

TRINITY TIMES

From the Pastor's Desk

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. ¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ... ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:13-17, 22-23).

How is your summer growing? For me, it seems like we have been trying to pack last year's summer and this year's summer into one combined mess. Yet in the midst of this chaos, I still seem to find those wonderful and precious times when I can sit back and consider how God is working in my life. How He is "growing" faith and love in my heart. So how is your summer growing? Are you producing seeds of bitterness and stress, or are you producing the fruits of the Spirit? If you feel like your fruitfulness is lacking this summer, then why not tend and care for your wellbeing like any good gardener does. By the power of the Spirit, pull out those weeds of enmity, strife, jealousy, dissensions, etc... and sprinkle the garden of your life with a little nutritious plant food (God's Word), to strengthen and feed your soul. "For you were called to freedom" (Gal 5:13), and only through God's Word is that freedom realized. Only through God's Word are you given the Spirit and with the Spirit faith and trust in the promises of that same Word. You might feel overwhelmed, and the sun might be beating down on you with a ferocious intensity, but as the Psalmist says, "Out of my distress I called on the Lord; the Lord answered me and set me free." (Ps 118:5). So, as you consider this summer's fruit, remember that it was not by your effort you became the fruitful tree that you are. No, it is by God's design that you were given the spirit of faith & growth. It was by the waters of Holy Baptism that you sprouted as a Saint in the Garden of Heaven. "The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation." (Ps 118:14). Therefore, continue to grow in the Spirit and give thanks to God because "this is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Ps 118:24). Jesus is our master gardener and he will tend and care for you. So how is your summer growing?

Your Servant, Pastor Scheele

Elders

The Elders and Pastor met and have decided on some updated COVID precautions: Masks are now completely optional and it is up to each individual whether or not they would like to wear one at church or not. We will also be returning to our pre-COVID communion practices and procedures. Both individual and common cup will be offered and we will again kneel at the communion rail (if you so desire). However, to respect the social distancing of family groups please let the usher know if you would prefer to maintain social distancing at the communion rail or not.

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

The Council has been working on refilling the previous part-time Church Secretary's position with a part-time Administrative Assistant. The person who eventually fills this position would work with Pastor to create the bulletin each week, manage the office, update church calendars, etc. There is potential for this position to grow in both responsibilities and hours, based on skills and performance.

Like the former position, it would be part-time, paid, and not eligible for health benefits. At the July meeting, we approved a Position Description and have a tentative time-line to hire the person EITHER in September/October 2021 or in January 2022. This would allow the new person to learn the ropes either in advance of the busy Christmas season, or just after...not in the middle of it!

Financially, it appears that Trinity can support this position, although we will assess that every year in the budget process. If filled in September/October 2021, we will need the congregation's approval to 1) proceed with

LWML BRUNCH

The LWML is hosting a Brunch on Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. There will be delightful breakfast fare along with a short business meeting. This is open to all Trinity women so please join us!

hiring this new part-time position for the Church and 2) to dedicate about \$6000 to salary in 2021. These funds would not come from our approved budget for the year, but would be drawn from a combination of surplus funds (if any) from 2021 offerings and last year's surplus, of which about \$9000 is currently available with the congregation's approval.

In order to discuss this and seek the congregation's approval, we have scheduled a special Voter's Assembly on Sunday, September 12, during Fellowship. Please plan to attend!

If you'd like to see the approved Position Description, please ask Pastor for a copy, or look on the table near the drinking fountain.

In other Council news, Council approved the removal of the water fountain cover as we move to pre pandemic status. And Council approved the purchase of a new stove for the preschool.

Trustees

Trustees perform quite a few repairs and maintenance at the Preschool in a month. Jobs in the past month included outdoor jobs like repairing a fence and monitoring sprinklers to starting up the swamp cooler and repairing toys or play areas. The church maintenance included troubleshooting Fellowship Hall AC by replacing a breaker and ordering a new compressor. The Sanctuary AC required a new condenser. The electronic door locks to the church are needing repairs, as well.

Wayne Hite installed a new phone system for the church and Preschool as well. Thank you, Wayne!

The 2021 trustees are:

Dave Sperling

Brian Rose

Kyle Riddell

Dale Cumpston

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.

Youth Group

THANK YOU To everyone who generously supported the Youth Group during our Bake Sale this past month. We were able to raise over \$1,600 towards our \$5,000 goal to attend the National Youth Gathering and

we can't tell you how excited and appreciative we are. God is good and He worked His blessing through YOU!

Pastor's Odds and Ends

Pastor needs help with a music spreadsheet project. This project requires mostly data entry into an Excel spreadsheet and a little bit of online research. It could take 2 hours or it could take 20 hours to accomplish, but most likely it will take somewhere in between. If you have the time and the skills to help work on this project for Pastor, please let him know.

Pastor has created a **Funeral Planning Worksheet** to help ease the burden of deciding worship and other funeral planning arrangements. Please contact Pastor to obtain a copy or schedule a time to work through one with him.

Community Concert, sponsored by the Montezuma County Ministerial Alliance, Aug 14th from 5-9 pm at Veteran's Park. Come and see our Church's choir and the several other churches' musicians share God's Word with the community through song and music.

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. Please let Tom know if you would like to join the Fellowship Committee. 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

July 18, 2021 – Worship Service @ 9 a.m.
July 18, 2021 - Bible Class @ 10:45 a.m.
July 18, 2021 – Youth Group @ 6 p.m.
July 24, 2021 – Men's Bible Study @ 7:30 a.m.
July 25, 2021 – Worship Service @ 9 a.m.
July 25, 2021 - Bible Class @ 10:45 a.m.
July 28, 2021 – Sew 'n' Sews @ 9 a.m. Ruth Guild Room
Aug 1, 2021 – Worship Service @ 9 a.m.
Aug 1, 2021 - Bible Class @ 10:45 a.m.
Aug 8, 2021 – Worship Service @ 9 a.m.
Aug 8, 2021 - Bible Class @ 10:45 a.m.
Aug 11, 2021 – Sew 'n' Sews @ 9 a.m. Ruth Guild Room
Aug 14, 2021 – Community Concert 5-9 p.m. @ Veteran's Park
Aug 15, 2021 – Youth Group @ 6 p.m.
Sept 12, 2021 – Special Voters Meeting @ 10:15 a.m.

Joke of the Month

Did you hear about the cheese factory that exploded in France?
There was nothing left but de Brie.

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