

TRINITY TIMES

From the Pastor's Desk

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Mt 5:14-16).

As Christians, we are the Light of the world, but if our brightness is dimmed, then we must rely on God to restore the vitality of our witness to the world. As we get more comfortable in our ministry, we risk the potential of growing dim and missing out on opportunities to shine God's light to the world. Next month, we will begin a process called *re:Vitality* in order to ensure our brightness and vitality as God's light to the 4-corners. *re:Vitality* will use God's words and God's created gifts to allow Him to work in us and through us to let our light shine before others. Our participation in *re:Vitality* opens opportunities to strengthen our congregation for years to come. However, in order to get the best direction for our congregation from this program, we need your input. We want your opinion about how well our light is currently shining. In February we will be asking everyone to fill out a simple questionnaire about our church. We want input from every one of you. It makes no difference if you have been a churchgoer all your life, or whether you just started coming this week; whether you are a member, guest, preschool family, or regular attendee – We want to hear from each one of you. This is just the start as we fan into flame the light that is in each of us. *"You are the light of the world,"* so, let's use the resources and talents that God has given to us and our church to ensure that God's word shines into us, through us, and from us so that all the world *"may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."*

Your Servant, Pastor Scheele

Elders

A Men's Bible Study will begin January 25, 2020 at 7:30 a.m. in the Church Library. Plan to come!

Mark Johnson	570-7639
Michael Merritt	739-5353
Burt Ramsey	565-3086
Bryan Baumgartner	562-4701

Council

President Tom Burnison submitted the following reminder. Security was discussed again at the recent Church Council meeting. This is a repeat of what we are asked to do should there be an emergency at the church. If there is something troubling or violent occurring, please dial 911 even if more than one person calls. You may not even have to talk. Sheriff Nowlin said that if they see multiple 911 calls coming from the same location, they will be on the way immediately.

There will be only 4 Elders this year; Mark Johnson, Brian Baumgartner, Michael Merritt and Burt Ramsey. Thank you Elders for all you do!

A committee has been formed to create a job description for the position of Church Secretary. The committee will decide what Trinity's needs are and what will best support our pastor within our budget options.

The Preschool was able to purchase their refrigerator, thanks to the many generous donations that were given!

Lenten Services begin the end of February and will be similar to Advent services with a 5 pm meal and 6 pm Service. Pastor will have an opportunity for children to take part again as this was a huge success during Advent.

The purchase of a new projector and mount has been approved.

Church Council meetings will be held at 7 p.m. during 2020.

The Treasurer

Trinity ended 2019 with more income than expenses, thanks to your generous giving and thrifty money management on the part of the committees! As discussed at the November congregational meeting, the surplus is being put into a new internal fund, which we're calling the Capitol Improvement/Deferred Maintenance Fund. In addition to the surplus from 2019, the remains of the old Building Fund are also being put into this internal fund. This results in a nice nest egg intended specifically for maintaining and/or upgrading the buildings and systems of the church and preschool complex. What might this money be used for? Replacing rooves comes to mind...upgrading some of our ancient heating systems...paying for large property-related expenses that contribute to being good stewards of the church and preschool campus for the future. **Please keep in mind this fund is NOT for paying the monthly heat bill or the phone bill. We will continue to need your faithful tithes to pay those monthly**

expenses, but we are grateful God has given us the means to take better care of our property.

If you would like envelopes for your tithe, please let Carol know. If you haven't yet received your annual statement of giving for 2019, please look in your inbox at church. If you're out of town for the winter and need that statement, please email Carol with your winter address at trinitychurchtreasurer@gmail.com.

Trustees

Dave Sperling is the new Head Trustee for 2020, by decision of the group of Trustees serving for 2020. Thanks to Bruce Short for his dedication during his term as a Trustee.

The AA group has generously donated \$300 to buy supplies to install a new electric circuit to supply electricity to the little dog house where the back-flow preventer has recently been installed.

Recent repairs at the Preschool included fixing one of the gas furnaces in the Preschool, fixing the stoves, adding wood chips and astro-turf to the redesigned Preschool playground, and several other smaller jobs.

A variety of maintenance tasks were carried out in the church as well. There are a number of repairs in the church that require attention: the west Furnace roof heater condensate water trap on new Sanctuary building froze and broke the pvc pipe; the east furnace roof heater condensate water trap on new Sanctuary building probably froze and also broke the pvc pipe; a new roof needs to be installed on three of the buildings in 2020.

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.

Trinity Lutheran Preschool

The Preschool is back in session for the semester. The new refrigerator is installed and in use! Thanks to all who donated.

The themes for January are Winter, Getting a Fresh Start, Health and Safety, Snow, Water, Mittens. The letters for the month are E, W, D, and K. The Bible lessons include Simeon and

Anna, the boy Jesus at the Temple, Jesus chooses the 12 Disciples and Jesus blessed the Children.

Board of Education

We are looking for volunteers to help with Children's Church. Anyone who is interested can talk to Robin Wolcott. We try to make it very doable for anyone willing to help. We typically have between two to six children on Sunday morning.

Fellowship

At the last Council meeting, we heard several perspectives on the fellowship time after church. We heard that some people are hesitant to sign up to host fellowship treats because of the expense and work of offering a substantial snack. We heard Pastor say that many of our guests and visitors have mentioned how much they enjoyed participating in Christian fellowship after the service and commenting on the lovely food! As a Council, we think the weekly fellowship time is important, and the food aspect is certainly part of the enjoyment of that time. However, we also recognize that it takes work and money to provide a nice snack offering. So, starting next week, you'll see an offering basket on the food tables. Please contribute what you can--this will help offset the expense of providing all those yummy treats by yourself. Also, if you sign up with another person, the cost of the treats would be shared. We are also looking at helping to reimburse some of the expense for food. Priscilla can be reached at 739-5373.

Did you forget to bring your glasses to church?

No problem! Trinity now has a box of readers on the table in the narthex. There are glasses in every prescription. Just look for the big googly eyed box! Thanks to Doc Burnison for keeping an "eye" on us!

Dates to Remember

Jan 22, 2020 – Sew 'n' Sews @ 9 a.m. in Ruth Guild Room
Jan 25, 2020 – Men's Bible Study @ 7:30 a.m. in Library
Feb 12, 2020 – Sew 'n' Sews @ 9 a.m. in Ruth Guild Room
Feb 26, 2020 – Sew 'n' Sews @ 9 a.m. in Ruth Guild Room
Feb 26, 2020 – Ash Wednesday – Supper @ 5 p.m. and Service @ 6 p.m.
Mar 10, 2020 – Church Council Meeting @ 7 p.m. in the Ruth Guild Room

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