

TRINITY TIMES

From the Pastor's Desk

"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit." (Isaiah 11:1)

With Thanksgiving almost upon us and Advent just around the corner we are nearing a season of preparation—a time to reflect, pray, and worship the Christ who came, who comes, and who will come again. Imagine the world some two thousand years ago in the weeks before the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem. People were busy doing whatever it was that defined their lives at that moment. For some, it was struggling against hunger, fear, and desperation. For others, it was enjoying their wealth and ease. For yet others, it was simply dealing with the pressures of their lives. It was a world of darkness cut off from the source of all light, the Creator. Yet a light was breaking into the world. A young girl carried in her virgin womb a Son. She was about to give birth to the One who would be the light of the world. This Advent, we gather in the name of Jesus and consider His great story anew. We will follow the light of the world who is the shoot from the stump of Jesse. We will follow the story of the Jesse Tree because THE JESSE TREE IS THE JESUS TREE! This Tree is filled with symbols telling the story of Jesus from creation to His second coming. The story of the Bible, Old and New Testaments alike, is the story of Jesus. He is the Seed of Jesse's tree. He is the Root of Jesse's tree. He is the Life of Jesse's tree. And He is the Firstfruit of Jesse's tree.

God's Blessings,
Pastor Scheele

Elders

The Elders have made the effort to contact most of the congregation to check in on everyone. If they missed you let us know so we can get you on our radar! Head Elder Mark Johnson at goosejohnson@gmail.com.

The current Elders can be reached at the numbers below:

Mark Johnson	570-7639
Burt Ramsey	565-3086
Bryan Baumgartner	562-4701

Council

If you missed the Voters meeting either in person or virtually, there are two documents for you to browse. The first is the 2020 Proposed [Budget](#) and the budget that has been proposed for 2021 and was passed at the Voters Meeting. If you have budget questions please email Carol Sperling at trinitychurchtreasurer@gmail.com. The [Proposed Nominations](#), the slate of members interested in serving on Council, was approved after a vote. Thank you to both the outgoing and incoming Council members. Also included in the Voters Meeting was [Pastor's Report](#) for 2020.

At this time we are still required to follow the Colorado State Covid guidelines and there have been flareups in this part of the state.

The council has approved the contract for the roofing project to be completed by Christmas on the Fellowship Hall and two classrooms that are in dire need. Please pray for the safety of the crew as our work to be good stewards of our Lord's house.

A new committee was mandated by the Council. The new Evaluation Committee will fall in line with the Nominating and Budget Committees. They will be forming a framework to use to evaluate our paid employees. This will also provide direct feedback to our Pastor allowing him to best serve our congregation. Council and Pastor Scheele all feel that this will be a great way for us to communicate. They are just at the beginning so no work has been done on it yet.

Virtual Worship

We live in a time of very unique challenges. Montezuma County remains at yellow where it has been for a while now. With this information I would like to encourage anyone who is in the risk categories for COVID to **join us online** this Sunday,

but for anyone who is comfortable worshipping in-person we will continue to have our in-person worship services until the threat level changes to Orange or Red.

There will be no fellowship until the Sunday after Thanksgiving (at the earliest) and our Bible Studies will only be online for the next two Sundays as well.

I will attach the bulletin for the worship service to my weekly email, but you can also download it from the Church Website. To join us online, you just need to connect to the live teleconference. There are several ways you can do this, for example, you can use a regular telephone, a cell phone, a smartphone mobile app, a tablet, or a computer. Please pick the method that is easiest for you and try connecting at any time to test how it works (keep in mind, if you're the only one connected, then it will connect you, but you'll hear hold music or just silence until someone else connects). The phone number, access code, and website below won't change from week to week, so you should be able to use this same information each week.

1. Dial-in number (US): (425) 436-6358;

Access code: 367780#

Or

2. Join the online meeting on your computer, smartphone, or tablet by going to this [link](#) and downloading the app to allow for the video features: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/trinitylccortez>
Online meeting ID: trinitylccortez

I normally start the conference call about 15 mins before our 9 am worship and turn it off about 5-10 mins after worship. However, if you call in early, just leave your phone or computer connected and it will start the live stream once I connect as the "host."

I try to eventually post the recordings of these videos on our YouTube page (normally by Tuesday), so if you miss worshipping with us on Sunday morning you can watch it later in the week as.

Sunday Fellowship Guidelines

The Fellowship Committee has suspended Fellowship after the church service due to the increase in the pandemic numbers. Resuming Fellowship light will be evaluated again at the end of the month.

The Treasurer

This is a recap of the Memorial Fund Policy that was approved by the Council in April. It establishes two funds that anyone who wants to make a memorial contribution can support:

- the Capital Improvement Fund.
- the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall Enhancements Fund

These funds were created to 1) cover most of the areas where the church has needs at the moment. And 2) make the funds easier to administer.

Here's an example of how this works: someone wants to contribute toward a new sound system for the church. They receive a small inheritance from a wealthy relative, and decide to contribute \$10,000 of it for the sound system in honor of their loved one. Trinity, of course, gratefully receives the donation, puts the money into the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall fund, and buys the new sound system, which costs \$9500. Soon after the system is installed, the donor passes away. What to do with the remaining \$500 of the original gift? By putting the entire gift into the Sanctuary Enhancements Fund, the remaining \$500 can be spent on some other need in the Sanctuary without having to track down the descendants of the donor and make sure they approve its use.

If you want to make special gifts as Memorials OR to the non-Memorial Capital Improvement Fund, there are envelopes in the hallway to make that easier...one for each of the Memorial Funds and one for the "regular" Capital Improvement Fund. If you have something in mind that doesn't seem to fit in an envelope, please talk to Pastor or Carol.

Trustees

The accomplished tasks for the month include the following:

- Fire extinguisher inspection in church and school (ABC Fire Extinguishers).
- Contact roofer that we are ready to start and meeting on contract details.
- Various plumbing duties in church and preschool.
- Replace battery in smoke alarm in church basement.
- Preschool maintenance.

The 2020 trustees are:

Dave Sperling (Head)	Jim Broderick
Kyle Riddell	Jerry Wittwer
Dale Cumpton	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.

Social Concerns

If you would like to participate in the Christmas Child shoeboxes you may do so by going online to samaritanspurse.org/occ. Once there, chose build shoebox online. A page where you can choose "start building" allows you to pick items for your box. The other option is "build for me" where items are chosen for you. Either of these options will charge \$25.00 at the end. If you are interested, please do as soon as possible.

The Bridge Shelter is always in need of items. These are some of the things on their list: Rice, any variety, all pastas, peanut butter, large, restaurant size cans of fruits and vegetables, dried and canned beans, sugar, paper towels, liquid hand soap, 30 & 13 gallon trash bags. They don't need bleach at this time. Afternoon is the best time to take things by as someone should be there. They ask you call 565-9808 to be sure someone is there.

Please call me if you have any questions. Beth McCabe. 759-6950.

Trinity Preschool

Preschool kids learned about fire and fire safety earlier this month when the Cortez Fire Department came for a visit. The Preschool will celebrate Thanksgiving November 20, 2020 but the meal will only be for students and staff because of Covid restrictions. Other topics for the month are boxes and how they are used, various colors, and various shapes. Yoga is now a group activity. The book of Psalms and the beginning of the Christmas story are the Christian concepts for the month. Check in on Facebook to see what's [going on](#).

Sew 'n' Sews

The Sew 'n' Sews are suspending quilting sessions during this time of elevated pandemic spread in Montezuma County. Please stay tuned for further information as it develops. If you would like to sew a quilt top, arrangements can be made for you to pick one up. There are kits for the 60" x 80" quilt tops made from 10.5" squares of fabric. If you would like to use your own fabrics, please do. For any questions, check with Shar Short.

These may be subject to change depending on Colorado Coronavirus guidelines.

Dates to Remember

Nov 15, 2020 – Worship Service @ 9 a.m.
Nov 15, 2020 – Bible Class @ 10:15 a.m.
Nov 22, 2020 – Worship Service @ 9 a.m.
Nov 22, 2020 – Bible Class @ 10:15 a.m.
Nov 26, 2020 – Thanksgiving Day
Nov 29, 2020 – Worship Service @ 9 a.m.
Nov 29, 2020 – Bible Class @ 10:15 a.m.
Dec 2, 2020 – Advent begins
Dec 6, 2020 – Worship Service @ 9 a.m.
Dec 6, 2020 – Bible Class @ 10:15 a.m.

Christmas Quiz

Here's a fun quiz you can take from Lutheran Hour Ministries. [Which Christmas Carol Are You](#) gives a short series of multiple choices to select from then will reply back to you back with which Christmas Carol your choices represent. They offer an Advent Devotion download along with more info on LHM as well.

At lcms.com, there is a Bible verse of the week [here](#). Memorizing Scripture is a great way to keep God's Word in you head and heart and may aid in conversations with other people. If you would like to listen to KFUO, the LCMS radio station, go [here](#). There is also music to listen to as well.



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.