

Trinity Times

Trinity Lutheran Church

January 2018

From the Pastor's Desk

Members of Trinity, God's Thankful People,

Wow! A New Year!

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Hebrews 13:8. That is the Wow! The Psalmist in 102:27 says it, "You are the same, and Your years have no end."

In a book I have had for years Oskar Ahnfelt wrote "I look not Back." He has 5 verses and each one starts with another word: "I look not back, I look not forward, I look not round me, I look not inward." The fifth verse says, "I look up – into the face of Jesus, For there my heart can rest, my fears are stilled; And there is joy, and love, and light for darkness, And perfect peace, and every hope fulfilled." Therein lays our great outlook for 2018 and beyond. We can look back, forward, round me, or inward, all futile, but the answer to our lives is "to look up." As in the past, future, or present the great crying need of the world is the upward look to Jesus!

What are we looking for in life? What is Trinity looking for in their future, their own Pastor? What does the future hold individually or together as a congregation? God's Word gives us the answer for all of life. It is all wrapped up in the Christmas GIFT of the Savior, the REAL JESUS, who goes with us wherever we are or are led by God. It is as if God is saying, "Lay aside everything...and LOOK TO HIM!

A father was holding his little blind daughter on his knee. A friend came up, picked her up, and walked with her to the garden. The little one expressed neither surprise nor fear so her father asked, "Aren't you afraid?" "No," she replied. "But you don't know whose hand you hold." "No," was the prompt reply, "but you do, Father." What a lesson! Our heavenly Father has taken a hold of us to keep, to protect, to bless, and to go with us wherever we go. The writer of Hebrews says in 12:28 "Since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe." "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." He is indeed our Savior, Lord, and King. Walk with Him as He holds our hands in His Almighty hand. Blessings to all for 2018 and beyond. Peace!

Pastor Thur

Elders

The Elders are:

Roland Walter 882-7450

Ralph Wegner 565-3936

Dennis Gard 928-379-2191

Josh Chittick 560-4785

Mark Johnson 570-7639

Please feel free to contact any of them at any time with comments or concerns.

Church Council

The newly elected members of the Trinity Church Council will be installed January 7 during the Worship Service. We thank these members for stepping up to give leadership to Trinity during this time of uncertainty.

Trustees

There is now a Trinity Calendar of Events posted in the Narthex that will allow Trinity Members to sign up for building use. There are a number of recurring events on a weekly basis that happen at Trinity so scheduling around them is important. Please check the calendar before you schedule an event using Trinity space.

If you see something at church that needs maintenance attention, be sure to fill out a Trustee form or let a Trustee know.

Bruce Short, Jonathon Smith, or Burt Ramsey are current Trustees.

Call Committee

The call committee is meeting, Monday January 8th, to consider the next step in the call process. We are still waiting for district to send us some information and don't know when it will arrive.

Social Concerns

The Good Samaritan Center was given notice to relocate by February 15th. They have been looking for a place to occupy for at least 3 months, then, hopefully, the building they have been waiting for will be ready to move into. If you know of a building the Center could rent for a few months please let them know or tell Diana Hoehn. Also when the

Center needs to relocate they would appreciate help for the move. The Good Samaritan Center's phone number is 970-565-6424 or Kristen's cell number 989-444-0007. Diana 970-565-3580.

Church Cleaning Day

There will be a Cleaning Day on Wednesday, January 17 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There are lots of cleaning jobs that are not able to be accomplished in the regular janitorial time. Please come for one hour or all 4 hours if you can. Plans are to work in the Sanctuary. There is a list of items that could use attention. Soup will be served for lunch break.

Newsletter and Website

Since we no longer have a church secretary and are still seeking a Pastor, it's important for Trinity members to keep up with what's important at Trinity. You can sign up for the monthly newsletter by sending your e-mail to Shar @ shortstuff1950@gmail.com.

The Trinity website is also current with Church information and Calendar. If you would like to post something on the website you can contact Shar as well. The website is www.trinitylutheranchurchcortez.com.

Upcoming Events

- Jan 8, 2018 – Call Committee meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- Jan 9, 2018 – Church Council meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- Jan 10, 2018 – Sew 'n' Sews @ 9 a.m.
- Jan 17, 2018 – Church Cleaning Day 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Jan 24, 2018 – Sew 'n' Sews @ 9 a.m.

Lutheran Hour Ministries

The Lutheran Hour Ministries have a number of newer projects and ministries. You can head their website [here](#).

- LHM reaches into more than 50 countries and like to focus on areas where the people have few opportunities to hear the Gospel. For 2018, they are concentrating on North Africa and the Middle East. They are offering a satellite TV program that has the potential to reach 6 million viewers.

- A partnership with the Barna group, a research leader on faith in the U.S., will conduct a "study on the state of evangelism in the digital age". They hope the results produce insights for ministry.

- A new online operation called Vivenciar which reaches out to all of Latin America has begun. Through volunteers, visitors can talk about situations in their lives that trouble them. It's much like the THRED program aimed at the unchurched in the U.S.

New Years Resolutions

The beginning of a new year brings many of us to think about the past year or other period of time and wonder what we might want to change about ourselves or our situations. There are many jokes about making New Year resolutions but it could be the best time to start something new. An article in [Psychology Today](#) says there are 3 things you must do to change habits.

1. Pick a small action. Say, "I will walk 1/3 mile more each day" not "I will get more exercise."
2. The action must be attached to an existing one. When you "walk into your kitchen" each day, it can be the stimulus to begin the habit to "make a kale smoothie" for breakfast.

3. You must make the action easy the first week. Write yourself a note and stick it to your shoe to remind yourself to add 10 minutes to your walking time. Set up the blender and prepare the ingredients the night before so the action will be simple to start in the morning. It takes 3 to 7 times to make a new habit stick in your mind.

And here are some other tips:

- When you make your resolution, find someone to be accountable to. You will be obligated to complete the action. Or, write down your action daily in a journal, for revisiting it daily will reinforce it.

- If you are wishing to eliminate something negative or bad from your life, find something to replace it with. If you want to stop drinking soda, clean it out of your house and then substitute water with a lemon slice in it.

- The change has to come from within you. You must really want the change.

- Take the time to review and plan. Pick a day of the week to review your progress and what worked. Write down what should happen for the next week and carry through on any extra preparations.

There are also apps available that can help you track certain things or stick to a resolution. Stickk.com is one such site. You can find anything on the internet!!

Good luck!

Newsletter Info

If you would like to submit information to this newsletter or to the website, please put it in Shar Short's box, call her at 970-564-1596, or e-mail her at shortstuff1950@gmail.com.