

TRINITY TIMES

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Greetings, Members of Trinity, in the words of the Psalmist, 57:1:

"Be merciful unto me, O Lord God, be merciful unto me, for my soul trusts in You."

We are in the Church Season called Lent. What is Lent? In the past it was thought of as a time to "give up something, make a sacrifice of sorts. Was It for the Lord we did this? Or was it meant for the person to give up something "very dear" so as to see what it cost the Lord to win our salvation. Lent is a reminder of what it cost Jesus to make us His, as well as receiving forgiveness of our sins in His life, death, and Resurrection.

The name Lent is probably derived from the Anglo-Saxon word meaning spring. That in itself doesn't speak of "giving up anything" unless you see that the seed you

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plant must die. Lent grew into a time for the Christian to prepare for what was coming. In the Spring we till the

land, plant the seed, and wait for the harvest. If all goes well there will be a great harvest. Lent is very similar as we prepare our hearts and lives with God's Word allowing Him to plant the Seed of the Gospel, water it, and help the Seed of faith grow whereby there will be a 'great harvest' of souls. Jesus died so that could take place.

Easter is the culmination of Lent, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. The harvest of Easter is the Resurrection of our Lord and anyone who believes in His death and Resurrection. We are a part of that great harvest. WOW!

What does this mean for the living of our lives? Is one in the Church for oneself? Or are we a part of something much bigger? I'll answer - we are a part of the bigger. What is our responsibility? God gives us 40 days, not counting the Sundays, for us to prepare. During Lent allow the Lord Jesus to use us. He places us in His Church to help one another grow in the faith making sure there will even be a bigger harvest of souls. God's blessings on our efforts to make a difference.

On the threshold of Lent then, cry to the Lord for mercy, forgiveness, grace, and peace, "*Be merciful unto me, O Lord God, be merciful unto me, for my soul trusts in You.*" Have a blessed Lenten Season knowing it culminates in the Resurrection of our Lord! Grow and produce a harvest for the Lord.
Peace, Pastor Thur

Prayer Time

A Prayer Group is meeting in the sanctuary on Wednesday mornings at 7 a.m. The front door will be open from 7 to 8 a.m. so that anyone can join the Prayer Group or pray on your own.

Elders

A local member of Gideons International will speak to the congregation after the service on March 31, 2019. It's always good to hear of their many projects. The Elders are also having a short Bible Study at their meetings.

- Mark Johnson 570-7639
- Ralph Wegner 565-3936
- Josh Chittick 560-4785
- Bill Witthans 533-9055
- Michael Merrit 739-5353
- Burt Ramsey 565-3086
- Bryan Baumgartner 562-4701
- Roland Walter 882-7450

Council

The next Church Council meeting is Tuesday, April 9th at 6:30 in the Ruth Guild Room. These meetings are open for anyone to attend. If you have an item for the Church Council's consideration please get with an

officer to get on the agenda. Should the conversation require it, the Council may go into a closed session. There are a lot of good things happening at Trinity right now and our Church Council is excited to move forward. Your current officers are: Tom Burnison, President; Wayne Hite, Vice-President; Carol Sperleng, Treasurer; and Debra Ramsey, Secretary.

A special shout out to our Trustees! We now have a new stove installed in the kitchen. It couldn't have come at a better time as our Easter Breakfast is right around the corner. Thank you Trustees!

Our annual Easter Breakfast will again be served between the 6:30 AM Sunrise Service and our regular 9:00 AM service on Easter morning. This joyous day also seems to bring more guest than usual and we want everyone to know Trinity welcomes them. Stay tuned for more info to come on this event from the Fellowship Committee who will need some volunteers. The committee is also considering adding a couple extra members to their team. If you are looking for a way to support our church Fellowship Committee wants you!

Trustees

One of the stoves in the fellowship hall kitchen has been replaced. The radio interference on the sanctuary PA system was found to be from the CD/DVD player. The CD/DVD player can continue to be used, but the speaker that leads into the sound board must be unplugged after use.

The 2019 trustees are:

Bruce Short (Head)	Jim Broderick
Kyle Riddell	Jerry Wittwer
Dale Cumpton	David Sperling
Andrew Riddell	Brian Rose
Ben Wolcott	

Please let any of these folks know if something is out of order or any facilities questions. Repair request forms are posted on the bulletin board by the upstairs restrooms between the narthex and the fellowship hall.

Treasurer Notes

Recently I was asked what the best way is to make financial donations to Trinity. To start, answer this basic question: who pays our Pastors, pays the electric bill, keeps the heat on, and pays to have the parking lot plowed in winter? **YOU** do, with your faithful donations. We do not have other regular sources of income. Instead, we are Christians who reflect the Lord's blessings to us by our regular gifts back to the Lord, given at Trinity. **THANK YOU!**

You can make donations to Trinity in cash, by personal check, or by automatic drafts generated by your bank, based on your instructions. If you wish to remain anonymous in your giving, cash is best. However, in January the church Treasurer generates a record of donations from the previous year for all donors who identify themselves. There are three options that will help me record that information correctly: Option 1: donate via a personal or bank-generated check in your name, made out to Trinity Lutheran Church. (Bank-generated checks are usually mailed by the bank to Trinity's address: 208 N. Dolores Road, Cortez, CO 81321) Option 2: ask me for a box of donation envelopes that include a number that I will assign to you for the year--this works well for cash. Option 3: put your donation into your own envelope and include your name.

How often you bring your donation is completely up to you and the Lord: about half of us give a smaller amount every week, and the other half of us make larger monthly or bi-monthly donations. Those with irregular income donate when they are able. Most of Trinity's bills are due every month, however, so giving regularly--at an interval that works for you--helps us meet our commitments.

As other questions about Trinity's finances arise that might be of interest to others, I'll use the newsletter to try to answer them. Please let me know what you might be wondering about!

Carol Sperling

Mission & Social Concerns

The committee has received approval to support several projects for the year. Ysleta Lutheran Mission of El Paso, Texas is one our congregation has supported for many years. Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Navajo, New Mexico is in our Rocky Mountain District and is local. The Cortez Fire Protection District provides a fire safety program for local children, including Trinity Lutheran Pre-school, on a yearly basis. We also continue our financial support for the Good Samaritan Center. And please continue your own donations for Good Samaritan Center as well as Renew and Operation Christmas Child!

Education & Youth

The Board of Education has focused on Children's church this quarter. We have had two to four children every week since we started in January, and we have had seven members volunteer to teach during the service. For the next quarter we have some of those seven helping out again, and three more members getting involved! If there is anyone who would like to help, please contact me, Robin Wolcott, or anyone else on the education committee, and I will get in touch with you. We have heard many positive comments about having children in church so often!

We have also been working with the preschool to provide chapel to the elementary students who attend Wednesdays, when the Cortez schools have a shortened school day. We have worked with five to twelve children every week starting in February. The children and the teachers are happy to have us help out. Once again if there is anyone who would like to be part of helping the preschool with chapel, please contact Robin Wolcott.

Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee has formed and will be meeting regularly to help Trinity members in the ways the congregation gives our time, talents, and resources. Please prayerfully consider what our Father might be asking of you in your daily life. We'll be bringing more info your way after Easter. Please read the Trinity Financial Secretary's article for this newsletter.

This is a quote from John Wimber:

"Many Christians and Christian leaders have been neutralized by the love of money and materialism. The homage paid to affluence becomes a burden that saps our energy as well as our love for God and other people. Through repentance and the cleansing of forgiveness, we can rid ourselves of this burden and begin to let God transform our value system. Like Jesus and Paul, we can learn to be content with what we have, living modestly in order that we may give liberally to the work of the kingdom and to meet the needs of others."

Fellowship

Sign-ups for Lenten Soup Suppers are needed. Check out the bulletin board in the narthex. Also, weekly fellowship sign-ups are available. This is always a good way to keep up with your Trinity family when we visit after the church service.

Fifth Sunday Fellowship is March 31, so the Fellowship Committee is inviting everyone to bring their best potluck dish to share after the Worship service. This will be a great time to get caught up with other Trinity members.

Dates to Remember

Mar 20, 2019 – Lenten Service @ 7 p.m.
Mar 27, 2019 – Sew 'n' Sews @ 9 a.m.
Mar 27, 2019 – Lenten Service @ 7 p.m.
Mar 31, 2019 – Fellowship Sunday Potluck after Worship Service
April 3, 2019 – Lenten Service @ 7 p.m.
April 7, 2019 – Elders Meeting @ 8 a.m.
April 10, 2019 - Sew 'n' Sews @ 9 a.m.
April 10, 2019 – Lenten Service @ 7 p.m.
April 21, 2019 – Easter Sunday
April 24, 2019 - Sew 'n' Sews @ 9 a.m.

Newsletter and Website

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