

News of the Son

Trinity Lutheran Church — Columbia, MO



February
2020

*From the
Pastor*



Lessons from Luther's *A Simple Way to Pray*

Martin Luther lays out a simple method for praying the words of the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Creed or any text from the Bible. To help you remember, you might think of it as "I. T. C. P."

Instruction
Thanksgiving
Confession
Prayer

This method anchors prayer in the catechism or other biblical texts but allows the Holy Spirit to prompt thoughts via the Word, which may be chased more freely by the mind at prayer ...

Prepare to meditate. Find a quiet spot... Take a few deep, clearing breaths, and continue to breathe deeply. Recite the Lord's Prayer. Clear your mind. Pray for clarity of mind and receptive heart. Now read the text slowly. What words are beginning to jump out at you? What words trouble you? Encourage you? Disturb you? Comfort you? *What does this text teach you? What do you have to be thankful for in the text? What can you confess? Now pray.*

Here is an example of how one could use Luther's I. T. C. P. method to pray, based on Hebrews 13:17, which says: "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."

Instruction: Lord Christ, You instruct me here that I am to listen carefully and heed the word of my pastor when he speaks Your Word. The pastoral office is profound; You not only charge my pastor to watch over my soul, but You also call him to account for his service to me. Finally, You tell me plainly in this text that I am to be a joy to my pastor and not a pain, and this for my own spiritual benefit.

Thanksgiving: Jesus, I thank you for my pastor. In fact, I thank You for the pastor who baptized me and all pastors who have served me in my life as a Christian. Thank You for all the sermons that have clearly shown me my sin and delivered to me the free forgiveness of the Gospel because of Your sacrifice for me on the cross.

Confession: Lord, I confess that so often I fail to pray for my pastor. I fail to be gracious to his family. I do not pay attention to his preaching. I have gossiped and failed to love and defend him and "put the best construction on everything." I deserve to have my faithful pastor taken away. Forgive me my many sins, and help me to do better. Help me especially to be a joy to my pastor and to encourage him in his difficult office.

Prayer: Savior, bless my pastor with faithfulness to Your Word. Cause him to grow in knowledge of Your Word. Give him courage and strength for his tasks. I thank you for (name) and for all faithful pastors. Grant success to the work of our seminaries. Bless our professors and students. And give my pastor joy. I ask all this for Your sake alone. Amen.

That's Luther's "I. T. C. P." method — Instruction, Thanksgiving, Confession, Prayer. You can use it to pray with your family at home, with a group of Christians at church or elsewhere, or by yourself. As you practice it daily, it will become second nature and a great blessing for your meditation and prayer.

Adapted from "Simple Prayer" in *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (pp. 360-361), Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, 2017. Used with permission.

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**Knowing Christ's Love
Seeking His Will
Spreading His Word**

JANUARY 5, 2020
ASSEMBLY OF VOTERS' MINUTES
(Draft Minutes - Yet to be Approved)

The special meeting of the Assembly of Voters was called to order on January 5, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Attendees included Gary Kespohl (Chairman), Jacque Eckhoff (Secretary), Barbara Semmens, Ruthann Wunder, Barbara Barrett, Carol Morrison, Doris Pistel, Fred Pistel, Theresa Greer, Ken Greer, Elaine Samuel, Mindy Cherrington, Will Cherrington, Carol Easterhaus, Eldrid Easterhaus, Debi Derendinger, Larry Samuel, Debbie Antel, Jan Lang, Angel Arnall, Lori Bresnahan-Burns, Kevin Burns, Charlie Cott, Gary Frisch, Carey Smith, James Harms, Robert Hall, Debra Harms, Jim Niederjohn, Patti Haubein, Dennis Haubein, Loralee Adam, Bonnie Lawler, Karen Niederjohn, Cynthia Green, Heather Asbeck, Benjamin Asbeck, Don Malson, Chuck Murphy, Sarah Thieme, Sherrie Atteberry, Hunter Kevil, Ron Barrett, Kathy Ferguson, Carolyn Holste, Pat Campbell, Dan Hartman, John Frerking, Larry McCoig, Jim Cherrington, Norburt Pierson, Marian Kueck-Pierson, Candice Kling, Tim Kling, Sylvia Glenn, Andrew Saeger, Connie Coil, Marvin Koop, Conrad Brown, Glen Frerichs, Glen Beltz, Roland Meyer, Joanna McDowell, Carolyn Trip, Pat Hansen, Carol Squires, Myra McCoig, Richard Wise, Phil Glenn, Karen Harms, Warren Harms, Melba Hall and Pastor Brian Thieme.

The agenda for this meeting was limited to issues pertaining to the process of calling a second pastor. Voters were asked to decide whether to call a seminary graduate or extend a call to a minister currently serving in the field. The candidates the Call Committee will present, if necessary, are the following: Rev. Michael D. Ahlemeyer, Rev. David W. Graves and Rev. D. Paul Mackey.

Chairman Kespohl introduced the Circuit Visitor, Rev. Kent Pierce. Rev. Pierce led the opening devotion. Larry McCoig explained the Constitutional Requirements for Election and the Procedure for Election. He also reported that President Hagan explained that if we submit for a seminary graduate we would do that in January, and a decision would be made in April.

Larry McCoig moved to adopt the Call List; seconded and approved. Rev. Pierce presented the Call List. Larry McCoig asked for any discussion and questions.

Pastor Thieme led a prayer for Holy Spirit's Guidance.

Chairman Kespohl then called for the distribution of ballots to decide whether to call a seminary graduate or extend a call to a minister currently serving in the field. The Elders counted the ballots. The majority voted to call a seminary graduate.

Larry McCoig moved to approve a budget of \$80,387 for a seminary graduate; seconded and approved.

Rev. Pierce reported that April 28, 2020 is the seminary call date.

The meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m. and Pastor Thieme led the closing devotion.

Jacque Eckhoff, Secretary

JANUARY 14, 2020
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MINUTES
(Draft Minutes - Yet to be Approved)

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order on January 14, 2020 at 7:05 pm. Attendees included Gary Kespohl (Chairman), Larry McCoig, Annette Kiehne, Robert Hall, Angel Arnall (Secretary pro tem), Sean Huggans, James Harms, JoAnn Schoenike, Mary Frerking, Chris Bailey, and Carole Eilers.

Pastor Thieme led the opening devotion and led the group in singing LSB Hymn 827.

Chairman Kespohl added item G-Youth Pancake Breakfast to New Business, requested item E-Bank Card Contributions be moved to the beginning of agenda and Angel Arnall withdrew item D-Food Bank Free Will Offering from the Meeting Agenda. It was moved to approve with these changes;

seconded and approved.

Larry McCoig moved to approve the Consent Agenda as well as the Secretary Minutes from December 10, 2019; seconded and approved. The Consent Agenda meeting minutes and reports are filed in the Congregational Secretary's notebook.

The following are summaries of the reports, with the name of the board representative at the Board of Directors meeting listed: PASTOR'S REPORT - Pastor Thieme

Rev. Spots is visiting 2/3 of the homebound each month. Pastoral visits continue to be made with individuals, couples, families and members of the community at large. Sunday morning study is on the book of Daniel and the Monday morning class is going through the Large Catechism (Lord's Prayer).

FINANCIAL SECRETARY - JoAnn Schoenike

For the month of December: Regular Envelope collections were \$58,109.19 or 110.38 % of the anticipated monthly amount. Loose Plate collections were \$1,747.51 or 60.11% of the anticipated monthly amount. Sunday School collections were \$68.01 or 86.73% of the anticipated monthly amount. Total monthly collections were \$59,924.71 or 107.72 of the anticipated monthly total of \$55,632.00. Total year-to-do collections through the end of December were \$539,554.30 or 107.88% of the total anticipated amount of \$500,144.98.

BOARD REPORTS:

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - Mary Frerking

Sunday School will continue with the "Enduring Faith" curriculum. All Sunday School age levels participated in the Christmas Eve service and all youth received an ornament. The 2019 Sunday School mission was Lutheran Heritage Foundation. A check for \$465.59 was sent to the foundation. A 2020 mission will be choose soon. The board is planning events and activities for the new year.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION - Carole Eilers

Enrollment is 100% full as of January 1, 2020 and the center is fully staffed. Re-enrollment forms will be send out soon. Planning has begun to evaluate tuition rates to cover the Missouri minimum wage increases. Conscious Discipline training is ongoing. One teacher has completed the TEACH scholarship application process. Board has approved the Extra Day Staffing Policy and is planning a staff welcome and greet for February.

ELDERS - Larry McCoig

The Screening Committee reviewed the agenda for the Special Assembly of Voters meeting on January 5, 2020. An Advent light lunch and dinner was served December 4, 2019 serving 55 members. Thanks to the Mary Martha members for helping to serve the meals. TLCLC will be conducting CPR training in February and the Elders have been invited to participate. Elders assignments have been made for 2020. A new record of fellowship pad was approved. Installation of Officers was held January 5, 2020.

EVANGELISM - Rob Hall

No report filed.

PAROCHIAL EDUCATION - No Representative Present

See packet for financial report.

SOCIAL MINISTRY - Angel Arnall

No report filed.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE - Sean Huggans

Scheduled counters for January are Sean Huggans and Buck Katt.

ENDOWMENT FUND - No Representative Present

No report filed.

TRUSTEES - No Representative Present

No report filed.

YOUTH - Chris Bailey

Super Bowl Subs are on sale now. Currently planning for the Pancake Breakfast and Easter Breakfast. The summer youth trip will be a "Creation Tour" teaming up with the youth from Fairmont, MN in July 2020 Youth nights are held on the second Sunday at 6pm and a game night on the last Saturday at 7pm. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE No report filed.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES: None.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS: Pastor Thieme stated the new headsets are working well for those who need them. Ava program is dealing with some issues. Will report more later.

NEW BUSINESS

(item E) - Proposal to Accept Bankcard Contributions: Sean Huggans gave report. Sean Huggans moved to allow the use of contributions accepted by bankcard through our current Vanco account; seconded and approved. There will be a link added to the churches homepage for members to access the service. There is a fee of 2% plus \$.20 per transaction. The transaction fee can be paid by the giver if they select that box on the form otherwise the church will acquire the fee.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Church's income for December was \$64,547 with year ending \$589,564 total income (109.07% of the year's \$540,488 budgeted income). The Church's cash expenditures for December was \$41,827 with year ending \$410,759 total expenses (93.6% of the year's \$439,029 budgeted expenditures (\$540,559 budget - \$101,530 Pastor Contingency). The Church's year end income over expenditures was \$178,805. This number is reduced to \$77,275 when the budgeted portion of the \$101,530 Pastor Contingency is deducted. The Learning Center's income for December was \$60,628 with year ending \$732,098 total income (102.94% of the year's \$711,200 budgeted income). The Learning Center's total expenditures for December were \$53,815 with year ending \$677,492 total expenses (95.26% of the annual expenditure budget of \$711,200). The Learning Center year end income over expenditures was \$54,606. Combined (Church and Learning Center) year end income over budgeted expenditures totaled \$233,411. \$5,000 is being held in reserve for work still to be completed on the roof replacement and is shown as Roof Accounts Payable. 2019 BOD/AOV approved expenditures totaled \$96,694.27 and differs from the \$80,511.40 shown on the Treasurer's Report with Annual Budget. The \$16,182.87 difference on account 995.6 and 995.61 was sent to LCEF for Gym Roof Hail Reserve. Net income over expenditures for 2019 actually ended at \$131,717 after the \$96,694 BOD/AOV expenditures and \$5,000 roofing accounts payable were deducted. \$30,327 BOD/AOV approved expenditures (\$10,292 - TLC Architect, \$1,931 - TLCLC Playground, \$3,259 - TLCLC Closets, \$14,298 - TLCLC Flooring, \$547 - Pastor Office Remodel) will be carried over into 2020. Net operating cash available as of December 31, 2019 was \$233,082. Dedicated accounts totaled a net amount of cash of \$79,242 as of December 31, 2019. Lutheran Church Extension Funds accounts total \$579,921 as of December 31, 2019. TLC Endowment Fund accounts held at the LCMS Foundation increased slightly to \$103,035. In regards to the End of Year AOV standing motion

from 2018 for required disbursements, Larry McCoig moved to utilize combined Church and TLCLC income less expense of \$131,717 with 10% going to missions and totaling \$13,172 and with 90% going to LCEF totaling \$88,218; seconded and approved. Mary Frerking moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; seconded and approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

CALL COMMITTEE: The forms will be submitted by the end of the week.

TIGER TAXI: Elders are still working on this item. Will report next month.

PEWS: Tabled, nothing new to report.

TLC WEBSITE: Tabled, nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

MAKING MOTIONS: Pastor Thieme provided the members with a Cheat Sheet for Robert's Rules to use during BOD and AOV meetings.

TLCLC BATHROOM PARTITIONS: Gary Kespohl gave report. Larry McCoig motioned to approve proposal #SP-103119-FBM; seconded and approved. The condition of the current partitions is in such disrepair that when they are removed to place the new flooring, the old partitions will not be able to be rehung.

TLCLC KITCHEN: Gary Kespohl gave report. It was noted that the December AOV meeting called for a Kitchen Committee to meet on this item. This item will come back after the Kitchen Committee has discussed and has further action to discuss. **PROPOSAL TO REORDER TLC PENS:** Larry McCoig moved to reorder new TLC pens at a cost of \$500; seconded and motion failed.

YOUTH PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Chris Bailey gave report. Larry McCoig moved to allow usage of the Fellowship Hall and Gym for the Youth Pancake Breakfast scheduled on either March 7 or 14 as mutually agreed between the Youth Board and TLCLC; seconded and approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

YOUTH: Chris Bailey requested that each board meet with the Youth Group to educate them on duties and responsibilities of what various church boards do for the church.

UPCOMING MEETINGS: The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on February 11, 2020. The next Assembly of Voters meeting will be held on February 16, 2020. Mary Frerking moved to adjourn at 8:33 pm and Pastor Thieme led the group in a closing hymn (LSB Hymn 827).

Angel Arnall, Secretary Pro Tem



Help us strengthen our community!

Be a part of the new Trinity Lutheran directory so everyone will know your name.

Photography starts March 3

Go to trinity-lcms.org
to reserve your photography session

Lifetouch

2020 Trinity Lutheran Church Officers and Board Members

Chairman

Gary Kespohl

Secretary

Jacque Eckhoff

Treasurer

Jim Harms

Financial Secretary

JoAnn Schoenike

Board of Christian Ed.

Mary Frerking

Carolyn Holste

Julie Smith

Board of Early

Childhood Ed.

Carole Eilers

Cynthia Green

Christina Hartman

Karen Niederjohn

Theresa Yeager

Board of Elders

Benjamin Asbeck

David Attebery

Ron Barrett

Jim Cherrington

John Frerking

Daniel Hartman

Larry McCoig

Board of Evangelism

Robert Hall

Chuck Murpy

Pattie Smith

Board of Social Ministry

Angel Arnall

Kathy Ferguson

vacancy

Board of Stewardship and Finance

Lori Bresnahan-Burns

Rob & Kim Crouch

Sean Huggans

Buck Katt

Richard Mangold

Andrew Saeger

Board of TLC

Endowment Fund

Kevin Burns

Nick Couper

Gary Frisch

Board of Trustees

Charlie Cott

Jim Niederjohn

Eddie Sterling

Board of Youth

Chris Bailey

Melissa Remer-Phifer

Michelle Wren

Board of Directors reports and
agenda items are due to the church
office by noon on
Friday, February 7, 2020.

The Board of Directors will meet
Tuesday, February 11 at
7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The Assembly of Voters will meet
Sunday, February 16 at
12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

CALL MEETING RESULTS

At the special Assembly of
Voters meeting on
January 5, a majority of
the voters present chose to



call a graduate of the seminaries of our synod as
our next pastor. The Call Committee is acting
on this decision and will be consulting with our
Circuit Visitor and District President as they
work through the process of this call.

Please contact any member of the Call
Committee for more information: Larry
McCoig, Doug Kiehne, David Attebery, Ron
Barrett, Jim Cherrington, John Frerking, and
Daniel Hartman.

LLL FELLOWSHIP CLUB

Please join LLL for our Bible study, Nurturing
Your Faith: Called to Others, and a
short business meeting on Sunday,
February 2 at 6:00 p.m. in Trinity's
Fellowship Hall.



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Help and encouragement after the
death of a loved one

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support
group designed to help you rebuild your life. We
know it hurts, and we want to help.

Mondays 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church
Room 106





Greetings in the name of Jesus, the baby who came to be our redeemer,

As we bask in the afterglow of Christmas, it is good to reflect on just what Jesus's birth and death mean in the realm of life issues. The following are excerpts from recent publications from Lutherans For Life:

"Redeemed....from the very beginning to the absolute end. Our Almighty Maker paints a bigger picture than one moment can behold. The God who gives

you **Jesus Christ** plans further than you can perceive. Every life has an important place, from fertilization to final breath. The sorrows belong to Him as much as the celebrations. He creates each human being in His image, at every age and every stage. He redeems the whole race by His incarnation, whatever our appearances or abilities. He calls us that all might endure forever as His own precious treasures in everlasting family, no matter our origins, experiences, or durations. His gracious reigning even incorporates surprise pregnancies and terminal diagnosis. ***Our Savior's coming in human nature proclaims and performs the sanctity of human life.*** We have the privilege to courageously declare and compassionately demonstrate the same: **LIFE IS NEVER A SENTENCE. LIFE IS ALWAYS A WHOLE STORY!"** (Christmas bulletin insert, Lutherans For Life, Dec. 2019)

In Luke when the angels told the shepherds to fear not, that was Good News for all mankind: ***For behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day....a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.***" (Luke 2:10b-11)

"Fear not! Our God Whose love caused Him to become a tiny embryonic speck inside Mary's womb, our God Who was knit together in the womb and shaped and formed as a human being; our God Who was laid in a manger, our God Who was tempted as we are, our God who paid the awful, bloody price for our redemption, our God Who rose victoriously from the dead--our God will not forsake those for whom He demonstrated this kind of love.

"Fear not! Fear of an unknown future drives many young women to the abortion mills where daily 3,000 babies are sacrificed because of fear. Fear of suffering drives many people to feel it is compassionate to hasten death. Fear of not being forgiven drives many who have sinned against life to despair.

To the pregnant young woman we say "fear not!" Jesus was born for you. He loves you and will give you strength. He will help you do what is best for you and your baby, and He will support you through the loving arms of His people.

To those who are suffering we say "fear not!" Jesus was born for you. He knows about suffering. He knows how the love of God works in suffering. He will be with you and care for you through His caring people.

To those who have sinned against life we say "fear not!" Jesus was born for you. He demonstrated His love for you and paid for your sins on the Cross. He comes to you even in the depths of your grief and guilt to lift you up into His merciful and forgiving arms.

"Fear not! The message of Christmas changes hearts and lives. After all, we serve the true God Who works best in weakness--even in poverty--you, know, like showing up in a manger!" (Life News, Lutherans For Life, December 2019)

Won't you remember the **Good News** of Christmas, and, ***fearing not*** share it with someone today and throughout this year? A good way to start is by attending the Midwest March For Life on February 1st in Jefferson City. Joining hundreds of fellow Christians, you can witness to the Good News of the sanctity of all human life that God creates, redeems and calls into a relationship with Himself. (For more information about the March visit www.midwestmarchforlife.com.)

In Christ, our Redeemer,

Sylvia Glenn

Feel free to call me (573-592-7866) for information or concerns about life issues. For those who have had an abortion, there is a **word of hope!** "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds" (Psalm 147:3). For ***confidential post-abortion referral, counsel, and reconciliation*** contact **WORD of HOPE**, toll-free 888-217-8679, info@word-of-hope.org, or visit www.word-of-hope.org.



Prayer Service 2020

Sunday, February 23

2:00 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church

Christians are saved to serve. We are chosen and called to bear fruit for Jesus. We do this as we live in His love, not only in our home or church, but also in the world, where it is often more difficult to love others. We are empowered by the love that Jesus showed us in His sacrificial death on the Cross so that we would have life. Now we are blessed to live in His love, bearing much fruit for His sake. May this prayer service help us take time to reflect on His love for us, our love for Him, and how the fruit we bear is a result of living in His love.



LIVING IN *love*, BEARING FRUIT

STEPHEN MINISTRY

One of the many roles of the church is to equip God's people for the work of ministry to provide care for His people. Two years ago we began the process of bringing the Stephen Ministry to Trinity. In a matter of just weeks from now, we expect to have several well-trained caregivers ready to provide even more of that care!

You might wonder, why is it taking so long to get our caregiver team trained? Here is a summary of the training modules we covered in-depth in January:



- † Maintaining Boundaries in Caregiving - Learned the signs that indicate problems with maintaining appropriate boundaries and the consequences of boundary infringements. Explored the difference between servanthood (good) and servitude (bad).
- † Crisis Theory and Practice: Danger versus Opportunity - Learned to identify what needs people in crisis have and learned appropriate ways to care for those needs and how to move the care receiver toward wholeness.
- † Confidentiality - Learned how to apply simple rules that cover most of the situations caregivers will face and learned how to deal with some exceptions to the hard-and-fast rules.
- † Telecare: The Next Best Thing to Being There - Learned when the use of the phone is right and practiced ways to compensate for shortcomings of caregiving by phone.
- † Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief - Learned the classic stages of grief and what forms of caregiving are right at each stage and learned to widen our understanding of grief to include loss of any kind.

Please continue to pray for our team of trainees and leaders as they grow and learn together.

Our trainees are: Barbara Barrett, Elke Beltz, Mindy Cherrington, Laura Grise, Jessica Murphy, Patty Smith, and Theresa Yeager.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the Stephen Ministry, please contact one of us and/or visit stephenministries.org.

In Christ, Your Stephen Ministry Leaders

Pastor Brian Thieme: 573-445-2112 or revthieme@trinity-lcms.org

Larry McCoig (Elder): 660-247-3026 or lmomc@yahoo.com

Joanna McDowell: 573-881-4138 or mcdowellfamily@centurytel.net

Debbie Antel: 573-819-3140 or debbieantel@gmail.com

*Bear one another's
burdens, and in this way you
will fulfill the law of Christ.
Galatians 6:2*

LIFE TEAM UPDATE

Dear Trinity members, we are pleased to announce that on Sunday, February 2 and Monday, February 3, Pastor Michael Salemink, Executive Director for Lutherans for Life, will be visiting Trinity. He will be preaching at all three services and will lead our Sunday morning Bible Study. The study will be centered around Life and Life issues, and we invite you to attend and hope that you can do so. There will also be an opportunity for a freewill offering for Lutherans for Life after each service.

At our first meeting of 2020, we discussed planning for the upcoming year and we are working on another movie night, continuing our homebound ministry, helping with VBS, and recruiting and training more members to be on the Life Team.

We would also like to announce the Life Network Banquet that will be held on Thursday, April 9. This is an annual event and a major fundraiser for this life-affirming ministry. Watch the *Trinity Weekly News* for more information.

If you are interested in joining the Life Team, please speak to one of our members or email Phyllis White at bandp@socket.net.

Blessings, the Life Team



The LCMS has a FREE magazine!



LAC has been featured often:

- Summer 2017: DR
- Winter 2017: Belize
- Winter 2018: Peru
- Spring 2018: Haiti
- Spring 2019: Venezuela
- Fall 2019: DR
- Winter 2020: Puerto Rico

Learn more and subscribe [here](#).

(If you received a hard copy of this and would like to help me be green and save on postage, please send an email to erin.mackenzie@lcms.org.)

The Reason for Every Season

Christmas starts in October in the DR. Halloween is virtually nonexistent, and Thanksgiving is confined to grocery store endcaps, so it's only logical.

I decked my halls well before the day after Thanksgiving. I've always loved Christmas and needed little coaxing. Maybe it's the family traditions; the lively tunes and stirring hymnody; or the smells of pine and cookies baking. What if magical holiday memories and experiences lasted all year?

In the book *Christmas Every Day* by William Dean Howells, a father tells daughter about little girl who wishes it were Christmas every day. The Christmas Fairy granted her wish, and things soon took an ill-fated turn when turkey prices skyrocketed, and stuff began to pile up.

Howells didn't need to convince me that Christmas once a year is enough. Yet, Christmas and Advent aren't just about Jesus's birth but about His coming in Word and Sacrament and about His second coming. Why limit the latter sentiments to December? Yes, we're Christmas Christians. But, doesn't Howells warn readers about too much of a good thing?

The fictional family's merriment is rife with extravagance, but devoid of the Christ child - no Advent wreaths, nativity sets, candlelit vigils, or heads bowed before Christmas dinner. There is no such thing as too much unconditional love. There's always room for generosity, and you won't get a stomachache from a double portion of peace. As a missionary *and as a believer*, it's my privilege and duty to make those around me wonder about my hope and joy "in season and out of season" (2 Timothy 4:2). Jesus is the reason for the Christmas season - no matter when it starts where you are - and every season. So, merry Christmas!

*Adapted from my [latest web-exclusive article](#) for Lutheran Witness, which went live last month.



The DR missionary team doesn't mess around at Thanksgiving!





Praises and Petitions

1. Thanksgiving for new LAC missionaries Ashley and Tirzah, who recently received their green lights for deployment.
2. For all who mourn the death of Rev. Luis Coronado, found murdered in Venezuela.
3. For all who mourn the death of Doña Ana, a DR church member who lost her battle with cancer this month.
4. For all affected by the earthquakes in PR, and for the PR-based LCMS missionary team as they provide relief.
5. For deaconess intern Stephanie, slated to transition from on-field orientation to her field of service in Puerto Rico later this month.

Cat Tails



I've been in the DR (the 4th place mom & I have lived) for a little over a year now! She got me in El Paso so I'm used to heat, but it's also humid here like St. Louis in the summer. I nap often, buuuut I'm a cat—it's what I do. I wish her house had windowsills so I could see out. Even from the back of the couch her car blocks my view, so I've had to settle for other spots, like her bedroom closet! I shed constantly, so I *tolerate* being brushed for her sake. They have the same food here that I ate before. Ants have gotten into my bowl a few times, but not recently. My mom brought some of my toys, and I got some new ones in one of her care packages! I mix it up with the occasional cockroach and lizard.

My least favorite thing is how often my mom is gone. I know she's off doing a job she adores and she always finds nice people to take care of me, but I still miss her. Don't tell her I jump on the kitchen table when she's not around. Think she'll notice the cat hair on her Peruvian table runner? I try to act mad at her when she comes back, but I love snuggling so much that it's hard!

 **Freddy**



Far left: Celebrating Jana (center)'s birthday with a hike. Left: "¡Feliz Navidad!" from the botanical garden.

Quote of the Month!

Bienvenidos a esta isla donde el mar siempre está cerca y las montañas nunca están lejos... [*Welcome to this island, where the sea is always near, and the mountains are never far...*]

—Margarita Baquero de Reid, actress, d. 2015

To support the LCMS through me, you may give a tax-deductible gift...

- **online**, securely from any device: lcms.org/givenow/mackenzie;
- by **calling** a donor care representative: 1-888-843-5267; or
- by **sending a check** (with "Mackenzie/Latin America" on the memo line) to:
 - ⇒ LCMS, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861; or
 - ⇒ Mission Central, 40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, IA 51034.



FEBRUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

1 Elaine Samuel	13 Susan Dyer Emma Wohlgemuth	24 Rowena White
3 Sean Huggans Drew Jones Janice Kuehner Lacie Starbuck	14 Wanda Calfee Mark Schaumburg	25 Willis Linneman Hudson Parker
4 John Baynes Stephen Tackitt Emma Thompson	15 Mindy Cherrington Nanette Schneider	26 Tonya Boenisch Jessica Kespohl Stephanie Sprock
5 Dave Hart Ron Eilers	17 Judy Lammers Andrew Schuster Shirley Smith	27 Jon Antel James Lawler
6 Jack Kespohl Luke Thoroughman Don Varvil	18 Maisie Thompson	28 Samuel Crisman Jacob Huggans
8 Nadia Laediss	19 Louis Mwamgiga Vanette Noll Bill Raines	29 Joyce Palmer
9 Norah Stone	20 Kate Berendzen Nicholas Fei	
10 Dick Klingbeil	21 Nick Kespohl Coy Stockhorst	
12 Les Harms		

No February Anniversaries
(Y'all need to get on that so we can fill this space)



JCC Game Night & Dinner

The information for anniversaries and birthdays comes from our Shepherd Staff database. If any information is incorrect or omitted, please contact the Church Office so that we can correct the error for the future.



JCC SCHEDULE:

Junior Confirmation Classes will meet at 12:00 p.m. on February 2 and at 6:00 p.m. on February 9, 16, and 23.

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE:

JCC 1 will be the acolytes for this month. Check your email for the link to sign up for the services when you would like to acolyte.

Sunday, February 23, 2020
4:30 - 6:00 PM
Trinity Lutheran Church
Gym & Fellowship Hall

Walking Tacos **Fruit**
Cookies **Lemonade**

After dinner you can head to Confirmation class!



GAMES



ACTIVITY HOSTED BY ELLY & JACQUE ECKHOFF

ellyeckhoff@yahoo.com / 573-808-3183
or
jacque711@hotmail.com / 573-289-0273

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8a & 1030a Worship Service w/Communion 915a Sunday School 12p JCC 130p JCC 3 Parent Meeting 5p Choir Practice 5p Handbell Practice	27 9a Bible Class 6p Worship Service w/Communion 7p Pickleball 7p GriefShare	28 6p Stephen Ministry Training	29 7a Pickleball 9a TLCLC Chapel	30 630a Men's Bible Study @ Denny's 9a TLCLC Chapel	31 REV. THIEME'S DAY OFF	1 1030a Youth Sandwich Making
2 8a & 1030a Worship Service w/Communion 915a Sunday School 12p JCC 130p Bd of Trustees 6p LLL	3 9a Bible Class 6p Worship Service w/Communion 7p Pickleball 7p GriefShare	4 6p Stephen Ministry Training 6p Bd of Early Childhood Ed.	5 7a Pickleball 9a TLCLC Chapel	6 630a Men's Bible Study @ Denny's 9a TLCLC Chapel 6p Bd of Evangelism	7 REV. THIEME'S DAY OFF	8
9 8a & 1030a Worship Service 915a Sunday School 12p College Student Lunch 12p Bd of Youth 5p Handbell Practice 5p Choir Practice 6p JCC 6p Youth Night	10 9a Bible Class 6p Worship Service w/Communion 7p Pickleball 7p GriefShare	11 6p Vesper Guild 6p Stephen Ministry Training 7p Bd of Directors	12 7a Pickleball 9a TLCLC Chapel 930a Mary Martha Guild 530p Life Team	13 630a Men's Bible Study @ Denny's 9a TLCLC Chapel	14 REV. THIEME'S DAY OFF	15
16 8a & 1030a Worship Service w/Communion 915a Sunday School 12p Assembly of Voters Lunch 1230p Assembly of Voters 5p Choir Practice 6p JCC	17 9a Bible Class 6p Worship Service w/Communion 7p Pickleball 7p GriefShare	18 6p Stephen Ministry Training	19 7a Pickleball 9a TLCLC Chapel 530p Bd of Social Ministry @ Mall/ Panera	20 630a Men's Bible Study @ Denny's 9a TLCLC Chapel	21 11a Women's Connection @ D. Rowe's REV. THIEME'S DAY OFF	22 830a Stephen Ministry Training
23 8a & 1030a Worship Service w/Communion 915a Sunday School 2p LWML Prayer Service 4:30p JCC Games & Dinner 5p Choir Practice 6p JCC	24 9a Bible Class 6p Worship Service w/Communion 7p Pickleball 7p GriefShare	25	26 7a Pickleball 9a TLCLC Chapel 12p Ash Wednesday Worship Service w/ Communion 7p Ash Wednesday Worship Service w/ Communion	27 630a Men's Bible Study @ Denny's 9a TLCLC Chapel 6p Bd of Elders	28 REV. THIEME'S DAY OFF	29 7p Youth Game Night

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COLUMBIA, MO 65203-1433

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WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES:

SUNDAY 8:00 AND 10:30 A.M.

MONDAY 6:00 P.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL/BIBLE STUDY:

SUNDAY 9:15 A.M.

PHONE: 573-445-2112

FAX: 573-445-4078

EMAIL: CHURCH@TRINITY-LCMS.ORG

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Items for the monthly *News of the Son* are due to the church office by noon on the 25th of the month (or the previous Friday if the 25th falls on a weekend).

Announcements for the *Trinity Weekly News* are due to the church office by noon each Thursday. Announcements of 75-100 words are preferred.

Dear Church Family,

Please contact the church office when:

- a member of your family is admitted to the hospital so visits can be made
- someone you know is very ill or has passed away
- your class, board, or group would like to use the church for a meeting or event so it can be scheduled on the church calendar
- your contact information or address changes
- a new baby arrives in your family
- a member of your family leaves home for college, joins the military, or is getting married
- you would like to have a member call you to visit or assist you in some way
- you have a prayer request
- you would like to share your time and talents
- you feel the church can assist you in any way