



The Desert Voice

Trinity Lutheran Church

LCMS

February 2025



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Has mankind reached the point where, with purposeful inventiveness and an abundance of self-determination, it can propel itself into its greatest conceivable potential?

God's Word asserts a powerful certainty: "Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand" (Proverbs 19:21). Countless and wide-ranging plans/plots have emerged since Adam and Eve rebelled against God's Word in the Garden of Eden. These stand in opposition to God's gracious rule and reign. Genesis 6:5 records the tragedy of our sinful rebellion: "The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

However, Romans 3:21-23 sets forth God's solution: "But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

The righteousness of Christ has become ours by faith in His gracious Word of promise: "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household" (Acts 16:31). Titus 3:5 also provides abundant assurance for us in God's Word of promise through Baptism. "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because

of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit." The washing of regeneration we received in Baptism has restored us from everlasting death to everlasting life. Our faith and hope in Christ encourages our new nature as we struggle against the plots and schemes that stand against God's good and gracious Word of promise.

Proverbs 19:21 assures us that "the purpose of the Lord will stand forever." That assurance gives us courage as we live in Christ and carry out His commission to make disciples of Him through Baptism and teaching His enduring Word.

Colossians 2:8-10 directs and encourages us to stand firm in God's Word. "See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in Him, who is the head of all rule and authority."

By faith in the grace of God through the victory of Christ for us, we now have His greatest potential living in and through us now and for all eternity.

Pastor Smith 



The Desert Voice

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which are combined)

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Desert Voice on the Web!

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Www.Trinityindio.org



Deadline for copy:

All articles are to be in the church office by the **15th** of the month. Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space. The March Desert Voice will be assembled on Friday, Feb. 28.

**PLEASE COME TO
HELP!**

Editor: Bobbi Smith
Bobbi322@verizon.net
760 485-7770

Pastor: Robert E Smith
Revs455@verizon.net
760 485-5171

For Health

Shirley & Andy Schlange,
Donna Leighter

Frank

(Sharlene Kay's Husband)

Trudi Intemann,

Larry Burkett,

Terri Cuesta,

Diana Kenyon

**(Ramona Haugen's
Daughter),**

Ashley Schenk

**(Ramona Haugen's
Granddaughter),**

Grete Wollock

(Wanda Lahn's friend),

Bill Marsaglia,

Ross Ryding

Jesse Kirk

**(friend of Kevin & Donna
Anderson)**

Jim Scheuer

Suzanne Velasco

(Wirtenberger's daughter)

Cancer Treatments

Michelle Ungaro

(sister of Renee Young),

Sharon Leath,

Sequoia

**(Tyr old granddaughter of Bill
and Sandy Bell),**

Kathy Bredesen

(Trudi Intemann's daughter

Andy

**(friend of Rocky & Renee
Young),**

Janice Hammer

(sister of winter visitor

Shirley Hess),

Loretta

(friend of Kris Chamberlain)

Israel Ruiz

(son of Pastor & Eunice Ruiz)

TLC Bible Study Schedule

Tuesdays @ 7pm Bible Study on Zoom

Thursdays @ 7pm Bible Study on Zoom

Fridays @ 10am DOA (Daughters Of the Almighty)

Living Way Bible Study (Oct.—May)

2nd Saturday of the month @ 8am Men's Bible Breakfast

Fellowship Center (Sept.—May)

We invite you to join us each week for two studies that are offered via Zoom, Tuesdays and Thursdays @ 7pm.

A link is sent to your email with the clickable link and pass code which enables you to enter the Zoom class

Please contact Pastor Smith if you are interested in joining an online Bible study.

Pastor Smith @ 760 485-5171 or

Email: Revs455@verizon.net

Southern California Wildfire Response

Prayers Needed!

Pacific Southwest LCMS District News:

As a result of a very significant Santa Ana wind event, several devastating wildfires have been burning in multiple areas in Southern California. Thousands of homes and other structures have burned, and unfortunately there have been fatalities and injuries.

Several of our PSD congregations and schools are in or near the fire areas, with some having to evacuate. As of this point, we are not aware of property damage to churches and schools but have been told some members and student families have lost their homes. We will provide more details to our district as we receive them. Please be in prayer for our brothers and sisters affected by these terrible fires.

Your Pacific Southwest District has a standing emergency relief fund in place to assist our churches and schools, their people and community. If you would like to donate to this fund, You can go to their website:

www.psd-lcms.org/disaster-response

You have the option during the donation process to designate your gift to benefit those affected by the Southern California fires. 100% of funds donated to Emergency Relief will be used to support those in need. Any excess funds will be saved for future emergency/disaster relief.

Affected Churches and Schools

Note: As the situation is rapidly developing, if you call, text or email pastors, church/school leaders, members, etc. in the affected areas offering help, they very likely are unable to respond. Please understand they are focused on their members, students, etc. for the immediate future. Look for more information soon on how needs can be addressed.

We praise God that no PSD church or school properties have experienced significant damage as of this point. Of note is the fact that Palisades Lutheran is the only Christian church still standing in their immediate area. The churches and schools below are listed as they are in or near the fire areas, not because they have been damaged or destroyed.

Current information:

Palisades Lutheran Church - Pacific Palisades, CA

Although the church building is still standing, Palisades Lutheran Church (PLC) is estimated to be shut down for at least 6 months. Our church and members have suffered greatly. They are now homeless. At least 85% of our members are displaced and have dispersed to shelters, hotels, apartments, or friends and family. Some have indicated they will not return. The parsonage is unlivable, and no one is allowed back to the church. Fixed costs must still be paid. The need is for covering short-term housing for the church workers and members. Neighboring congregations have been gracious with offering their space for worship. Please see **www.plc.cc** for more information or how to give. *Continued on pg 10*



Zoom Bible Studies

Being in God's Word and studying with other "followers" of Jesus is very important.

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every Word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Matt.4:4

Trinity offers many opportunities to gather around the Word. Tuesdays and Thursdays Pastor Smith leads a Zoom Bible study @ 7pm. A weekly Catechism class is offered also on Zoom Tuesday mornings at 9:30am.

If you are interested in any of these studies send your email to Pastor and he will email you back the Zoom link.

Friday mornings in the Fellowship Center @ 10am is the weekly women's Bible study. All women are invited.

You can join any of these studies any week. You do not need to start at the beginning.

Summer Rally Day

After much prayer and discussion it has been decided that this year we will hold a one day "Vacation Bible School" Rally Day on Saturday, June 21. There are many distractions and responsibilities today for the families of our congregation and the surrounding neighborhoods in Indio. We will offer a day of Bible study, games, crafts, music and fun for the children in our church and their friends from 8:30am - 12:30pm ending with lunch for all. More information will be coming as we make plans for this fun day!!!

Sunday School News

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6

I just love seeing the families of Trinity faithfully bring their children Sunday after Sunday to worship with the body of Christ and to Sunday school to learn about Jesus, their Savior. Please keep these families in your prayers as they navigate the many roads they travel on raising their children in the ways of the Lord.



Men's Bible Breakfast TLC Fellowship Center

Saturday, Feb. 8



**8:00am
Fresh Breakfast
Fellowship
Free Will Offering**

February Birthdays

1	* Dan Schmelzer
1	Anthony Wingerter
5	Sandy Baltzer
6	Charles Richardson
8	Elizabeth White
9	Alwood Kastner
9	Madden Osornio
11	Dan Anderson
14	Donna Ellerbusch
15	*Don Morrow
19	*Patty Schmelzer
21	Alivia & Aiden Giles
21	Janet Krause
24	Beverly Ducatte
25	Jeannie Tellock
27	Earlene Reynolds
	*Winter Visitor



TLC Ushers Schedule February 2025

February 2 & 16

Bob Wirtenberger & Jim Ducatte

February 9 & 23

Russ Campbell & Jerry Ellerbusch



Altar Guild February 2025

February 2

Renee Young & Ramona Haugen
Annie Giles & Maggie Negron

February 9

Beverly Ducatte & Alice Musashi
Irene Wirtenberger

February 16

Sharlene Kay & Cynthia Berke
Beverly Ducatte

February 23

Ali Young & Renee Young
Beverly Ducatte & Sharon Leath



*If your birthday or anniversary is missing, please
Contact the church office: 760 347-3971
Or Trinity81500@verizon.net*

February Anniversary

16	*Bruce & Trudy Wallace
26	Jim & Ellen Scheuer
	*Winter Visitor



Greeters February 2025

February 2

Bob & Irene Wirtenberger

February 9

Donna Ellerbusch & Ramona Haugen

February 16

Bob & Irene Wirtenberger

February 23

Karen Johnson

Christian Stewardship

God has blessed each of us in a special and different way—income, health, family, job, health. Our lives in general. As a result of God's goodness, we need to think of ways to show our gratitude.

One way to do this is by showing up. If there is an activity happening at church—worship service, clean-up day, various meetings, Bible Study—your presence is an inspiration and encouragement to others.

The groups meeting at Trinity are: Lutheran Women's Missionary League Luncheon on the 2nd Thursday, Men's Bible Breakfast on the 2nd Saturday, Game Day on the 3rd Wednesday, Ladies Day Out determined each month, Daughters of the Almighty Bible Study every Friday, Clean-up Day usually the last Friday. Pastor's weekly Zoom Bible Studies.

Please join us.



Hearts Phyllis Hafliger

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong doing but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Because of Valentine's Day, February is called the Love Month. Red hearts are every-

where. A lot of attention is given to our physical organ called the heart. If we do not take care of the physical heart, it will weaken and eventually fail.

But what about our spiritual heart? How is it doing? Are you taking good care of it? If not, it, too, will weaken and eventually fail.

What does the Bible say about hearts? The heart is mentioned frequently, so it must be important to God.

...you shall love the Lord, your God, with your whole heart...Deut. 6:5

Create in me a clean heart...Psalm 51:10

...your name and renown are the desire of our hearts. Isaiah 26:8

Those are some of the good admonitions, but, we also read the following: *out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery...* Matt.15:19.

Maybe it is time for a heart transplant. God promises in Ezekial 32:26...*I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you.*

Love is a choice and an action, not a feeling. Love, the action of our heart, must permeate every action of our daily lives. Love must be the motive for all that we do, for it is a Christ-like love that sets us apart from the way the world would have us live our lives and treat others.

Keep loving...

Keep loving because of...

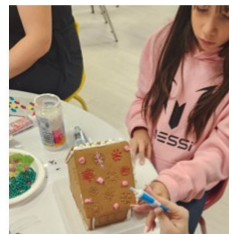
Keep loving in spite of...

Keep loving when loving is the most difficult.

Keep loving when you have no strength.

Keep loving because Jesus loves you in good times and bad, on mountain tops and valleys.

When all else fails, keep on loving!





L W M L
**Lutheran Women's
Missionary League**

We had another very informative meeting in January with the Lutheran Bible Translators being our program. After a little connection problem they proceeded to tell us what all they do around the world in some very dangerous situations. Some places are safe for them to work but others are not that great. Caution has to be taken. It amazes me that there are so many people willing to take these chances to spread the Gospel to people in their own language. February's program is the Ministry to the Armed Forces which should be very interesting. The meeting will start at 10:30 am on Thursday, February 13 in the Fellowship Center. We will have a short business meeting and then the program @ 11:00 am. And of course lunch is involved, hosted by Wanda Lahn and Ramona Haugen. Please ladies plan on attending and get involved with LWML. These groups are dwindling across the county and ours is still one of the more active ones here in the desert. We're always looking to bring more gals in and getting involved. It's a very worthwhile organization that does so much good work around the world Just try it!! If it's not for you at least you will get a nice lunch and fellowship with some great gals here at Trinity.

Kris Chamberlain,
LWML VP



WINGS
Ladies' Night Out
Friday, February 28 @ 6pm

Let's have some fun! This is a great monthly event for our ladies to get together and have some fun and connect with old and new friends. The evening starts with dinner provided with a suggested freewill offering of \$10. There will be a crafting opportunity for those crafters out there. Totally optional. Sign up at the information table as you exit the church and bring a friend to our night out!

DOA
Daughters Of the Almighty
Ladies' Bible Study

Fridays @ 10am
Fellowship Center

Fun & Games!
3rd Wednesday of
The Month

Time for our monthly FUN N GAMES event! The 3rd Wednesday of the month is designated for a morning of Fun and Fellowship. Join us in the Fellowship Center, Wednesday, **February 19 @ 10:00am**. Take a break from your daily chores and gather with us as we play some games and have some fun! Sign up at the information table!

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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Stamp



Trinity Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
Pacific Southwest District

Robert E. Smith, Pastor
Cell Phone: 760-485-5171
Church Office Phone: 760-347-3971
Mail: P.O. Box 1586
Indio, CA 92202

Trinity Lutheran Church



Indio, California

Sunday Schedule

Adult Bible Class #1 - 8:30am
Divine Worship - 10:00am
Sunday School & Adult Bible Class #2 - 11:30am
June-August- No Sunday School



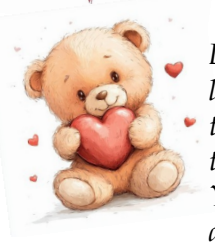
Affected Churches and Schools
Continued from page 3

Historic First Lutheran - Pasadena, CA

6 members have had total losses (up from 5) 6 more in the greater faith community (former members & immediate family) have had total losses. All members located but 1 member. Members have fled as far as Las Vegas. One death is confirmed - a former school student died in her home during the fire (cause of death = burns & smoke inhalation). Providing grants to displaced member families and distributing gift cards to those in need. Comfort dogs will be present every Sunday for the foreseeable future.

**Pilgrim Lutheran Church/Pacifica
Christian High School -
Santa Monica, CA**

About 20 Pacifica HS student families have lost homes.



First Lutheran - Venice, CA

Confirmed one member has lost their home.

Dear Lord, Comfort those grieving loss, whether of life, home or security. Send helpers into their lives to meet their immediate needs and to bear witness to Your love. Provide in the midst of grief, as only You can, because You are near with everlasting life and security that can never be taken away. Amen.

