes and Sunday School 9:00 A



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

**December 2018** 

# VOLUME 55 No. 12

# FROM THE PASTOR

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water. John 4:10

We all like gifts and yet if it is an ugly sweater, we may not place it in a prominate place in the closet but it may only see the light of day when we are competing with other sweater wearers. We would sooner get a gift that fits well with the life we live.

This month there we be all sorts of thought given to gifts that a person will use and "fits" them. There will be a chance to take from the tree and purchase gifts that will help others enjoy the season and let others know we care about them.

Jesus asked for a drink of water. We might say that isn't much but if you are thirsty and have been for awhile, especially if it is hot outside, a cool glass of water is hard to beat.

Jesus asked but being a Jew and she a Samaritan, she knew that to grant His wish, was not the thing to do. Yet, here is Jesus saying it was OK to supply a drink but she should have gone all out and asked for the world in a sense. His was a gift for her, not that she earned it but a free gift that was hers, that was greater than any other gift she could have ever received.

We will give and get gifts but how many times do we think of the greatest gift? Yes, we would say that Jesus dying on the cross for our sins and then rising to eternal life, inviting us to come along is the greatest gift, so what about His birth vs. His death?

We will celebrate His birth in a few weeks. Birth, anexciting time, a birth that changes a family in so many ways and yet this birth not only changed the world for Joseph and Mary but this birth was one who was going to live that perfect life demanded by God, doing His will.

The gift of God to Mary and Joseph was a gift that would cause the rising and falling of many and yet for them was a gift that not only would be a gift for them but even for each of us. This gift would provide life, a living water for the world.

It is great that we can give gifts, remembering the greatest gift of a baby who wouldn't stay a baby but would grow up and take on sin and win. What a gift for us and for all those who are looking for a gift this time of year. Pastor

	<b></b>
<b>ELDER'S ARTICLE</b> What were you thankful for on this past Thanksgiving? Family and friends, the bountiful feast you all enjoyed or just the fact you woke up to enjoy another day. For those of us that are "Along in Years", who recognize that we have more yesterdays than tomorrows, seeing the sun again should be the best reason to be thankful.	your sins and have FAITH in GOD. James R. Wilkes Elder
We should be thankful for opportunity to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. We are reminded that his birth and ultimate death on the cross is the reason that we will have eternal life. Our faith in his gift of eternal life to us all should be the basis of our faith in his ability to answer our prayers.	Dick Dommers, Head Elder, reported that the elders reviewed member attendance. There are still several members who have not attended recently and need elder follow-up. One member received a letter. Two others will get letters asking their intent.
Each day, we have opportunities to seek his guidance through prayer. And those opportunities don't have to be for us personally. They can be for the health of a friend, or loved one, safe travel for those who are embarking on a trip or about everything in our daily lives. We know that God answers our prayers. This is graphically evidenced by the prayers offered for Pastor Moon and his family. His doctors have attributed the improvement in his health to the power of prayer. They can't medically explain it. If that isn't living proof of the power of prayer to ask God to heal, then what is? So what is the message? PRAY to our heavenly Father and his son Jesus Christ	Robyn Luevano, Treasurer, reported that income exceeded expenses in October by \$2,923.04. General Income was \$17,209.05 and Expenses were \$(\$14,286.01). Year-to- date we've received \$169,423.66 and had

The Nativity shown on the front cover of this newsletter was made by Berlinda Burmeister. It is displayed on one of the walls in the Great Room. Check it out. It's beautiful.
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### EVANGELISM

Have you ever wondered how the Jehovah's witnesses were founded or what they truly believe? Have you ever wondered what you should say to them when they come to your door? If so, then the December Tract of the Month is for you! "<u>The Jehovah's Witnesses</u>" is *very* interesting. I encourage everyone to read it.

**Bob Lenz** – I am still waiting for the contract to come from the Bob Lenz organization. Once it arrives, we will sign it and send them their money. In the meantime I have begun work on the PowerPoint presentation that we will be presenting to local church youth groups, pizza shop owners, etc. Since I don't participate in social media, we are needing someone that is familiar with social media to help us get the word out via social media. Please contact me to let me know if you're interested in helping out with this.

**4th Quarter Mission** – December is the last month for our 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Mission which the LCMS Joint Seminary Fund. Mission Sundays are always on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, but you can give to the mission anytime during this quarter.

**Missions for 2019** – The missions the congregation has chosen to support in 2019 are:

(YLM) Ysleta Lutheran Mission Care, El Paso with 24 votes(LHMI) Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute, El Paso with 23 votes

LCMS Disaster Response with 16 votes

- BOLM (Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission/ Pastor Naeem) with 16 votes
- LCMS Seminary Student Financial Aid Fund with 13 votes
- New Mexico Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries with 12 votes

Coming close behind was the Lutheran Indian Ministries with 11 votes and Laborers for Christ with 10 votes. All the other missions had less than 10 votes.

**Ysletta Mission Care** – It has come to my attention that Ysletta is suffering from some financial short-falls and hardships. I would like to encourage everyone to consider giving an extra donation to Ysletta over the next month or two. You can put it in the offering plate. Be sure to designate it for Ysletta.

In closing I would like to thank this congregation for all the support you have given me as your Evangelism Chairman the past 4 years. I have enjoyed the job and it has been an honor to serve.

Yours in Christ,

Cheryl Sandenaw, Evangelism Chairman

Garrett Anderson, son of Matt & Cindi Anderson, was selected by the Honors Committee to perform in this semester's Honors Recital on Sunday evening, 7:30 pm., Dec. 2nd. Garrett is also playing with the Las Cruces Symphony on Saturday evening, Dec. 1st and on Sunday, Dec. 2nd at 3:00.

ADVENT WREATH	Each week of Advent on Sunday, a particular
Learn the Symbolism, History, and Customs of the Advent Wreath. By Mary Fairchild Updated December 12, 2017 Advent isthe season when Christians make	Advent candle is lit. Catholic tradition states that the four candles, representing the four weeks of Advent, each stand for one thousand years, to total the 4,000 years from the time of <i>Adam</i> and <i>Eve</i> until the <i>birth of the Savior</i> .
spiritual preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas. Celebrating with an Advent wreath is a meaningful custom in many Christian traditions.	<b>PROPHECY CANDLE</b> On the first Sunday of Advent, the first purple candle is lit. This candle is typically called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the
HISTORY OF THE ADVENT WREATH The Advent wreath is a circular garland of evergreen branches representing <i>eternity.</i> On that wreath, four or five candles are typically arranged. During the <i>season of</i> <i>Advent,</i> one candle on the wreath is lit each Sunday as a part of the Advent services. Each candle represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord, <i>Jesus Christ.</i> The lighting of an Advent wreath is a custom that began in 16th century Germany among <i>Lutherans</i> and <i>Catholics.</i> In Western Christianity, Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, or the Sunday which falls closest to November 30, and lasts through Christmas Eve, or December 24.	<ul> <li>prophets, primarily <i>Isaiah</i>, who foretold the <i>birth</i> of <i>Christ:</i> <ul> <li>Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and will call Him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14, NIV)</li> </ul> </li> <li>The first candle represents hope or expectation in anticipation of the coming Messiah.</li> <li><b>BETHLEHEM CANDLE</b> On the second Sunday of Advent, the second purple candle is lit. This candle typically represents <i>love</i>. Some traditions call this the <i>"Bethlehem</i> Candle." symbolizing Christ's manger: <ul> <li>"This will be a sign to you: You will find a</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>SYMBOLISM OF THE ADVENT WREATH</b> <b>CANDLES</b> Set on the branches of the Advent wreath are <i>four candles:</i> three purple candles and one pink candle. A more modern tradition is to place a white candle in the center of Wreath. As a whole, these candles represent the coming of the <i>light of Christ</i> into the world.	On the third Sunday of Advent the pink, or rose-colored candle is lit. This pink candle is customarily called the "Shepherds Candle," and it represents joy:

appeared to them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord. (Luke 2:8-11, NIV).

# ANGELS CANDLE

The fourth and last candle, often called the <u>Angels Candle,</u>" represents peace and is lit on the fourth Sunday of Advent.

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests." (Luke 2:13-14, NIV)

# CHRIST CANDLE

On Christmas Eve, the white center candle is lit. This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ that has come into the world. The color white represents purity. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Savior. Those who receive Christ as the Savior are washed of their sins and *made whiter than snow*.

"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow. Though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." (Isaiah 1:18, NIV)

ADVENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES Celebrating with an Advent wreath during the weeks before Christmas is an excellent way for *Christian families* to *keep Christ at the center of Christmas,* and for parents to teach their children the *true meaning of Christmas.* 

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# 2018 ADVENT SERVICES

LO! HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING

December 5 – Midweek Advent 1 "Our Two-Minute Drill" Pastor Heithold

December 12 – Midweek Advent 2 "Praying Like Paul", Guest Pastor Brian Bestian, Ascension, El Paso December 19 – Midweek Advent 3 "You've Got a Ticket to Ride!", Guest Vicar Andy Perry, Faith, Las Cruces

Based on Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians

#### MIDWEEK ADVENT SOUP & SANDWICHES

There will be a soup & sandwich supper before each Advent service at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Advent service at 7:00 p.m. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board for providing soup or sandwiches. Just sign up your name and what you plan to bring for whichever advent service you wish.

The average Lutheran today is 19 years old and is black and a woman.

family for all of the memorials, cards, meals,	luminarias. It's easy and anyone can help. Coffee, hot cocoa, and doughnuts will be provided. We'll also need help lighting the candles in the afternoon at 4:00 pm. We also need help picking up luminarias on Christmas
YOUTH GROUP NEWS!!!	Day. If you have any questions ask Abby
The Youth Chili Lunch and Craft Fair was a	Anderson. I hope to see you there!
TREMENDOUS success. As a thank you to our congregation for their generosity, the	Abby Anderson, Youth member
youth will not be holding a fundraiser in December as planned. Instead we would like to thank the congregation by hosting a no fee cookie sale after the worship service on Dec. 16th. Please come to the back of the church and pick out a few dozen homemade cookies on us.	<b>THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM</b> Along the road to Bethlehem The world goes passing by, The monarch with his retinue, The beggar with his cry, The workman and the preacher, The soldier with his gun—-
The youth will be decorating Christmas trees	All go to render homage To Mary's little Son.
on Sat. Dec. 1 with the LWML at 10:00. They will then be treated to a chili lunch by LWML. Thank you for hosting us.	Along the road to Bethlehem The shepherds attend their flocks, The wild flowers lift their fragrance
Christmas caroling will be Friday December 21, at 6:00 pm. The entire congregation is invited to carol with us to our various shut in members. This is always a joyful event that is loved by our older members.	
After Christmas Caroling, the youth will hold their annual Christmas party. All youth ages 11 and up are invited to come have fun and play games. Please bring an appetizer to share, drinks will be provided. For the gift exchange, please bring a pair of fun, jazzy, crazy socks to exchange with another youth member (adult size, please)	()t Man/a littla Rav
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HYMNS OF THE MONTH "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"	Neale, for he was a compassionate man with a great heart for the needy, but he was also a
Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanu- el. Matthew 123 (NKJV)	scholar needing time for research and writing. As a high church traditionalist, Neale disliked the hymns of Issac Watts and longed to return Christianity to the liturgical dignity of oburch his
The origins of this plaintive carol date to medie- val times. In the 800s, a series of Latin hymns were sung each day during Christmas Vespers from December 17 to 23. Each of these hymns began with the word "O", and were called the "Great" or "O" Antiphons (the word <i>antiphon</i> meaning psalm or anthem). These hymns were apparently restructured into verse form in the	Christianity to the liturgical dignity of church his- tory. He was an outspoken advocate of return- ing church buildings to their former glory. He campaigned, for example, against certain types of stoves that spoiled the tastefulness and charm of English churches. He also worked hard to translate ancient Greek and Latin hymns into English.
1100s, and finally published in Latin in 1710. In the mid-1800s, they were discovered by an English minister named John Mason Neale, who wove together segments of them to pro- duce the first draft of "O Come, O Come, Em- manuel," which was published in 1851. Neale's original version said, "Draw nigh, draw nigh, Emmanuel."	In today's hymnals, we find Neale and Watts side-by-side, the old differences having been forgotten. We owe a debt of gratitude to John Mason Neale every time we sing one of his Christmas carols: "Good King Wenceslas," O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," "Good Christian Men, Rejoice," and his Psalm Sunday hymn, "All Glory Laud, and Honor."
Neale is a man worth knowing. He was born in London on January 24, 1818, the son of an evangelical Anglican clergyman. He attended Cambridge University and proved to be a bril- liant student and prize-winning poet. While there, Neale was influenced by the Oxford Movement and became attracted to Roman Ca- tholicism. In 1841, he was ordained into the An- glican ministry; but his poor health and Catholic leanings prevented him from gaining a ministry.	"Then Sings My Soul", Book 2, Robert J. Morgan **** BABE IN A MANGER Star of my soul's Grace-leavened life, Be Thou my goal's Blest centered strife! Shiloh appeared! Heaven's ablaze! Angels' song cleared God's Love and grace!
He was appointed instead as the director of Sackville College, a home for old men. (Sackville College, started by Robert Sackville, Earl of Dorset, in the early 1600s as a home for the elderly, is still going strong today in East Grinstead, Sussex.) This was the perfect job for	Spirit, I wing Christward with Thee Truly, I sing Christ's born for ME

#### **2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President, Vice President: Secretary: Financial Secretary: Treasurer: Education Chair: Evangelism Chair: Stewardship Chair: Trustee: Head Elder: Elders: Bob Klose Matt Anderson Susan Weitzel Vicki Leonard Robyn Luevano Cindi Anderson Lisa Collins Juli Bailey Bob Thede Jim Wilkes Ray Bailey Matt Clark Robert Rentschler Glen Schlehuser

## NO FEE COOKIE SALE!!!!!

The congregation was extremely generous in their support of the youth during our Fall Chili lunch and Craft Fair. As a thank you, the youth group will not be having their annual cookie sale after the worship service on Dec. 16th. INSTEAD, we will be providing homemade cookies to you at no cost. Just as in past years, come in, get a glove and a box and fill it with a couple dozen cookies. The only difference is NO COST! Thank you for your support throughout the year.

#### LONG-TERM PRAYERS

Eric Bell, Caitlin Boverie, Red Chesbro, Mike Debaar, Valerie English, Carol Fox, Renee Gocis, Don Gressman, Gene & Eldeen Humphrey, Kristie & John Humphrey, Hunter Landt, Ty Landt, Myron Marquardt, Chad McCastle, Jackie Monso, Robbie Nowell, Cindy Oberling, Mary Palmos, Alex Pearson, Margaret Romero, Justin Salmon, Ila Schelter Carol Schultz, Jessie Sharette, Lynne Skinner, William Stewart, Austin Tice, David Townsend, Marea Turnbul, Eric Van Horn, Vertein family, \*\*\*\*\*\*\* DECEMBER FLOWERS

- Dec. 2 Gerald & Gayan Moore
- Dec. 9 Cheryl Sandenaw
- Dec. 16 Bob & Sandy Klose
- Dec. 23 Gene & Eldeen Humphrey Pastor & Cindi Heithold
- Dec. 30 Ray & Juli Bailey



# **DECEMBER 2018 STEWARDS FOR CHRIST**

#### <u>ELDERS</u>

- Dec. 2 Jim Wilkes
- Dec. 5 Jim Wilkes (Midweek Advent)
- Dec. 9 Ray Bailey
- Dec. 12 Ray Bailey (Midweek Advent
- Dec. 16 Matt Clark
- Dec. 19 Matt Clark (Midweek Adven)
- Dec. 23 Robert Rentschler
- Dec. 24 Robert Rentscfler (Christmas Eve-Night)
- Dec. 25 Dick Dommers (Christmas Day)
- Dec. 30 Dick Dommers (New Year's Eve)
- Dec. 31 Jim Wilkes (New Year's Eve Night)

# <u>ACOLYTES</u>

- Dec. 2 Zac Sanchez
- Dec. 5 Morgan Sebring (Midweek Advent)
- Dec. 9 EmmaLee Kommer
- Dec. 12 Abby Anderson (Midweek Advent)
- Dec. 16 Emily Johnson
- Dec. 19 Reilly Quinn (Midweek Adven)
- Dec. 23 EmmaLee Kommer
- Dec. 24 Abby Anderson (Christmas Eve-Night)
- Dec. 25 Zac Sanchez (Christmas Day)
- Dec. 30 Morgan Sepring
- Dec. 31 Reilly Quinn (New Year's Eve-Night Service)

# <u>USHERS</u>

#### Dec. 2 Tom Blackmon, Susan Weitzel Larry & Beverly Van Duyn,

- Dec 9 Matt Anderson, Marvin Bunker, John Marquardt
- Dec. 16 Ben Clark, Trey Johnson Robert Johnson, Ray Krueger
- Dec. 23 Bob Klose, Laura Klose, Gerald Moore
- Dec. 30 Youth

# DECEMBER ATTENDANCE SHEETS

Mary Leslie Schmitt

## DECEMBER ALTAR COMMITTEE

Cheryl Richey Beverly Van Duyn

#### <u>HOSTS</u>

- Dec. 2 Virginia Nielsen & Tammy Thede
- Dec. 9 Denise Race & Cheryl Richey
- Dec. 16 Lewis & Kelly Thomas
- Dec. 23 Robert & Susan Rentschler
- Dec. 30 Youth

## <u>READERS</u>

Dec. 2 Larry & Beverly Van Duyn Dec. 5 **Cheryl Sandenaw & Dick Dommers** (Midweek Advent Matt Anderson & Ben Clark Dec. 9 Dec. 12 Cheryl Sandenaw & George McGuire (Midweek Advent) Dec. 16 Bob & Sandy Klose Dec. 19 Lola Ableindger & Susan Weitzel Dec. 23 Vicki Leonard & Hannah Keeler Dec. 24 Cheryl Richey & George McGuire (Christmas Eve-Night) Dec. 25 Yvonne Steeby & Cheryl Sandenaw (Christmas Day) Dec. 30 Youth Dec. 31 Cheryl Richey & Lisa Collins (New Year's Eve Service) **TELLERS** Dec. 2 Suse Lehmann & Robyn Luevano Dec. 5 Megan Bowman & Bob Klose (Midweek Advent Cheryl Sandenaw & Linde Van Cleave Dec. 9 Dec. 12 Suse Lehmann & Robyn Luevano (Midweek Advent Dec. 16 Shirley Enveart & Pete Simank Dec. 19 Vicki Leonard & Nora Sotak (Midweek Adven) Sandy Klose & Yvonne Steeby Dec. 23 Dec. 24 no teller duty Megan Bowman & Bob Klose Dec. 25 (Christmas Day) Dec. 30 Cheryl Sandenaw & Linde Van Cleave Dec. 31 (New Years Service)