



THE TRINITARIAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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Bible Classes and Sunday School 9:00 AM

Divine Service 10:15 AM



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FROM THE PASTOR

Esther 4:14 For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

Esther was up against a wall. She knew of the decree and her life as well as all the Jews was on the line. She could ignore the decree and hope the King might overlook her but her uncle pointed out, she was likely to fall under the same outcome as the rest of the Jews.

Mordecai didn't know what would happen to them but he knew the Lord was in charge and possibly, just possibly now was Esther's time in God's dealing with the Jews to let His light of deliverance shine through her.

She knew her life and that of her people's lives were on the line. It came down to whether she was going to die now or later. She decided that she might be used by God at this time and in this place. She was like the three guys that got tossed into the fiery furnace.

It seems we are undergoing a type of fire this past year. Shutdowns, regulations on how things should be done and the lack of closeness we would like with those we care about.

Compared to Esther or the three Jews, we can see we haven't had to endure that they did but endure something we were not used to, we have.

What does the new year hold for us? Will our lives be further challenged. Will the faith we have been given come under even more attack? Might it come to the point where our physical lives are on the line and yes, may even be taken if we remain faithful? Maybe we are still here for such a time as this, to shine the light of Jesus into the dark world around us. Let us never forget what Paul wrote: Rom. 14:8 For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

Pastor

ELDERS MESSAGE

What are your New Year's resolutions ? Lose that pesky fifteen pounds that you vowed to do last year but it kept creeping back onto your torso and maybe grew larger?

Stop doing whatever you do that you know isn't good for you?

Get more exercise, park at the end of the Wal-Mart parking lot instead of the closest spot to the entrance. Thought about it, but was in such a hurry , didn't do it, besides it was too cold, hot or your aching feet ,back, or knees wouldn't handle the walk.

Yep, New Year's resolutions are made to be broken, especially if they have no real consequences for breaking them.

The above is a re-hash of last year's resolutions.

The resolutions about doing healthier things took on a more ominous note with the coming of Covid19.

The "experts" provided us with admonitions and requirements to alter our lifestyles for the protection of us, our loved ones and the people we meet on a daily basis.

Dire consequences would result by not following their guidelines for living, As we found out , their "rules" seemingly changed almost weekly, depending on which "expert" promulgated the "rule".

We are now into the vaccine stage of the rules. Once again, we are at the mercy of the "experts". Who and what are we to believe? THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

The real choice we all have to make is to believe "the top men/women" of the world or to place our trust in GOD and believe in HIS SON JESUS CHRIST.

Our prayer chain and the outright miracles that have resulted from our prayers is living proof that trust in GOD and belief in JESUS CHRIST is the only answer to our prayers.

More importantly, it is the only way to eternal salvation .

How about making a resolution to attend church every Sunday? GOD admonishes us to attend worship regularly and receive his Grace through hearing his word and partaking of His Holy Sacraments.

Living your life according to his will would be a resolution that has real consequences!!!!

Make a resolution to PRAY daily and thank GOD for HIS blessings.

Think about your resolutions!! Which ones really matter?

James R. Wilkes, Elder

STEWARDSHIP

Dear Friends at Trinity,

In Matthew 25:40, Jesus says, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of these my brothers, you did it to me." As part of my duties as Stewardship Chairperson, I am to manage the benevolence funds. The purpose of these funds is to help an individual(s) in need. God has provided our church with such an individual. Over the past two months we have purchased necessities for an individual with multiple disabilities and extremely limited income. We have also been able to provide an individual with rent money through LOVE Inc.

As we close out this unusual year of 2020, I pray we will all seek God's will in giving back to Him as He has blessed us.

Thank you. God's Blessings,
Sandy Klose, Stewardship Chairperson

LWML

My heart has heard you say, “Come and talk with me.” And my heart responds, “Lord, I am coming.” Psalm 27:8

When the Lord calls us to draw near to his throne of grace, to pray or wait on him, how often we respond, Lord, I’m busy. I have so much to do today. I don’t have time for prayer. When his Spirit whispers someone’s name to our hearts and nudges us to intercede for that person or make a phone call, we think, I’ll do that later when I’ve got everything done or get caught up on my sleep. Our intentions may be good, but then in the crush of tasks and activities, we forget prayer.

A life ruled by to-do lists and Day-Timers instead of by God’s Spirit robs us of the intimacy with him that he wants us to experience. But when we respond, “Yes, Lord, I am coming!” to God’s gentle whispers, we are open to the life-giving power of the Lord’s Spirit and his grace, and help flows not only into our own life but also into the lives of others as we pray on their behalf.

Prayer - LORD, give me such a desire for you that I will run to you right away when you say, “Come.” Help me to be willing to lay aside my to-do lists and to come into your presence and talk with you. Tune my ears to your voice, and make my heart sensitive to your nudgings.

God often visits us, but most of the time we are not at home --- Danish proverb

What will be YOUR New Year’s Resolution?

DECEMBER EVENTS

Thank you to the 6 ladies & gentleman that showed up to help decorate the church for advent. You are our foundation.

Also, PRAISES go to our Lord that all the tags from the gift tree were taken and gifts bought for these families and the \$\$\$ donations for food. Thank you to those that helped sort and deliver everything.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 11 (10 a.m.) - Please come help take down and store all the decorations from Advent. Need some younger gentlemen to come help carry boxes to attic. PLEASE! Hopefully will be able to share fellowship at a local restaurant afterwards.

Remember: You can get all kinds of information, resources, bible studies, devotions, support by going to the LWML website: LWMLRMD.org.

DISTRICT MISSION GRANTS 2020-2022

Support for University Lutheran Chapel -- Grant amount: \$8,000

University Lutheran Chapel (ULC) is a dedicated campus ministry at Colorado’s largest public university. ULC provides the witness and ministry of Jesus Christ in Word and Sacraments to the students, faculty and staff of Colorado University –Boulder. They offer Lutheran worship every

week in which the forgiveness of sins through Word and Sacrament is distributed by Christ Jesus Himself. Unlike a traditional congregation, ULC cannot be self-sustaining given their mission status and a congregational makeup of students. ULC and the Rocky Mountain District are currently addressing part of the property whose fate is yet to be determined and ask for your prayers and support. This grant would cover witness and outreach events, advertising, Christian student fellowship events, teaching materials, and miscellaneous costs that arise necessary for doing ministry in this place.

NATIONAL MISSION GRANTS 2019-2021

Making Jesus Known in the United States Ethnic Communities Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri -- \$100,000

Throughout the country, there are many devoted first-generation immigrants serving in full-time ministry, reaching out to their ethnic communities and sharing the Gospel. Many of these church workers are enrolled in either of two Concordia Seminary programs – the Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS) and the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT). Both share the mission to make Christ known in their respective ethnic communities. CHS has a four-year program taught in Spanish and includes students from many Hispanic-Latino cultures. The EIIT program already has students that have been working in Word and Sacrament ministry as part of their culture. These students often have strained financial circumstances that are making it difficult to pay for this necessary education. Most hold two and three jobs to make ends meet but are willing to go to great lengths in the service of Christ and His Gospel. It is vital that they have the Biblical foundation to go with their passion for ministry. This grant will go towards funding the education costs of these devoted students and church workers.

by Yvonne Steeby, Trinity LWML President

Any questions? Contact Yvonne, Bev, Hannah, Christine, Belinda, or Cyndi H.

***LWML On The Go*, is available through your podcast provider, at lwml.org, and on the LWML App.**

THE WINDOW

“WHEN DISAPPOINTMENT COMES”

BY H.W. GOCKEL

We are told that in the Botanical Gardens at Oxford, England, a fine pomegranate was cut down almost to the root because it bore nothing but leaves.

Sometime later the keeper was able to report that a marvelous transformation had taken place and that the tree was now bearing fruit in abundance. All that it had needed was to be “cut back” – and to be “cut back” severely.

Our heavenly Father sometimes finds it necessary to “cut back” the trees that are growing in *His* garden. We Christians are those trees – planted, cultivated, and nurtured by a miracle of His

grace.

Of us the Bible says “Every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it (that is, He prunes it), that it may bring forth *more* fruit” (John 15:2). Notice! This pruning is done on the branches that are bearing fruit – that they may bring forth *more* fruit. – The brittle brush and useless twigs must constantly be cut away to assure and to multiply the yield.

Sometimes we wonder why it is that devout and pious Christians, men and women who strive with all their hearts to conform their lives to the will of Christ, must suffer one disappointment after another. Why must the righteous suffer bitter visitations at the hands of a merciful Father?

The complete answer to that question will never be given this side of heaven. But God has revealed just enough of His design for us to pin our faith to. “Every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth *more* fruit.” We are to be the better, the more fruitful – for our “cut back.”

If ever there was a man who had to undergo frequent pruning, it was the Apostle Paul. In 1 Corinthians 11:24-33 he lays his breast bare, as it were, and displays the countless scars of the pruning hook of God’s unsearchable providence. “Beaten with rods....stoned....in perils in the sea....in hunger and thrust...in cold and nakedness.” And yet no one will deny that the life of this great man of God was more fruitful because of these painful visitations.

And so, it is with us and with everyone who has come to God through faith in Christ. Has our heavenly Father perhaps found it necessary to “cut back” drastically some branch in our life on which we had pinned our highest hopes? Have we experiences such a “cut back” through the loss of a beloved son or daughter? Have we had to taste the bitter ashes of utter disillusionment?

These are painful “cut backs,” to be sure. But they are “cut-backs” with a gracious purpose. Let us always remember, when the days of pruning come, that God is not cutting down the tree – He is rather improving one of its branches.

Like plants, to man, dead in sin and straggling in faith, needs God’s pruning to flourish.

From ‘This Day’ magazine, August 1951

HYMN OF THE MONTH

“O HOLY NIGHT”

[1847]

...The star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. Matthew 2:9 (NKJV)

The words of “O Holy Night” were written in 1847 by a French wine merchant named Placide Clappeau, the mayor of Roquemaure, a town the south of France. We know little about him except that he wrote poems as a hobby.

We know more about the man who composed the music, a Parisian named Adolphe Charles Adam. The son of a concert pianist, Adams was trained almost from infancy in music and piano. In his mid-twenties, he wrote his first opera and thereafter wrote two operas a year until his death at age fifty-two. Near the end of his life, he lost his savings in a failed business venture involving the French national opera, but the Paris Conservatory rescued him by appointing him professor of music.

It was John Dwight, son of Yale's president, Timothy Dwight ("I Love Thy Kingdom Lord"), who discovered this French Carol, "Christian Midnight," and translated it into the English hymn, "O Holy Night."

After graduating from Harvard and Cambridge, John was ordained as minister of the Unitarian church in Northampton, but his pastoring experience wasn't happy. In 1841, George and Sophia Ripley founded a commune named Brook Farm "to prepare a society of liberal, intelligent, and cultivated persons, whose relations with each other would permit a more simple and wholesome life." John was hired as director of the Brook Farm School and began writing a regular column on music for the commune's publication.

Greatly influenced by the liberal views of Ralph Waldo Emerson, he became fascinated by the German culture, especially the symphonic music of Ludwig van Beethoven, and it was largely his influence that introduced Americans to Beethoven's genius.

When Brook Farm collapsed in 1847, John Dwight moved into a cooperative house in Boston and established a career in music journalism. He penned articles on music for major publications, and in 1852 he launched his own publication, *Dwight's Journal of Music*. He became America's first influential classical music critic. He was opinionated, sometime difficult, a great promoter of European classical music, and an early advocate of Transcendentalism.

How odd that a wine merchant, a penniless Parisian, and liberal clergyman should give Christianity one of its holiest hymns about the birth of Jesus Christ, Savior of the world.

---*Then Sings My Soul, Book 2, By Robert J. Morgan*

JANUARY 2021 STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

ELDERS

Jan. 3 Jim Wilkes
Jan. 10 Glen Schlehuser
Jan. 17 Matt Clark
Jan. 24 Jesse Elkjer
Jan. 31 Jim Wilkes

ACOLYTES

Jan. 3 Reilly Quinn
Jan. 10 Madie Sanchez
Jan. 17 Zac Sanchez
Jan. 24 Ryan Sebring
Jan. 31 Reilly Quinn

READERS

Jan. 3 Lola Ableidinger/Matt Anderson
Jan. 10 Cheryl Richey/Dick Dommers
Jan. 17 Mary-Leslie Schmitt/Lisa Collins
Jan. 24 Louis Mauriot/Kelly Thomas
Jan. 31 Youth

TELLERS

Jan. 3 Shirley Enyeart/Patty Quinn
Jan. 10 Dick Dommers/Megan Bowman
Jan. 17 Linde Van Cleave
Cheryl Sandenaw
Jan. 24 Lola Ableidinger/Nora Sotak
Jan. 31 Sandy Klose/Susan Kelly

USHERS

Jan. 3 Tom Blackmon, Larry & Bev Van Duyn
Jan. 10 Matt Anderson Marvin Bunker,
John Marquardt
Jan. 17 Ray Krueger, Robert Johnson,
Bob Thede, Trey Johnson
Jan. 24 Gerald Moore, Bob & Sandy Klose
Jan. 31 Youth

JANUARY FLOWERS

Jan. 3 Gerald & Gayan Moore
Jan. 10 Jerry & Jennifer Sebring
Jan. 17 Virginia Nielson
Jan. 24 Pastor & Cyndi Heithold
Jan. 31 Bob & Sandy Klose

HOSTS

Jan. 3 Cheryl Sandenaw
Jan. 10 Kerry & Ruth Buttke
Jan. 17 Matt & Jill Clark
Jan. 24 Miriam & Lisa Collins
Jan. 31 Youth

JANUARY ATTENDANCE

Lisa Collins

JANUARY ALTAR COMMITTEE

Hannah Keeler & Gayan Moore