CLARION

JANUARY 2024

FROM PASTOR'S DESK



A New Year's Resolution Packed with Power

"But Jesus answered them, "You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God." [Matthew 22:29]

For years it has been a common practice for people to make a "New Year's Resolution." According to the dictionary.com website, a "resolution" is defined as "a course of action determined or decided on; a resolving to do something." Most likely, a particular resolution revolves around some kind of change in the life of the one making the resolution. Whether it be losing weight, quitting smoking, or finally doing that project at home you've been putting off, the change that is determined and decided on hopefully will improve or better some aspect of our lives.

In 1953 there were several inventions that helped change the lives of Americans. They were Color TV, Saran Wrap, Radial Tires and the Polio Vaccine. But nothing transformed American life styles like the introduction of the TV Guide. Here is poem from an unknown author that puts this change into perspective.

They lie on the table side by side...The Holy Bible and the TV guide.

One is well worn and cherished with pride, Not the Bible but the TV guide.

One is used daily to help folks decide, No, not the Bible but the TV guide. As the pages are turned, what shall they see, Oh, what does it matter, just turn on the TV.

Then confusion reigns, they can't all agree, On what they should watch on the old TV.

So they open the book in which they confide, No, not the Bible but the TV guide.

The Word of God is seldom read, Maybe a verse as they fall into bed. Exhausted and sleepy and tired as can be, Not from reading the Bible . . . from watching TV.

So then back to the table side by side, lie the Holy Bible and the TV guide.

No time for prayer, no time for the Word, the plan of Salvation is seldom heard.

But forgiveness of sin, so full and so free, is found in the Bible not on TV.

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As Christians, the power for living each year & each day of life that God gives is found in His love letter that He wrote to us...the Holy Bible. I encourage you to get in the habit of setting aside a quiet time in which you can read & study God's Word...a quiet time to be in prayer talking with your heavenly Father in 2024. When you do, you won't be disappointed. You will find that you will grow closer and closer to the One who loves you with and unconditional & everlasting love...a love so deep and so wide that He sent His only Son to die for you!

God's promise to you and me is that as He works **IN** us through His Word & Sacraments, He will work **THROUGH** us to bring the life changing message of the Gospel to others. It starts with YOU & ME! We have the assurance that being packed with God's power working **IN** us...the change we will see in ourselves and others will make God smile...giving Him all the praise & glory.

God's peace and joy be yours throughout 2024!

--Pastor Mike



Annual Lutheran Witness Subscription

Did you know that the LCMS publishes a wonderful magazine called the Lutheran Witness? It is published 11 times a year (monthly, with a combined June/July issue) and is full of useful articles for members of LCMS congregations with topics ranging from apologetics to archaeology to tough questions on today's sexuality. It is a doctrinally sound, layman-accessible resource designed to help Lutherans to engage our challenging culture in an informed, intelligent manner, while standing firm for Truth. Additionally, the center insert contains news from our own Mid-South district. A limited number of free copies of back issues of The Lutheran Witness are available in the giving center. Pick one up and give it a read. The annual subscription price is \$28.25. However, the Mid-South District is funding \$13.25 for each subscription to the Lutheran Witness with hope that all households will receive this valuable resource. So a year subscription will only cost you \$15! If you are interested in signing up for the Lutheran Witness in 2024, please sign up in the Narthex by January 15th.

FROM THE OFFICE



Any information you need put into our weekly **NEWS & NOTES** needs to be submitted to the office by **NOON** on **WEDNESDAY** of each week.

Any information you'd like put into the **CLARION** is due to the office by **NOON** on the **15th** of every month.



Holy Trinity Office

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A HUGE thank you to everyone who took time out of their busy holiday season to think of us and even get us little gifts!

Y'all are the best!

Tabby Krista



FOOD PANTRY

Tuesday-Friday
2 pm- 4 pm

PASTOR'S CARE FUND

Thursday & Friday 2 pm- 4 pm

GENERAL OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9 am - 4 pm

HOLY TRINITY NEWS DECEMBER 2024



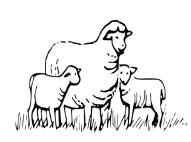
PINOCHLE

Friday, January 12th will be our next date for playing cards. Hopefully you have your calendar marked and will be ready to help set up at 6:00 pm and get cards in your hand for play at 6:30. Don't forget to bring a little something to share for a snack. Looking forward to seeing everyone and perhaps a few new faces!



CHURCH BUS

We offer rides to our Sunday services in the church van. The van does **NOT** have wheelchair access so riders will need to be able to get in and out with a hand from the driver. We are looking for drivers to help with this ministry as well. If you could help even one or two Sundays a year it would be greatly appreciated! If you are interested call or text Ted Reinker at (409) 750-9633.



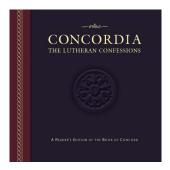
ENDOWMENT FUND

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has an *Endowment Fund* which receives gifts and bequests that are invested in long-term high-quality stocks, bonds, and CD's. The interest, dividends and unrealized long-term gains of which can be used to support Christian Education, Outreach Programs, Scholarships (seminarians), capital Building and Ground improvements, Youth programs, Church Music, Technology and Building Fund(s). The income from these investments can also be used, with Voter approval to support ministry projects such as Grants for world mission projects, Mid-South District projects, Disaster Relief projects and grants to LMCS colleges and affiliated ministries' principle or the original gifts are not used to support the afore mentioned activities but only the capital gains and interest, the principle remains to continue producing additional monies to support Holy Trinity Lutheran Church growth and teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



PDO CELEBRATION MONTH

Mark you 2024 calendars for the Celebration month of February recognizing our Parents Day Out Program. There will be singing filled with children's songs and voices, love sugar cookies, pictures of our PDO kids activities, a Giving Tree filled with hearts of the wishes for the PDO program and much much more. Be a part of this blessing God has given to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.



MEN: WANT TO READ THE BOOK OF CONCORD?

HTLC member Jerry Ball is wondering if there are men in the congregation who would like to form a group to read through the Book of Concord in 2024 and to meet weekly in person to discuss that week's readings. The Book of Concord is the source for Pastor Longman's weekly E-Blast's "CONFESSIONAL NUGGET." The quotes he uses are taken from Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions - A Reader's Edition of the Book of Concord published by CPH which has a built-in daily reading chart (you can the book online here: https://holytrin.link/g24vqD). If this is something you think you'd like to do, please catch Jerry at church or e-mail him at GDBPhD@aol.com.



GROWING IN GRACE

Great job to all our children who participated in the Christmas program! The teachers and I truly enjoyed working with each of you and we hope to see you all back in the new year! Classes will resume on Sunday, January 7th! All grades will begin class in the chapel with prayer groups led by our high school students and collection of offerings which will be donated to the Children's Hospital. This is the charity of choice voted on by our children:) New this semester, we will begin doing group service projects. We hope to spread the love of Jesus to others through gifts of time and fellowship!

Blessings, Kati Evans kati.evans46@gmail.com



We serve by ensuring that the place of worship is maintained and set up for the times and seasons of the Church Year which includes paraments, linens, preparing/cleaning sacramental vessels/linens, as well as making preparations for each service. This may sound like a lot, but with some training (that we will provide!) it is an amazing way to give back! We are looking for volunteers who would be interested in learning and serving in this volunteer position! If you are interested, please call/text Brittany Augustine at (620) 615-1916 or email Tabby in the office at tabby@holytrin.org by Sunday, January 14th!



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY: DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD TOGETHER.

JOIN US SATURDAY, JANUARY 20TH IN THE LIFE CENTER 8:30-10:00 AM

Menu: eggs, bacon, pancakes, bacon, bisuits, bacon, gravy, bacon, coffee, bacon, and...bacon!

HTY HANGOUT with the Pastors

Kennedy's Coffee - Bentonville Thursday, January 11th 4-5 PM

Onyx Coffee - Rogers Thursday, January 25th 4-5 PM





BUNCO TOURNAMENT



TO BENEFIT THE DAVIS FAMILY AT CAMP TRINITY - THE LUTHERAN CAMP ON PETIT JEAN MOUNTAIN



WHEN

JANUARY 20, 2024 2:00-5:00 PM

WHERE

HOLY TRINITY Lutheran Church Rogers, Ar

DONATION

\$10 PER PERSON \$25 PER FAMILY

RSVP

AT CHURCH OR WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR A SIGN-UP-GENIUS LINK Last summer, the Davis family's house (owned by Camp Trinity) was found to have toxic mold. For their health and safety, the family has vacated the home. While living in that housing, one of the Davis' five children became very sick. Since the discovery of the mold, the family has tested the home to better understand the severity of the situation. Given the results, and the sensitivity of their daughter, they've made the tough decision to part with the material contents within their home. Renters insurance does not cover this type of catastrophic loss.

The (LCMS) Lutheran churches of NWA are organizing this Bunco Tournament as a way to financially support the Davis family in their time of need.

To read more of the Davis' story, see: www.realfoodrealhealing.com/toxic-mold-stories-the-davis-family

We will teach you to play! No skill needed. Silent dessert auction at event. Popcorn provided at each table. Drinks and snacks for sale.

(Children are welcome as players. There is no childcare provided. Children may not be left unattended.)

If you cannot attend, but would like to support the Davis family, mail a check to: Camp Trinity c/o The Davis Family
110 Montgomery Trace, Morrilton, AR 72110-9364

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Parents' Day Out



December was a wonderful time celebrating Advent and Christmas with the children. They played with nativity sets, made art about the season and talked about God's great love for them during Chapel. The children also did a great job performing in their Christmas Concert! Thanks to those of you who were able to attend. We plan on having another for Faster.

This January to start the new year, we will be discussing health and hygiene. We'll talk about the healthy food God provides us and taking care of our bodies, which are His temples!

In February we will be having a PDO celebration month! Look out for a PDO giving tree, flowers made by our children for a fundraiser, and more.

Thank you for your continued support of this important ministry!

In Christ, Leah



What is Apologetics?

Christians as far back as the Apostles, to the Church Fathers, to the Medieval and Reformation scholars—and up to today's modern-day sinner/saints have practiced apologetics. But what is it? Does Scripture have anything to say about it? What's its purpose? Does it have limits? How is it practiced in today's world? Let's answer these in brief below.

The Definition and Importance of Apologetics...

The word apologetics comes from the Greek word *apologia* meaning to make a defense. Christian apologetics deals with answering the question: Is Christianity and the Bible, its authoritative text, true?

Here, <u>Mark Mattes</u> reminds us of an important distinction. "Apologetics means defending your faith. [Not] defending God. God does not need your defense." Instead, apologetics calls us to think about faith in light of those who question if it is true.

But is this important? Is apologetics even needed today? Yes. At one time or another we wonder why evil exists in the word, if suffering has a purpose, or life have meaning. Some people are certain there is no God. But for others, who are not so sure, they wonder if we can know who or what that god is? Lots of people and religions offer answers to these questions. But how do we know if their answers are true?

Apologetics can offer meaningful answers to these and other big questions of life. It can also help sort out the truth between competing answers to these questions.

An Objection and Scriptural Support...

An objection to apologetics says, "You can't persuade or argue anyone into the Christian faith; only the Holy Spirit can give faith." This is true. But the one defending the Christian faith is not trying to reason anyone into the faith. We'll talk more about this later, but before we do, let's look at the Scriptural basis for apologetics.

The primary passage on apologetics is <u>1 Peter 3:15</u>. "But in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you." Peter urges us to be ready to share our reasons, with evidence, for believing in Jesus. This is also not a cute suggestion, but an imperative to all believers.

Some other passages that show us the how and why of apologetics include <u>John 20:30-31</u>, <u>Acts 17:16-34</u>, and <u>Acts 26:1-29</u>.

The Purpose and Limitations...

The purpose of apologetics is to share the message of the gospel of Jesus with people. That they are freely forgiven on account of his death and resurrection. As <u>Valerie Thur</u> put it, "Our focus in doing apologetics [is]: taking the questioner to the cross of Christ and the empty tomb and bringing [them] face-to-face with" Jesus. Christian apologetics does this by trying to clear away any intellectual obstacles people have. In this way apologetics aids in evangelism, in the proclamation of the gospel. For the gospel is "the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" (Rom. 1:16)

(Continued on Page 8...)

Apologetics has its limitations too...

Apologetics is *not* a tool we use to win arguments or to silence people seeking the truth. <u>Mattes</u> reminds us, "As defenders of the faith, we need humility."

It is not something we use to "save" people, that's the Holy Spirit's job. Angus Menuge writes, "We aren't called to be successful. We are called to be faithful" in proclaiming the gospel.

We use apologetics to help us proclaim the gospel, by which the Holy Spirit calls people to believe, forgives their sins, and saves them. <u>John Warwick Montgomery</u> sums it best. "Our object is to get the unbeliever to the cross of Christ, not to insist that he or she accept the best theological solution to every contested issue—particularly when that issue is not one on which his or her personal salvation depends."

Two Approaches...

There are two main approaches or ways of practicing apologetics. One is the presuppositional approach. The other is the evidential/historical approach.

The presuppositional approach begins by assuming (or presupposing) certain Christian beliefs to be true (like God's existence or that the Bible is true). Then, using this approach, apologists try to prove that all the parts of their belief system (Christianity in this case) are true.

The presuppositional approach is primarily negative in its approach. It seeks to show the truth of Christianity mainly by deconstructing non-Christian points of view, leaving Christianity the most plausible. It asks non-believers to hit pause on their unbelief and see the world through the Christian perspective, and in so doing, then they will see the truth of Christianity.

This approach has weaknesses. One, just because a set of beliefs is internally consistent does not mean it aligns with reality or is God's word. Conspiracy theories are true within themselves, but do not align with reality. Two, proving non-Christian belief systems to be untrue does not make Christianity true by default. Additionally, one cannot knock down the world's countless belief systems and their infinite varieties. That task never ends.

The evidential/historical approach begins by presenting historical evidence for the truth of Christianity (hence the name). It doesn't ask the non-believer to believe in Jesus, only to consider the historical evidence for Jesus's actions and claims, namely the gospels.

This approach is primarily positive in manner. The evidential/historical method seeks to show the truth of Christianity primarily by demonstrating that the resurrection was a factual, historical event.

Whereas the presuppositional approach starts inward and attempts to show that Christianity is true primarily through reason and intellect alone, the evidential/historical approach starts outside a person. It attempts to show the truth of Christianity through objective historical evidence anyone can investigate.

Peter, Paul, and other apostles primarily used this approach. A good example is found in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. In chapter 15, he writes, "For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me" (verses 3-8).

Scripture both demonstrates to us and directs us to make a reasoned defense of the Christian faith. The evidential/historical approach to apologetics provides a solid foundation from which to do this. It allows us to answer questions and converse on common ground, a shared reality, one in which Jesus died for our sins and rose from the dead. When we recognize its purpose and limitations, apologetics helps us to clearly proclaim the gospel as Jesus exhorted us to do in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."



Contributor | Kyle G. Jones

Kyle is a husband and father. He serves as Director of Faith Formation at Calvary Lutheran Church in Brookfield, WI. He graduated from Concordia University Texas with a B.A. in Religious Education with an emphasis in Worship and the Arts through the Director of Christian Education program. He is the co-author of The Sinner/Saint Lenten Devotional and is a regular contributor for 1517.

HTLC Clarion January Page 10

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



Jesus had a big job ahead of Him when He was born! If you really think about it, Jesus

was born to die on the cross to pay for the sins of the whole world. But before He died, He lived a perfect life under God's Law. That means that during His entire life, Jesus never sinned. Not even once! As a man, Jesus took the place of mankind under the Law and fulilled it. That means that for every time we failed to keep the Law, Christ succeeded!

Why was it important for Jesus to be true God?

It would take more than an ordinary man to suffer and die on the cross to pay for the sins of the whole world. Jesus had to be true God so that He could live a perfect life and fulfill the requirements of the Law, die a perfect death on the cross, and rise from the dead victorious over sin, death and the devil! All of this He did in obedience to the Father and out of complete and total love for us. Through faith, the Holy Spirit delivers all of the great things Jesus won for us in His death and resurrection!



Parents: Review the Ten Commandments with your child (Ex. 20:1–17). Discuss the commandments and be sure to point out just how often we fail to keep them. Remind your child that because of Christ's perfect sacrifice on the cross, in faith we have the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.



AVI

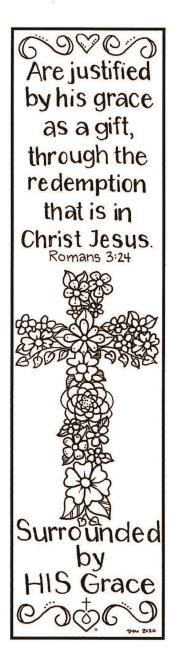
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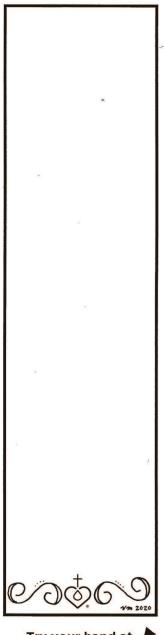
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Try your hand at creating your own!

FEED MY SHEEP

November 2023

Food Pantry Statistics

Total Households = 49

Adults (18-60) = 33Children (0-17) = 0Senior Citizens (61+) = 15Other (Unknown) = 1









PASTOR'S CARE FUND

November 2023

These disbursements are from money designated for the Pastor's Care Fund. Your contributions bring a tremendous relief to your neighbors who are in difficult circumstances.



Total Households = 21

Utility Help = 3
Rent/Mortgage = 2
Motel = 16
Transportation = 0

Jamuary

Birthdays

3 Kim Boyd

5 Terri Blake

Gail Brown

6 Christy Lehenbauer

7 Ken Rader

8 Paul Heilman

11 Brandy Brown

Phil Garling

Nolan Kerr

12 Craig Hanson

Brandon L'Hommedieu

12 Carol Wahl

13 Betty Brokaw

Rhonda Snider

14 Don Bracht

15 Bonnie Gust

16 Tom Bach

17 Katy Dickerson Warlow

Fred Lewis

18 LeAnn Girshner

20 Eric Kerr

Bill Neumann

21 Rex Mayer

Andrea Speer

22 Rev. Lynn Spencer

23 Sarah Blaske

25 Little John Augustine

Nicole Barnes Bresley

28 Peggy Ives

Elaine Launderville

29 Gerald "Jerry" Ball

31 Lisa Nelson

Anniversaries

1 Justin & Lesley McCarver

4 Jim & Diane Williams

6 Rev. Lynn & Donna Spencer

26 Dean & Nancy Eisma

SERVING IN JANUARY 2024

READERS	JANUARY 7 (EPIPHANY)	JANUARY 14 (EPIPHANY 2)	JANUARY 21 (EPIPHANY 3)	JANUARY 28 (EPIPHANY 4)
8:00 AM	MARY FREVERT	LAURIE RAFFEL	JALYNN THOMAS	JUDY JONES
10:45 AM GREETERS	SKIP SHANE	LEE LANDAUER	REV. JOHN LINDNER	PAM PICKETT
8:OO AM	RICH RUMPF & MARIAN VENENGA	DEAN & NANCY EISMA	RAY ESCHENBURG & KAREN LAUNDERVILLE	VERN SCHMIEGELOW & ELAINE LAUNDERVILLE
10:45 AM	LEE & ELAINE LANDAUER	JOHN & KATHLEEN THOMPSON	SKIP & TONI SHANE	BILL & JEAN GREGESICH
MEDIA				
8:00 AM	JOHN JENKINS	BETH KIKOEN	DAVID HEINTZ	JENA EISMA
10:45 AM	JEAN GREGESICH	COOPER MEYER	ZACHARY GUST	JEAN GREGESICH
STREAMING	OWEN WINTERS	MAC MACGOWAN	OWEN WINTERS	MAC MACGOWAN
LEAD COUNTERS	FRED & SHIRLEY LEWIS	FRED & SHIRLEY LEWIS	FRED & SHIRLEY LEWIS	BILL & JEAN GREGESICH
LAWN CARE	TEAM 5	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	TEAM 3

ALTAR GUILD ELDERS

BRITTANY AUGUSTINE

8:00 AM – 10:45 AM –

USHERS

8:00 AM - TEAM B

(VERN SCHMIEGELOW, COLBY ISBELL, SAM WELBORN, DAVID RAFFEL, LAURIE RAFFEL, MYRON RECOB)

10:45 AM – TEAM D

(FRED LEWIS, PAUL BELVIY, DON MAYER, GIL CAMPBELL, STEVE GONZALES)

January 2024

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church | Rogers, Arkansas

Holy Trinity Lutheran Charch Rogers, Arkansas										
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat				
	PASTORS' DAY OFF OFFICE CLOSED	2 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 6:30 PM ELDERS	3 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	4 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	5 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	6 EPIPHANY				
7 EPIPHANY (OBS.) (FEED MY SHEEP) 8 AM COMMUNION 9:30 AM EDUCATION/BELLS 10:45 AM COMMUNION	8 PASTORS' DAY OFF	9 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 6:30 PM COUNCIL	10 12 PM NEWS & NOTES DUE 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 5:30 PM CONFIRMATION	11 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 4-5 PM HTY HANGOUT	12 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 6 PM CARDS	13				
14 EPIPHANY 2 8 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM EDUCATION/BELLS 10:45 AM WORSHIP	PASTORS' DAY OFF 12 PM CLARION DUE	16 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	17 12 PM NEWS & NOTES DUE 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 5:30 PM CONFIRMATION	18 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	19 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	20 10 AM MENS BIBLE STUDY 2-5 PM BUNCO				
21 EPIPHANY 3 8 AM COMMUNION 9:30 AM EDUCATION/BELLS 10:45 AM COMMUNION	22 PASTORS' DAY OFF	23 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	24 12 PM NEWS & NOTES DUE 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 5:30 PM CONFIRMATION	25 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 4-5 PM HTY HANGOUT	26 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	27				
28 EPIPHANY 4 8 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM EDUCATION/BELLS 10:45 AM WORSHIP	29 PASTORS' DAY OFF	30 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	31 12 PM NEWS & NOTES DUE 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 5:30 PM CONFIRMATION							