

TRINITY TIMES

From the Pastor's Desk

¹ And God spoke all these words, saying, ² "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ³ "You shall have no other gods before me."
(Exodus 20:1–3).

How often have we heard the words of this scripture passage and thought, surely, we can fulfill this, the most basic, the "first" of God's commandments? And yet, as summer approaches how often will we put the "gods" of summer ahead of the one true God? Will we put summer vacation before the Word of God? Will we put summer plans before our plans to spend time in prayer and devotion? Will we put family and friends before our heavenly Father? During this Pentecost season we will be taking a look at God's desire and will for our lives. In summary, we call this God's Law or God's Ten Commandments. These commandments reveal God's will for our lives. They show us that "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.*" (Matthew 22:37). But as we look closer and closer at God's holy will for our lives, we realize just how far away we are from His desires for us. Instead, of guiding us, we often see His law as a mirror showing us how often we have failed and how truly unholy we are. And yet, notice that God introduces His commandments, not with a reminder of how "bad" we are, but with a reminder of how "good" God is. God introduces His Ten Commandments by saying "I am the Lord your God," or in other words, despite what commandments you have broken (or will break), "I am the Lord your God." Despite what you may or may not put before me, "I am the Lord your God." Despite what you thought about the power of sin in your life or your slavery to the devil's house of sin, "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." He is God, despite our best effort to remove Him. He is our God. He is the God who rescued the Israelites from slavery. He is the God who rescues us from the slavery of sin. He does this, not because we deserve it or because we've earned it, or because we've fulfilled some sort of covenantal law, but because we couldn't do those very things. Our Heavenly Father sent Jesus to fulfill what we could not. To fulfill His will for our lives. Christ is the fulfillment of the law so that despite our failure God can still dwell in His creation. He restores us and enables us to fear, love, and trust in Him above all things.

Your Servant, Pastor Scheele

Pastor's Report

Pastor's Report detailed Worship, Pastoral Care, Teaching and Membership duties. If you would like to see the Report, please contact Pastor Scheele.

The Church Council and Pastor have compiled a Wedding Plan for those wishing to be married at Trinity Lutheran Church. This plan sets out pastoral meetings and counseling, reservation date, fees, wedding logistics and any other planning required. To receive this information, call the Trinity Church office at 970-565-9346.

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!

The current Elders can be reached at the numbers below:

Bryan Baumgartner (Head)	562-4701
Mark Johnson	570-7639
Burt Ramsey	565-3086
Jerry Wittwer	560-2554
Marty Ruggles	565-4049

Council Business

Old Business – The November 2020 Voters Meeting was presented with a plan to start an endowment for Trinity Lutheran Preschool. That business was tabled at

that time. During this Spring meeting, the matter was brought up again, but was once again tabled because the information was not available.

New Business – The Council recommended to the Voters that the congregation should adopt a salary schedule for Pastor Scheele. The numbers are based on base salaries that consider education, years of service and percentage increments to determine what a pastor might receive in a year. This suggestion was voted in with the stipulation that after 2 years there will be an assessment before implementing this policy permanently. Also, Pastor Scheele's Housing Allowance was adjusted to be 50% of his salary for the rest of 2021 and this will be revisited yearly.

Trinity Lutheran is currently donating \$1500 (1%) of its budget to LCMS Synod and District. Members voted to increase this to \$3000, taking the extra amount out of the Cash on Hand account. The total funds that Trinity donates is between 6 & 7% at this time and Council's goal is to gradually work towards tithing or 10% of the congregation's income.

Treasurer's Report

- Through April 30, 2021, Trinity's income was \$53,425 and expenses were \$47,881 so there is currently a small surplus.

- At the end of 2020, there were funds of \$2281.40 left that were designated Cash on Hand Fund. These funds are available for 2021 if needed.

- The roofing project will be paid for with funds coming from a combination of the Old Building Fund, the Trustee 2021 budget, the 2020 portion of the Memorial Funds for Capital Improvements, and the ongoing Capital Improvements/Deferred Maintenance Funds.

- Per approved Cash On Hand policy, \$12,407 of surplus funds from 2020 needs to be allocated by the congregation for either spending this year or for long term savings for the future.

As you may know, Trinity needs to find a new Church Treasurer for 2022. This position is term limited to 3 years, and 2021 is my third year of service. Here are some details of what the job entails for your prayerful consideration. You do NOT have to be a book-keeper or accountant to accomplish this job, but you do need to be detail-oriented, able to use (or learn to use) Word and Excel moderately easily, be fairly organized, and, of course, you should take the 10 Commandments pretty seriously.

A few things to know:

--The Treasurer is one of the elected officers of the congregation and is part of the Church Council. He/she should be a member of Trinity Lutheran Church. He/she works closely with the other officers, Pastor, and the Boards and Committees to accomplish the work of the church here in Cortez.

--The Treasurer is a member of the Church Council, and may work on Council projects in addition to completing the regular tasks of the Treasurer.

--I've found it takes me 4 - 6 hours/week when nothing special is going on...more when preparing for Council meetings (at least 6/year) or congregational meetings (at least 2/year), and at the start and end of the year.

--Weekly or monthly tasks include writing checks to pay the church's bills, depositing offerings, reconciling bank accounts, filing, completing payroll entry, checking credit card statements, etc. We use a software program designed for churches to do these tasks, and the Treasurer needs to become adept at using it to keep accurate track of Trinity's finances.

--A training period of at least 2 months is very important, so the new Treasurer will need to start working a few hours most weeks with me in November 2021 (October if you're able). This is a huge commitment, but my commitment to the new Treasurer is: I will work a few hours most weeks with you in January and February 2022 until you're comfortable with your new role.

Please let me know what other questions you might have, and thanks for considering this!

Carol Sperling

Trustees

The roofing project for the Preschool started May 21. Rick Presnell, RP Handiman Services, LLC, is the firm completing the work. The old shingles were removed and a new Tyvek layer was put in place. The new shingles will match the type that are on the church roof – an architectural style that have a 30-year life.

When the comfort level of the congregation is back to a more open mode, the Trustees will organize a Work Day so members can join in to help with various improvements to the Trinity campus. There will be a variety of jobs to assist with, so stay tuned.

The 2021 trustees are:

Dave Sperling

Brian Rose

Kyle Riddell

Dale Cumpton

Jimmy Feltman

Chris Crowley

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.

Board of Education

On Sundays when Communion is served, Kids' Church is held. During the sermon, children from 3-7 years leave the sanctuary for the Youth Room downstairs where there is a short lesson. Several parents have been providing this, but they would love to have other members of the congregation take a turn. Call Nicci at 970-570-9372 to find out more and to volunteer.

Currently there are 3 young people in the Youth Group. They meet monthly for learning and fun. Next summer there is a National Youth Convention for LCMS young people. Our Youth Group would like to raise about \$5000 for three students and chaperones to attend the convention. There will be a bake sale during the Ride the Rockies event June 14. If you would like to help by baking or assisting, please call Nicci at 970-570-9372.

Fellowship

Fellowship has resumed on Sunday mornings with beverages and snacks that are packaged separately and this will continue for the time being. Tom Burnison is the Committee Chair, and he has been shopping and monitoring the kitchen situation. But several family health events are coming soon, and Tom would like some Committee members to help him out. Also, the weekly sign-up sheet continues to reside on the cupboard door at the kitchen entrance, so sign-up to make coffee and set up the packaged treats provided. Tom Burnison – 970-739-6977.

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

Dates to Remember

May 30, 2021 – Worship Service @ 9 a.m.

May 30, 2021 – Bible Class @ 10:45 a.m.

June 6, 2021 – Worship Service @ 9 a.m.

June 6, 2021 – Bible Class @ 10:45 a.m.

June 13, 2021 – Worship Service @ 9 a.m.

June 13, 2021 – Bible Class @ 10:45 a.m.

June 14, 2021 – Youth Bake Sale @ Parque de Vita for Ride the Rockies

June 20, 2021 – Youth Group @ 6 p.m.

June 26, 2021 – Men's Bible Study @ 7:30 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