



News from the Pews

February 2023

Has anyone ever asked you, “What does it mean to be a Christian?” What did you answer? Well, Christ of course! But what about Christ? Are we free to believe anything we want to believe about Him? Does our confession about what the person of Christ is to us actually matter? Being a Christian is about believing in Christ, but what we believe about who He is to us does matter.

After asking the apostles about what the people were saying about who Jesus was, I often think of Jesus’ question to Peter: “What about YOU? Who do YOU say that I am?” Just like today, people had different views on who Jesus is. Today, there are a lot of popular views of Jesus, such as “Jesus is my friend”, or “Jesus is my inspiration”, or “Jesus is a great teacher” and even, “Jesus is a great example to follow”.

Now, the truth is that all of this is true. Jesus is most certainly our friend. He is a great source of inspiration, He is a wonderful teacher, and He is the best example that there is to follow. However, He is much more than just these things. The problem with in seeing Jesus only in those ways is that Jesus as the friend, Jesus the inspiration, Jesus the teacher, and Jesus the example will do them absolutely no good whatsoever on Judgment Day. You can tell them that

whoever confesses their sins and their need for Jesus will be declared innocent on Judgment Day, only because of the sacrificial love of Jesus the Savior. Jesus died on the cross to be the final, all sufficient, complete, and total sacrifice for all of your sins forever and ever. His Good Friday death was His offering to the Father for you and them, and Easter is the Father’s acceptance of the sacrifice as all sufficient. Christ’s rising on Easter gave Him the final victory over sin, death, and the devil, and the entire point of Christianity is that His victory is our victory, received by faith.

Jesus the Savior is the only reason any of us are going to heaven. His death and resurrection are why Christ is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. You can tell them, “Jesus is my Savior, and that is what it means to me to be a Christian.”

Look forward with great joy to hearing the Word of your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Have a blessed February and see you in church! Lent begins... Ash Wednesday is February 22.

In Christ,

Rev. Wagner

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9



Scheduled Services

9 a.m. Sundays
In-person and
livestreamed

6 p.m. Mondays
In-person only

Bible Study on Sundays

is at **10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary** – Enjoy Coffee & after church services and prior to Bible Study.

Ash Wednesday Feb. 22

11am 6pm. Worship services in Church

Lenten services:

- 3/1..... 11 a.m. Chapel service w/ Noon lunch
5:30 p.m. meal . **6 p.m. Bible Study**
- 3/8..... 11a.m. Chapel service w/ Noon lunch
5:30 p.m. meal . **6 p.m. Bible Study**
- 3/15.....11 a.m. Chapel service w/ Noon lunch
5:30 p.m. meal . **6 p.m. Worship Service**
- 3/22.....11 a.m. Chapel service w/ Noon lunch
5:30 p.m. meal . **6 p.m. Bible Study**
- 3/29 No services
- 4/6 **Maundy Thursday** 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.
- 4/7 **Good Friday** 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.
- 4/9 **Easter Sunday** 7.a.m. & 10 a.m.
- 4-10 No Monday Service

Guidelines are still in place for in person worship:

- ...Please wear face masks upon entry and exit into church if you are unvaccinated
- ...No mask is required while seated on the left side
- ... Please leave masks in place if seated on the right (Pulpit) side of the sanctuary.
- ... Sit in alternating pews as marked on the pulpit side, not required on the lectern side.
- ... Help yourself to the Order of Worship
- ... Offering plates are in the rear of the sanctuary..

Facebook:

Find the orders of worship, along with easy to share video and audio versions of the sermons at

<https://www.trinitylombard.org/sermons>.

Services and Bible classes air live on

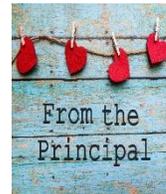
Facebook @TrinityLombard

(<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard/>)

and can also be viewed live at

<https://www.trinitylombard.org/>. Worship is online each Sunday morning at 9 a.m.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16



The students did a fantastic job presenting the Christmas Program, Christmas Jubilee. The program was postponed to Wednesday, January 11. The students did a great job remembering the songs and were ready to share them with everyone who attended the service in person or online.

The fifth through eighth-grade class attended Walcamp from January 17-20. Pastor Wagner, Mr. Baerenklau, and I went with the students to explore God's creation and reflect on their faith through various activities. The students learned to make a fire and cook a meal over a fire. We went on hikes and explored God's creations learning about the wildlife, the forest, and how they support one another.



Pearl from Walcamp led chapel on Wednesday, February 1. Our chapel offerings for the next three weeks will be designated for Walcamp.

Students celebrated the 100th day of school on Tuesday, January 31. There were various activities to celebrate the 100th day of school; some activities were math games,

licking a Tootsie Pop, 100 piece puzzles, writing, and 100 day snack.

The second quarter of the school year came to an end in January. Several third through eighth-grade students have qualified for High Honor Roll and Honor Roll. Students have to maintain an average of 3.0 - 3.5 grade point average with only one "C." Students that earn High Honor Roll have to maintain an average of 3.6 or higher with one "C." Congratulations! Keep up the excellent work.

Honor Roll: Arian Gomez, Ava Harrison, Bobby Hawn, Juliana Rivera, Emma Serwas, Skyler White, and Josephine Woods.

High Honor Roll: Riley Baker, Sophia Garcia, Alex Harris, Angelina Iverson, Ariana Mehrazar, Addison Meredith, Abigail Pilny, and Penelope Woods.

For the health and safety of students, a hearing and vision screening will be done on Feb 2nd.

Blessings,

Julie Messina, Principal
7th & 8th grade Teacher
Trinity Lutheran School Lombard, IL
JMessina@trinitylombard.org
630.627.5601, ext.205



Help Spread Some Cheer

Sunday School is making Valentines for Trinity's homebound members - if you would like us to include someone else on the list of card recipients, please email their name and address to secretary@trinitylombard.org or text to 630.640.0426 by February 10.

Another Hands-On Family Fun Night on February 2 led by Trinity's Early Childhood Education Staff.



Hands-On Family Fun Night

for 2^{1/2}-year-olds - kindergarten
FREE & OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY
Thursday, February 2, 2023
5:30 - 7 p.m.
includes COMPLIMENTARY pizza, salad & fruit dinner
at **Trinity Lutheran School**
(located on the northeast corner of Roosevelt & Westmore-Meyers Rd in Lombard)



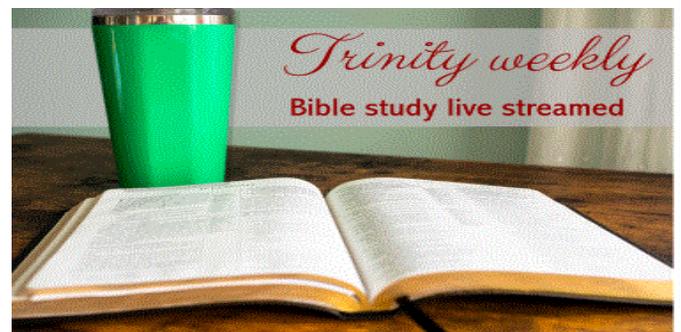
At 6 p.m. enjoy exploring the fun of rocks and friendship in a hands-on activity time led by Trinity's Early Childhood Education teaching staff.



Please RSVP by January 30 to secretary@trinitylombard.org or 630.627.5601

Trinity Lutheran School
1165 S Westmore-Meyers Rd
Lombard, IL 60148

tislombard.org
@TrinityLombard



Trinity weekly
Bible study live streamed
Studying God's Word together is important! **Wednesday**
morning informal Bible study for all.

they learn the truth about life, health and family; and sharing Christ's love and mercy with a focus on life, health and the family.

Online registration

Online participation is unlimited.

An online registration, which is \$29, can be used by an individual, couple, family or group.

<https://calendar.lcms.org/event/2023-lcms-life-conference/>

Registration provides access to view recorded sessions for 60 days after the conference ends.

Participants attending virtually can register until March 2.



“Christianity does not “progress” with times.”

If it did, it would be a false religion. Do not be deceived into thinking there is a progressive form of Christianity. It doesn't exist because the truth never changes.



NBC's *Football Night in America* analyst and NFL Hall of Fame coach **Tony Dungy** gave a speech about the power of prayer at the March For Life rally on Friday and was met with praise

from some, and harsh criticism from others.

Dungy retired from coaching in the NFL after the 2008 season and joined NBC's *Sunday Night Football* coverage in 2009. He tweeted

Thursday that he and his wife Lauren would attend the massive pro-life rally in Washington, D.C.

Tony Dungy, “Tomorrow Lauren and I will be in Washington DC attending the 2023 March For Life. It will be my first time at the March and I'm looking forward to joining my friend @BenjaminSWatson and thousands of others who will be there to support those unborn babies who don't have a choice,” Dungy wrote.

The coach said. “It's amazing to me that God actually used football to shine some light on the subject of life for all of us. Three weeks ago, during a game in Cincinnati, something happened that impacted our entire country. A young man named Damar Hamlin of the Buffalo Bills made a routine tackle, and his heart stopped beating right on the field. It could've been tragic, but something miraculous happened. Team medical staff rushed out and they got Damar's heart started again, but you know what? That wasn't the miracle. The real miracle was the reaction of everyone to that. The announcers on the broadcast, what did they say? “All we can do is pray.” And all across the country, people began to pray. Lauren and I were having dinner with friends of ours, and we stopped what we were doing, and we prayed right there.

At the Rally Tony said, “Well, those prayers were answered, Damar's recovering now, he's home, he's been released from the hospital, but what's the lesson in that? An unbelievable thing happened that night. A professional football game with millions of dollars of ticket money and advertising money on the line. That game was canceled. Why? Because a life was a stake, and people wanted to see that life saved. Even people who are not necessarily religious got together and called on God.

Well, that should be encouraging to us because that's exactly why we're here today because every day in this country, innocent



We recently celebrated Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, honoring God’s precious gift of human life. In the post-Roe era in Illinois, we’re aware more than ever that the battle for life intensifies! Our state is doing everything in its power to encourage abortion and attract women from surrounding states to come here to terminate their pregnancies and end the precious lives of their unborn children.

We at Caring Network have a great challenge ahead of us: to serve the increasing numbers of women who live or travel here – and face this dreadful decision- and encourage and equip them to choose life.

We need your prayers more than ever. Would you join us by praying each day?

Blessings in Christ,
Kirt Wiggins
President

The Battle for Life Intensifies
Caring Network Illinois
1200 Roosevelt Rd, Ste 114, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137 · 630-493-1340
CaringNetwork.com



New Name: The March for LifeChicago is now the Illinois March for Life

New Location: The rally and march move from Chicago to Springfield, IL

New Day: Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

SAME MISSION: Save Midwestern Lives by marching for life in the public square!

Why move to Springfield, IL?

Springfield is Illinois’ state capitol.

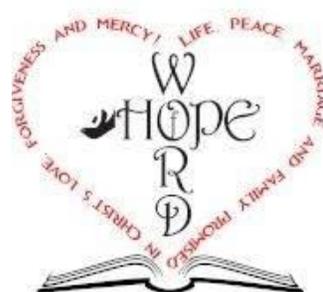
In the last 6 years, lawmakers in Springfield passed the Repeal of Parental Notification (2021), the Reproductive Health Act, which allows abortion through all 9 months, removed health inspections of abortion clinics, and more (2019) and HB 40 Tax Payer Funding of Abortion (2017).

As a result, at least 4 regional abortion clinics have been built in IL near the border of WI, MO, & IN since 2018.

Recently, an abortion organization launched a bus to travel around the IL state border to offer abortions to those in neighboring states.

Illinois abortions are no longer concentrated in Chicago and no longer limited to just Illinois residents.

Illinois’ state laws are detrimental to preborn lives across the Midwest, so we **have moved to march where those egregious laws were made.**



Love for a Broken Heart

Are you grieving the loss of a child through abortion? Are you struggling with guilt, sorrow, or anger? Do you know

that God wants to heal you and bind up your sorrows? He can free you from the hurt and pain. "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

There IS hope for your future – a Word of Hope that can begin to heal your broken heart. If you or someone you know is hurting because of an abortion, call Word of Hope at 888.217.8679 or email info@word-of-hope.org. It's caring and completely confidential.



Lutheran Women in Mission - LWML

Registration for the 40th Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League

(LWML) opened January 9, 2023.

The Winter Issue of the "Lutheran Woman's Quarterly" includes information to walk you through the exclusive online registration process (early registration fees apply).

Join us as we "**Celebrate the Lord of the Nations**" in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 22–25, 2023. If interested text Arlene Solyom 630-715-7764

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Eligible Thrivent Financial members earn Choice Dollars which may be directed to Trinity Lutheran Church and/or Trinity Lutheran School. These must be directed each year prior to March 31. Don't miss this easy opportunity to benefit Trinity. To

learn more or direct your Choice Dollars, go online to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800.847.4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.



Reminder giving food is giving love.... a food pantry is different than a



Food sharing is Caring



food bank in that it provides food directly to those who may not have enough food to eat. Food pantries are often the only source of free healthy and nutritious food in a neighborhood,

Thanks be to God, Trinity Lutheran Church and School contribute to three food pantries at: St. Vincent de Paul, York Center and 1st Bethlehem. These food pantries are serving an ever increasing number of people. We can't say it often enough...THANK YOU..

They welcome the help given. You may bring non-perishables (rice, pasta, mac-n-cheese) canned goods, breakfast cereals, and

granola bars. Some of you have asked about money. YES, the pantries need money to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables and meat. If you choose to give cash, we ask that you give it to Ron or Dawn Tyler directly. There is a table in the corner of the parish hall where you can place your donations. You may never know who benefits from your generosity (for all you know, it could be your neighbor or a family member), but God does. And He reminds us: "...And the king will answer them, 'Whatsoever you did to the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'" **Matthew 25:40**

Ron & Dawn Tyler welcome questions if you need help, you may reach them by calling the church office at 630.629.8765

The Chosen



A still from season two of *The Chosen* featuring Jonathan Roumie as Jesus (front, right).

Richard Cohrs is the nephew of Judy Cuchetto. He sent a report of his trip to the March for life in DC, where he represented Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty. He stated that he attended the Rose Dinner and saw/heard the actor, Jonathan Roumie, who plays Jesus in the series, "The Chosen". Rich said that Jonathan gave a great speech

supporting life. He is a devout Christian who put his career in jeopardy for speaking out against abortion. He spoke to the rally at 1:30 p.m. and by dinner at 7 p.m. he had received vile emails and a very mean YouTube video. Rich stated that he is impressed with how Jonathan is living out his faith. This series has brought many to faith through his portrayal Jesus in the series, and the other actors recognized that he is a man of faith. The Chosen, he truly believes that God is the author of life and human beings are to respect that...as not just the truth for Christians, but the truth for all humans.

Jesus was wise and loving, a teacher, a philosopher, and religious leader who also happens to be the son of God. The Chosen is worth watching. You can watch it on Netflix or Youtube.

Series Review by : Richard Cohrs

All news articles for the next month's newsletter may be submitted **if possible by the 20th of the month in order to get proofread and approved by Pastor by the 1st of the month.**

Thank you. Send to

vinjud60@yahoo.com

Questions ... call or text - Judy Cuchetto (630)698-2208 at any time.