

TRINITY TIMES

Trinity Lutheran Church

December 2015

From the Pastor's Desk

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders." Isaiah 96

Greetings in the name of Jesus! What a wonderful time of the year! Not just for our celebrations but for opportunity this time of year gives us to witness to the son who was given. May your season be blessed with the love of God and may we remember it is because the child was given that we celebrate. And we not only celebrate his birth but must remember why he was given, to die on the cross, pay for our sins and rise from the dead. For these reasons we truly can celebrate with a grateful heart.

In Jesus,

In Jesus, Pastor



Elders

Advent...the glorious birth of our Lord, Jesus! As pastor has reminded us, He came because of our need for Him to die for our sins. That still does not distract from the celebration we love, remembering this joyful season of His birth and life.

Please join us at the Wednesday Advent services as well as regular Sunday and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

The Elders are:

Larry Gessner	565-6371
Kelly McCabe	565-7269
Marty Ruggles	565-4049
Joe Stevens	565-3679
Roland Walter	882-7450
Ralph Wegner	565-3936

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

Preschool

The Preschool Christmas program will be on Thursday Dec. 17. There will be a dinner for the preschool families at 5:30 and shortly after dinner the program will begin – 6:15 is the target time for the program. We could use a few people to serve the dinner and clean-up. Volunteers may contact Jackie.

If anyone has a leaf blower and could clear the preschool area of leaves it would be greatly appreciated.

Stewardship

Note: This is the second installment of this article.

IV. Honor your father and your mother.

What gift does God give with the Fourth Commandment?

Parents. We have parents even if you dishonor, disrespect or hate them. Parents gave us life, and that life is not immediately revoked when we disobey your parents. But Moses and Paul promise this commandment has a particular blessing: "That it may go well with you and that you may live long." (Deut. 5:33; Eph. 6:3).

V. You shall not murder.

Now and for the remaining five commandments, the recipient of the gift God intends to give shifts from us to our neighbors. And what gift does God intend to give with the Fifth Commandment? Life of earth. In particular, your neighbor's life. Life is obviously a gift. God intends to give it fully and richly. And He intends for us to be the ones who watch out for our neighbor's life. We are given the responsibility to help and support our neighbors in any physical need.

VI. You shall not commit adultery.

What gift does God give with this Sixth Commandment?

Marriage. Marriage is a good gift. And it works *best* according to God's design. When He prohibits adultery, when He calls us to live chaste and decent

lives, when He commands husbands and wives to love and honor each other, it's because He wants our marriages to be the best they can be.

VII. You shall not steal.

What gift does God intend to protect with the Seventh Commandment? Your neighbor's property. We pray for daily bread in the Lord's Prayer, and we confess that God gives it to all people, even to all evil people. The Seventh Commandment simply gives to us the responsibility of guarding all our neighbor's possessions and income. He even gives to us our daily bread--and everything else we have--with the instruction to use it for our neighbor's good.

VIII. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What gift does God give and protect through the Eighth Commandment? A good name, your neighbor's reputation. As Christians, we should be particularly good at guarding our neighbor's reputation, because we have been redeemed from a life of sin ourselves. We know how to explain things in the kindest way, by putting the kind of construction on the gossip that we wish others would do for us. "He had good intentions." "She meant well, even if it didn't go well." "Well, I certainly know what it's like to deal with temptation like that."

It's our job to help protect God's gift of a good name.

IX. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

X. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Ninth and Tenth Commandments have a common gift to deliver: contentment.

What's contentment? A satisfied heart, an attitude that believes the gifts God has given are sufficient. These paired commandments deal less with outward sins and more with the inward disposition of the Christian. God wants to give each of us a heart that is content with what He has given, not always clambering for more.

So, as it turns out, God has given us His Law because He created us and He knows — far better than we do — what's best for each of us. Of course, although we know that the Ten Commandments are intended as good gifts from God, we can't keep them perfectly. Only Jesus did that. His perfect obedience, perfect righteousness, is the ultimate gift. This was given to each of us in Holy Baptism. It's reaffirmed in Holy Absolution. It nourishes and strengthens us in Holy Communion.

It's that precious gift of grace, as well as the daily gifts described in the 10 Commandments, that we are to share with our church and with our neighbors. Many Christians look to do that with a combination of financial gifts to the church and service to our neighbors and community. When we make those contributions--whatever they are--prayerfully and in consultation with the Lord, we are being good stewards of what He first gave us.

submitted by Carol Sperling

Sew 'n' Sews

Sew 'n' Sews will only meet Wednesday, Dec 9, 2015 this month. Please meet in the Ruth Guild room at 9 a.m. Questions can go to Shar Short at 564-1596 or Mary Mahaffey at 562-4750.

Hopes Kitchen

This has been an extraordinary year in many respects. Our numbers are up in every aspect - December will provide some eye opening figures.

The hungry continue to be fed and their numbers are not decreasing. But the need is being met - not just through Hopes Kitchen but also through Good Samaritan, Grace's Kitchen and the Bridge. Are there bad days? You betcha! But we work through them and God continues to lead us and to provide.

Thank you for your continued support. It is really appreciated and utilized. During this special Holiday season, please remember to support your community while celebrating the joyous birth of our Lord and Savior.

Larry Gessner

Upcoming Events

- December 6, 2015 – Voters Meeting @ 10:30 a.m. (after church)
- December 9, 2015 – Sew 'n' Sews – 9 a.m.
- December 9, 2015 – Advent Service @ 7 p.m.
- December 16, 2015 – Advent Service @ 7 p.m.
- December 24, 2015 – Candlelight Communion Christmas Service @ 7 p.m.
- December 2, 2015 – Christmas Day service @ 9 a.m.

Membership Changes

Transfer Members:

Gregory and Jolene Ausburn
Cheyenne & Morgan.

P. O. Box 363, Towaoc,
CO 81334

The Ausburn family has moved here from Gun Barrel City, TX.

Velma Carlson
Madison House
120 S. Madison, Cortez.

Esther Fiene
2474 Northwest 77th Blvd.,
Apartment 3012, Gainesville
Florida 32606

Web Site

The Web Site is up and running. Pages include Calendar, Service information, What We Believe, Church Organization, Newsletter and much more. Pictures will be

updated and a History page added in the future. Give it a look at trinitylutheranchurchcortez.com.
Shar Short

Volunteer Needed

If you have some extra time during the week and knowledge of technical devices, Wayne Hite could use your help in taping and burning copies of the Sunday sermon. Give him a call at 882-1438.



Poem of the Month

The Gift

The Gift was wrapped in swaddling clothes
And in a manger laid,
A helpless baby lying there
The love of God portrayed.
The world was dark and quiet,
but
The angels couldn't keep
Their silence any longer as
They watched the nation sleep –
They broke the sky with glory
light,
Their praises rang out clear,
They told the watchful
shepherds 'Look
The Gift of God is here.
You'll find Him in a manger
and
One day He'll grow to be
The Saviour you've been waiting
for –
The Lord and Christ is He!
The Gift was nailed upon a tree
And on His bleeding head
The emblem of His Kingship
was
A crown of thorns stained red.
No sound from angel witnesses
As men roared out their scorn,
They knew the Saviour's time
had come –
The reason He'd been born.
The gift of God was life for men,
But first that Life must die –
And Christmas merged with
Easter as
The cross was lifted high.
Marion Caragounis

Newsletter Info

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