

December 2025

# News From The Pews



## Pastor's Page

It's that time again! It's the Christmas season and is a very special time of the year for us all. We as creatures of habit are so easily pulled into a routine, and this time of the year can be as overwhelming as any. So, since we are about to experience a very distracting time of the year, I wanted to give us a couple of things to think about this Christmas season.

1. Don't forget the reason for the season. What defines this time of year for you? It is very, very easy to have the best of intentions to maintain a Christ focused approach, but it's hard to resist the other distractions. This year can be defined by shopping, or party preparations, or the anticipation of travel, or the anticipation of the arrival of loved ones, or decorating, or scheduling which social gatherings we will be attending, and it can go on and on. It is a VERY busy time of year. And to be sure, none of this is wrong at all. These things are blessings to us that God wants us to enjoy. The problem comes when we allow these things to replace God as number one on our priority list. The reason for all of this craziness is one simple but exciting message – the Creator and Savior of the world is coming in the flesh!! Jesus is coming, and that has profound implications on our life. Please pray that the Holy Spirit

will see to it that the Advent/Christmas message is kept at the forefront of our minds and hearts during all the holiday chaos.

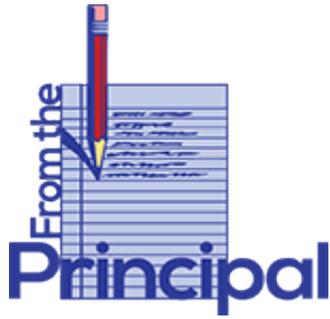
2. Remember that the Christmas season is not joyful for everyone. Are you making plans to spend time with loved ones? What a blessing!! But the reality is that not everyone is happy this time of year. In fact, many are hurting and this time of year only exacerbates the pain. Many may not have enough money to pay bills, much less buy all those Christmas gifts. Some may long to spend Christmas with a loved one who is no longer around. Those grieving a death or a broken relationship can often be very down this time of year. They are hurting and lonely. So, please remember those around you. Try not to get so busy and distracted that we aren't taking time to reach out to those who are hurting. A simple phone call or visit this time of year can be very powerful to those in need. Remember them. Pray for them. Pray WITH them. Reach out to them. And most importantly – don't get too busy to love them.

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas season, and see you in church!

In Christ,

Rev. Wagner





on Thursday December 18 at 6:30 PM. Doors will open at 6:00 PM.

- They will head into Christmas break with a week of Christmas activities, culminating in gingerbread house building with their chapel families.

Trinity students and staff continue to make a “joyful noise unto the Lord” as the seasons are changing while the second quarter has started out with a bang at Trinity.

- Each student was able to decorate pumpkins within their chapel families to end October, thanks to an anonymous donor.
- Students enjoyed a Friday off from school while their parents and teachers were meeting for end of the quarter conferences.
- Earlier this month, for *Family Reading Night*, the storyteller Chris Faccione returned to Trinity. He entertained families with his brand of interactive storytelling after everyone enjoyed a pizza dinner.
- Chapel offerings during the months of November and December are designated for the food bank.
- The students are currently on their Thanksgiving recess, but when they return, they will be working hard preparing to lead their Christmas service for the congregation

We have what we hope will be a FUN CHALLENGE FOR YOU! The Chapel offerings through the rest of this calendar year are going to be for the Food Pantry that we support through both St. Vincent dePaul and York Township. Each week will be a different item. The first week of December will be canned fruit or veggies. Our challenge for you is to see if we can collect 75 cans. Are you up for the challenge? Let's see if we can make that happen.

**James C. Baerenklau**

Principal

**Trinity Lutheran School**

Lombard, IL 60148

630.627.5601 ext. 20



## Trinity Lutheran Women in Mission - Mary Martha Guild

Trinity's Mary Martha invites all women and girls for a special Christmas celebration at Lisa Zientara's beautifully decorated home Saturday, December 13th at 1 o'clock. Enjoy time with your sisters in the faith while we eat, play games, laugh and sing Christmas favorites. Please bring a "sweet" or "salty" treat to share. Lisa's address is 68 Adams Court, Unit A, Streamwood. If you have any questions text Arlene Solyom at 630.715.7764. To RSVP text Lisa Z. at 630.222.0114



Mary Martha, Trinity's women's service ministry of faith, fun, and fellowship is open to all women and girls, confirmation age on up. Mary Martha meets monthly – usually on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in Trinity's parish hall during the school year unless noted otherwise.

### **Friends are always welcome.**

Trinity's Mary Martha is a part of Lutheran Women in Mission (also known as LWML), it is the national women's organization of which every Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod woman is automatically a member. Throughout the year, Trinity's women have opportunities to participate in local, regional, and national events as part of Lutheran Women in Mission. If you have questions, text or call **Arlene Solyom at: 630.715.7764.**

## Feed The Hungry

There are people this holiday season who don't know where their next meal is coming from. Not only during the holidays but every day. We need to help. Jesus said.....

I was hungry and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.  
Matthew 25:35, NRSV



Just think, if everyone brought 1 food item a week it would always be ready to share. God provides the means to provide food for those who are not able to do so through their own means. By bringing non-perishables (rice, pasta, mac-n-cheese...) canned goods, breakfast cereals, granola bars etc. along with you when you come to worship services, you are helping to provide nourishment and kindness to those in need.

"Eating is not an optional 'habit', it's a necessity."

**To contact Ron or Dawn Tyler or if you have questions, please call Trinity's office..**

Trinity Lutheran Church and School contributes to the local food pantries: St. Vincent de Paul through St. Pius X Catholic Church and Yorktownship. Questions?

**Contact Trinity's office at 630.629.8765 or [secretary@trinitylombard.org](mailto:secretary@trinitylombard.org).**



## **MOVIE DAY** - Come one, come all!

Trinity will be hosting a family Movie Day on **Friday, December 5** in the Parish Hall following school dismissal at 3 o'clock. A faith and family friendly movie and snacks will be the perfect way to unwind after a long week. Parents and siblings are welcome to join in on the fun or leave your children at the supervised event while you get some Christmas shopping done. Movie to be announced soon... but save the date!

## **Caring and Confidential:**

Are you uncomfortable attending church? Does the focus on the Baby Jesus make you sad? Are you struggling with secret guilt from an abortion in your past? If you suffer from feelings of depression, guilt, grief, anger or regret as a result of an abortion, there is forgiveness and healing. Word of Hope offers confidential counseling, support, resources and referrals for anyone dealing with the aftereffects of an abortion, whether recent or long ago. If you or someone you know is suffering secretly because of abortion, call 888.217.8679 or email [info@word-of-hope.org](mailto:info@word-of-hope.org). Word of Hope is caring and completely confidential.

## **NEWS FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School celebrates Advent with Christmas stories and ornament creation on the Sundays leading up to the Christmas celebration of Jesus' birth. Meeting in the parish hall right after post-church fellowship, concurrent with Adult Bible class, Sunday school is geared to children aged three through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Sunday school is not scheduled to meet on December 28, or January 4.

## **Children in Church**

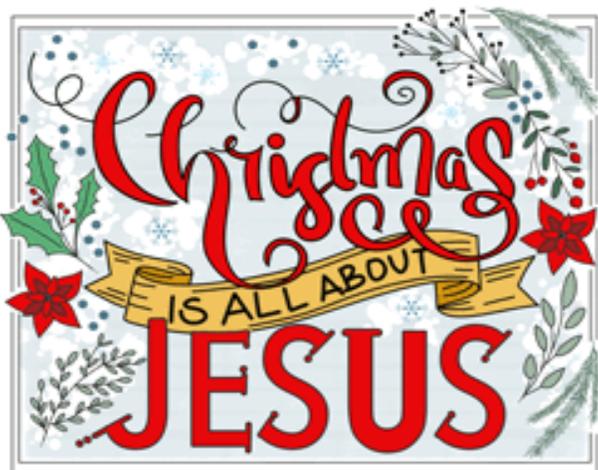
At Trinity Lutheran Church, children are welcomed and encouraged to participate fully in the church's worship, as we believe children are part of the church today and its future. The family is a primary building block for faith and worshiping together in church is a large part of early faith development. If you are bringing younger children to church, please be aware of resources available at the back of the sanctuary. We have "busy bags" for toddlers with church "look books" or other materials (please return these to the hanging stand after church). You'll also find crayons, Bible coloring books, children's bulletins (two versions, for ages 3+ and 7+), and quarterly My Devotions (for young Christians). This is also where you will find copies of Trinity Lutheran School's monthly student produced newsletter.

## Year End Giving:

As we purchase or make and wrap gifts for one another - in celebration of the Greatest Gift of All, JESUS, take a moment to consider some of the many ways you can "give back" from God's blessings to benefit the kingdom work of Trinity Lutheran Church and School...

- Raise Right – gift cards purchased physically or online return varying percentages to Trinity, while you get the full-face value of what you spend
- Thrivent Choice Dollars earned in 2025 must be directed before the end of March 2026
- Employer matching gifts
- Tax deductible charitable giving
- Required Minimum Distributions/Qualified Charitable Distributions
- Planned Giving/Legacy Gifts

If you have questions or need assistance in making charitable gifts to Trinity, please reach out to Trinity's office at 630.629.8765 or [secretary@trinitylombard.org](mailto:secretary@trinitylombard.org) and the Board of Stewardship can connect you with a variety of helpful giving resources.



## OPPORTUNITY TO WORSHIP AND STUDY

**LOOKING AHEAD ADVENT SERVICES ~ December 3rd and 10th, 11am & 6 pm. There will be NO Lunches or Dinners served for Advent. The 6pm worship service will be in the sanctuary.**



**Scheduled Services 9 a.m.**  
**Sundays** In-person and Livestreamed

**Monday Night** weekly services are at **6pm.**

Enjoy Coffee & fellowship after church services on Sundays.

**SUNDAY MORNING** Bible Class has resumed, following fellowship.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**, following the service & Fellowship time

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS** is once again meeting, with 9:15 coffee, Study to begin at 9:30

**WEDNESDAY EVENING ONLINE LIVE BIBLE STUDY 6PM**

live at <https://www.trinitylombard.org>

**TRINITY'S OFFICE HOURS:** 8 am to 3:30 pm. Questions? Call **630.629.8765** or **Email: [secretary@trinitylombard.org](mailto:secretary@trinitylombard.org)**  
Facebook: keep up with Trinity news from church and school on [Facebook@TrinityLombard](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard/) and Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/trinitylutheranlombard/>.  
Find the 9 a.m. orders of worship, at **<https://www.trinitylombard.org/sermons>**.  
Services and Bible classes air live on [Facebook@TrinityLombard.com](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard/) (<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard/>)

**Holidays Can Be Hard** The holiday season is often hard. There is the busyness of preparing for company and celebrations, the shopping rush, and the feeling that it's all coming upon us so quickly that you'll never be ready. Holidays can be lonely. It's a time when the absence of missing loved ones can be keenly felt, when fractured families are torn in different ways, and when the pressure of "having to be merry" can actually make one depressed. Despite all the gift giving, parties, and family gatherings, there are many people who suffer from the "holiday blues."

This is why it is important to share the real message of Christmas with those around us during this festive, and often hectic, season. A simple, "God bless you this Christmas," can go a long way toward uplifting the spirit of someone who may be struggling.

Thoughtful greeting cards that share the Gospel and Christ-centered gifts that point to the Savior of the world are one way to open the door to sharing the hope that is in our hearts when we know the Lord. Filling the food pantry and working at soup kitchens are ways to help the material poor but consider offering to babysit for a single mother so she can shop for her children. Share home-baked goodies with the working couple who are rarely home. Offer to pick up or assemble a Christmas tree for an elderly neighbor.

We all need help at times, and positive encouragement is always a good thing. It is also a proven principle that the best way to make yourself feel better is by reaching out to someone else. And the best thing to hand them is the Good News about Jesus.

Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). When you're feeling overwhelmed, the money's running out, your marriage is in crisis, or a loved one is struggling with a serious disease, remember, you are experiencing the fruits of a sinful world, to which Jesus is the antidote.

At this season of Advent before Christmas, we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of the Christ child. That same Christ child came to earth for the purpose of going to the cross to die for all of our sins. Share Christ's gift and the blessings of trusting in Him with those who are hurting. Tell the people who come into your life that Jesus loves them, and that Jesus came to save them too. The bad news: we will suffer in life and want someone to make it all better. The Good News: Jesus did.

*"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you Good News of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.'" Luke 2:10-11*

### **Good News Corner**

**Have any good news to share and would like the congregation to know? Send your news to me so I can include it in the monthly newsletter. All emails are welcome! Let's start a "Congregational News Corner"!**

All news articles for the next month's newsletter may be submitted if possible, by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month in order to get proofread and approved by Pastor by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. Thank you. Send via text or email to: [s.keenan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.keenan@sbcglobal.net)

Questions ... call or text - Editor,  
Chris Keenan (630) 330-5900 at any time.

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