

TRINITY TIMES

Trinity Lutheran Church

April 2015

From the Pastor's Desk

"They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus." Luke 24:2&3

Christ is risen, he lives forever. And because of what he has done for us at the cross and the empty tomb we shall live forever also. Our sins have been paid for, we are forgiven. Let's remember that as we walk as yet by faith. Eternal life is ours! Christ is risen and we shall live forever. A blessed Easter to you all!

*Peace,
Pastor*



Elders

We hope that everyone at Trinity will be able to participate in Easter festivities, including Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and either of the Easter services. This is a good time to invite family and friends to worship. There will also be Easter Breakfast in between Easter services.

The Elders are:

Joe Mahaffey 562-4750
Larry Gessner 565-6371
Bill Whitthans 533-9055
Kelly McCabe 565-7269
Marty Ruggles 565-4049
Joe Stevens 565-3679

Please feel free to contact any of them at any time with comments or concerns.

Council Treasurer

If you shop on Amazon.com, you can register Trinity Lutheran to receive a portion of your sales. There are currently members that are using this system and Trinity receives a check every 3 months. Every little bit helps.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7044974>

Leah Bedker

Editor's note: This was advertised last year to benefit the Preschool, but they did not meet all the qualifications. You may want to check your preferences on Amazon if you did register the Preschool.

Stewardship

At Church council meeting a few weeks ago, we reviewed the annual budget and realized that Trinity is not living within its means right now. Expenses--for everything from utilities and insurance for the church building to Pastor's salary to cleaning and kitchen supplies--are not being met by offerings. We, as a congregation, are still able to pay our bills at the moment, thanks to a small buffer of savings. But the church faces the same challenge each of us does in our personal lives: we can't keep spending more money than we bring in.

So why do we support Trinity Lutheran Church in Cortez, Colorado? The best reason: Because the Lord asks us to!

- "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops.." Proverbs 3:9

- "In everything I did I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

- "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant, nor put their faith in wealth...Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share." 1 Timothy 6:17-18

Does God have to have the right to ask us to support His church on Earth? He does indeed, because of what He gives to us.

- "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

What does God promise us relative to our gifts?

- "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 6: 38

- "What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?" Luke 8:31-32

- "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." Malachi 3:10

Is Trinity the only organization in Cortez that needs our support? Certainly not! Supporting our church is only one of many God-pleasing ways to "Honor the Lord" with our wealth, at whatever level we--in prayerful consultation with the Him--decide.

- "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able

to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

2 Corinthians 9:7-8

Carol Sperling

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee has postponed the Mission Sunday activities to a later time so the new date will be advertised soon. If you are interested in knowing more about Mission Central, the organization that the Committee plans to support this year, visit their web site at <http://www.missioncentral.us/missioncentral/welcome>.

CPR Training

A CPR & AED Class will be held Sunday April 26th at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Bryan and Trina Baumgartner will be leading the class. Books will be furnished. Expect at least 4 hours. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex – it's important that there are enough supplies. Questions? Barbara Jeanne Humbracht 759-1744

The Baumgartners 562-4701

Lunch & Games

Lunch & Games is April 21, 2015 at 11:30 a.m. Plan to attend and have some fun!

Sew 'n' Sews

Sew 'n' Sews will meet April 8th and 22nd at 9 a.m. in the Ruth Guild Room. We would welcome your help! If you would like to piece a top at home, give Shar Short a call.

Hopes Kitchen

Thank you to those who participated in our food drive last month. It provided the kitchen with several months' worth of vegetables. There is always a need as so far this year we have served some 4,000 meals, not including the twice a week nightly meals for the Bridge. Our continued relationship with Community Connections has provided positive results working with their clients. Hopefully we can expand our relationship as time goes on. We can always utilize some back up volunteers so talk to me if you are interested, everything from

serving to cooking to pie cutting, etc.

Larry Gessner

Bridge Shelter

The Bridge has had a successful year. It is hard to believe that April will be their last month again for the season. In the next newsletter we can provide some good numbers for their season.

Upcoming Events

- April 2, 2015 – Maundy Thursday Service @ 7 p.m.
- April 3, 2015 – Good Friday Service @ 7 p.m.
- April 5, 2015 – Easter Sunrise Service @ 6:30 a.m.
- April 5, 2015 – Easter Breakfast 7:15 a.m.
- April 5, 2015 – Easter Service @ 9 a.m.
- April 8, 2015 – Sew 'n' Sews @ 9:00 a.m.
- April 22, 2015 – Sew 'n' Sews @ 9:00 a.m.
- April 26, 2015 – CPR/AED Class @ 10:30 a.m. – Sign up needed

Volunteer Needed

Each Sunday the entire worship service is taped and downloaded on to DVDs that are distributed to those who cannot attend church. This usually takes several hours a week and requires a computer for burning the DVDs. If you would like to help in this important outreach, please check in with Eleanor at the church office or talk to Wayne Hite at 882-1438.

Devotion of the Month

The Darkness of Rash Judgment

Read John 1:43-51.

TEXT: "Can anything good come out of Nazareth? ..." (John 1:46a).

As we near the end of John's first chapter, Jesus is gathering His twelve disciples. Even here we see the battle rage between light and darkness-in this case it's the darkness of a preconceived notion. Before he ever met Jesus, Nathanael arrogantly asks, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"

That's what the darkness in us does. We sit as judge of everyone and everything around us, jumping to conclusions about people without knowing their

whole story. And it's just too bad for the person who doesn't fit into our nice neat categories-whether it's that nerdy kid at school who doesn't dress like we do or that estranged family member, quirky neighbor or congregation full of hypocrites. We even do the same with God. We judge His holiness and faithfulness by the circumstances of our lives. We don't give God the right to be God.

Philip is wise. He doesn't try to argue away Nathanael's prejudice. He gives his friend a simple invitation: "Come and see." He is confident Jesus will shatter Nathanael's false judgment, and Jesus doesn't disappoint him.

Lent is the time to humble ourselves and to come to Jesus and admit our rash judgments. Jesus does something we would never expect: He shines His grace, power and love as He suffers from the darkness of human rejection, flogging and a cross. Yet in that brutality, suffering and death Jesus won our salvation. He gathers us together in congregations around His Word and Sacraments to shatter our preconceived notions and empower us to accept one another and work together to show His love to all those around us. THE PRAYER: Lord Jesus, forgive me for judging by appearances. Open my heart to see You as You are and to share Your Name everywhere I go. Amen.

Quotes for the Month

The resurrection gives my life meaning and direction and the opportunity to start over no matter what my circumstances. ~Robert Flatt

Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there. ~Clarence W. Hall quotegarden.com

Newsletter Info

If you would like to submit information to this newsletter, please put it in Shar Short's box, call her at 970-564-1596, or e-mail her at shortstuff1950@gmail.com.