

News from the Pews

January 2021



So, how was your Christmas? For me, it seems as if it flew by. It came and went with lightning speed. And, if you are like me, you

are probably exhausted from all of the hustle and bustle that comes with the holiday season. This time of the year is joyous and exciting, but it does seem as if January can bring a bit of a letdown.

But why is that? It really is part of the same old story. This world has its shares of ups and downs. Worldly celebrations can be like a roller coaster. They start and they end. Nothing is constant with the world. Things are always changing, and change is hard. We like stability and structure, but stability and structure are very hard to find in things of the world.

So, when we crave that stability and consistency, we should not look for it in the world because we will only find it in Christ. God and His Word never changes. His love for you is always constant. And more importantly, His forgiveness of your sins is constant and never changing. Our sin causes us heartache in more ways than we can count. But God's constant, unconditional love for us is always there, always healing, always comforting, always strengthening ... always.

That is one of the themes we will be seeing this month in church in the season of Epiphany.

Epiphany means a revealing or an opening, as in the opening of one's eyes to be able to see what was not seen before. So, Epiphany in the church is a revealing of Christ and who He is – namely God in the flesh who came for you. God did not send one of His representatives to deal with sin. He did not send some sort of intermediary. Instead, He Himself came in the flesh – for you!

So, when the roller coaster ride of the world wears you down and you are yearning for something more permanent and lasting, look to God! Come to His house. Hear His Word. Receive His body and blood. Confess your sins and hear His forgiveness. Pray to Him with your church family. The Lord Christ is revealed to us in this Epiphany season, and His love for you, never changes. Thanks be to God!

Have a blessed Epiphany season and see you in church!

Blessings In Christ,
Rev. Wagner

Christmas Every Day
TrinityLombard.org

Recently, Pastor Wagner delivered a sermon titled *Christmas Every Day*. Thanks to the archives at TrinityLombard.org – we can relive Christmas every day! If you were unable to participate in church on Christmas Day,



Christmas Eve, or any recent service – you can still experience this special time of worship by visiting <https://www.trinitylombard.org/sermons>, where you will find sermons, services, and Bible studies available to watch or listen to at any time.

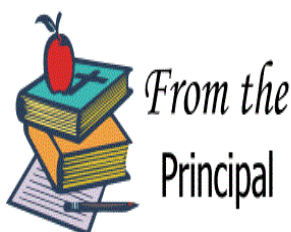


In person services

Trinity's in-person services continue with set guidelines on ...
Sundays at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and Mondays at 7 p.m. .

ALSO, PLEASE NOTE THAT FACE MASKS ARE still REQUIRED along with social distancing.

Unable to attend in person on Sunday? The 9 a.m. service is livestreamed on [Facebook@TrinityLombard](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard) and on Trinity's website at [Trinitylombard.org](https://www.trinitylombard.org). Find downloadable order of worship each week on the website and on Facebook.



December was an exciting month. The students

practiced and performed the Christmas program. Please make sure to check out all of the students' and teachers' hard work by visiting our website to view the Christmas Program. The program was different from the past years, but the students did an excellent job.

The teachers return to school on Monday, January 4, and the students return to the building on Tuesday, January 5. We are

looking forward to starting the second half of the school year. All of us, students and teachers, enjoy being together in the building. I was in the building over the break and it was so quiet without the energy and spirit of the students.

We are looking forward to celebrating Lutheran Schools Week in March. Keep an eye out for what the staff and students will be up to.



Mr. Baerenklau's classroom, spaced for safety.

Note: Continuing to use caution, we are discouraging in-person visits to Trinity's office. Please call 630.627.5601 or email secretary@trinitylombard.org if you have something to pick up or drop off or if you need information. Our central desk is manned on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Blessings,

Julie Messina

Principal

7th & 8th Grade Teacher

Trinity Lutheran School, Lombard, IL

JMessina@trinitylombard.org

630.627.5601 ext. 205



Happy New Year!

In Revelation 21:5, John writes, *“And He who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making*

all things new.’” After the rough ride we had in 2020, we are probably all ready for all things new.

Take heart, dear Christian brothers and sisters, before we even sang the first phrase of Auld Lang Syne, our gracious God has already given us a new church year, a new calendar year, and a fresh start – forgiven and free, purchase through the sacrifice of the sinless Jesus Christ.

Even as the grip of COVID-19 hangs on, our economy continues on an unsteady path, and our society seems to devolve around us – we can be assured that God’s promises hold true – even on the rockiest of roads.

In Lamentations, God’s Word as penned by the “weeping prophet” Jeremiah proclaims, *“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.”* Lamentations 3:22-23

How do we respond? In love and service – with lips to sing His praises, hands to do His good works, feet to deliver the Gospel Good News, and hearts that rejoice in what God has done for us.

It is a new year – and God’s mercies are indeed new every day. Rejoice!

Submitted by
Lori Solyom

As the new year begins, *The New York Times* advises “This Year, Try Downsizing Your Resolutions,” *Business Insider* offers help from a neuroscientist to set “realistic resolutions,” and *CNet* suggests not making

any resolutions at all for 2021. As Christians, however, resolutions are a part of our life. We regularly confess our sins, repenting of them and resolving, with the help of God, to do better – better at loving God and one another. Our church is one way that God helps make it easier for us imperfect beings to do so.

One Christian blogger observes that “our resolutions and goals should include and invite God into the mix to help us succeed...bring us closer to God and bring glory to the Father.”

If you are looking for a better understanding of God’s will, consider resolving to participate in Trinity’s online Bible study. Need strength for the day? You can make a resolution to tune into church at any time with online services and sermons at TrinityLombard.org/sermons. Want to build a new relationship with a brother or sister in Christ? Commit to participating in Trinity’s Prayer Connection, email prayerconnection@trinitylombard.org to get “connected.” Seeking stewardship opportunities? Consider planned gifts to Trinity Lutheran Church and School. Becoming an online giver, set up an employer match, dedicate Thrivent Choice Dollars, or make a tax-deductible gift [there’s a \$300 “above the line” federal deduction even if you don’t itemize, and a gift through EmpowerIllinois.org nets you a 75% state tax credit]. If you need help with giving options, contact Trinity’s office and someone will get back to you – 630.629.8765 or secretary@trinitylombard.org.

Whether you opt to make New Year’s resolutions for 2021 or not, the beginning of the year is a great time to look at our spiritual stewardship and reflect on ways to grow in God. In 2021, *“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven”* (Matthew 5:16).

Lori Solyom
Board of Stewardship, Chair



Interactive
Live Study
Online

*Studying
God's Word
together is
important!*

Wednesdays Pastor continues with the evening Bible classes. They begin at 6 pm on **Wednesdays ... LIVE and are interactive** on Facebook [@trinitylombard](https://www.facebook.com/trinitylombard). Each one is unique so you can join in at any time. Pastor welcomes any of the Bible related questions you submit right online.

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Weekday Devotions

Weekdays at 10 a.m. (Central) you can participate in chapel, live from the LCMS International Center in St. Louis, Missouri, as Lutherans from around the world join in at <https://www.facebook.com/TheLCMS/>.



Bells were ringing

What a joy to hear the bells played on Christmas Eve. It added so much to the celebration of our Savior's birthday.

There is still time to be a part of the Bell Choir. It's for all ages.

If you have any questions or are ready to volunteer please let me know. Email questions to secretary@TrinityLombard.org or see me before or after services

Thank you.
Kurt Linstead



PRAYER PARTNERS Bulletin

If you have a prayer request or would like to give an update on someone we have been praying for, please contact Pastor

Wagner. Or you can also submit your request directly to Nadine Anderson at 630 629-2197, or email duke3579@comcast.net. Look for the Prayer Partners coming each month to your email address.

Thank you Lord for letting us talk to You, knowing that You hear us. Thank You that we can sit down with You daily for a talk or walk along-side You as we go about our day and just talk to You about a friend or a need, and You always listen.

Board of Evangelism

As we begin a new year, what better way to begin than with a new personal PRAYER CONNECTION; a one on one relationship builder with another Trinity member. This exciting initiative was initially announced to the congregation and school last fall. To date, nine people have been paired up and begun praying for and with each other. It is the hope and prayer of the Board of Evangelism that this group will continue to spark interest and grow by leaps and bounds. If you are interested in getting involved, please email your name and phone number to prayerconnection@trinitylombard.org, or alternatively, contact the church office at 630.629.8765 and a Board member will contact you promptly.

The Board has also been busy this holiday season continuing to provide appreciation baskets to those essential workers in our local communities. These baskets contain items such as fresh fruits, individual juices and hot



chocolate, as well as individually wrapped nuts, crackers and other healthy snacks. Donations of similar items to be included in future baskets are welcome. The Lombard Police Department

received a basket when they came to the school to provide training to Trinity staff members. The Lombard Fire Department also received a basket when they came to inspect the fire system in the school. In addition, two baskets were distributed to local hospitals for the frontline workers at Good Samaritan Hospital Emergency Department and Elmhurst Memorial Hospital Covid Unit. The sacrifice of the individuals that work in these facilities is beyond measure, especially during these trying times. Our small tokens of appreciation were very much appreciated. Please continue to pray for these essential workers.

Jeremiah 29:12 "Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you."

Shine on,
Lisa Ottley
Board of Evangelism, Chairman

**Souper Bowl
get together on:
Jan 7, 6:30pm**



Happy New Year!

Mary/Martha women's ministry is hosting an annual soup and game night to be held in the

Parish Hall. Soup and salad will be provided. Bring a salty or sweet to share and prepare to have fun.

RSVP by text or call Arlene Solyom at 630.715.7764 if you would like to know more about the event. Park in the rear for easy access.



*CARING IS SHARING
FEEDING OUR
NEIGHBORS*

The Food Pantry is located at St. Pius X church located at Madison and Westmore/Meyers Rd, in Lombard. Individuals and families who live in the Villa Park and Lombard areas are able to come to the St Vincent DePaul food pantry for pre-packaged food on Mondays, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. An individuals or families may come twice a month. No appointment is necessary. For no contact services only, you may drive up. Stay in your car, wear a face mask and provide ID. Please stay in your car and call 630.300.4353 when you arrive in the Madison St parking lot of St Pius X. For questions, call Ron Tyler at

630.696.6183. If you are unable to drive or unable to go to St Pius church on Mondays for distribution, you may call Ron and arrange for delivery to your home.



March for Life Chicago

This year's March for Life Chicago looks a little different because of COVID-19 restrictions, but it is on! Beginning January 2 and continuing through January 23, 2021, a series of car rallies and gatherings are "Moving the Movement" across the Midwest. For late breaking details, register at: <https://wedignify.regfox.com/moving-the-movement-tour-registration>.

Tour stops include:

January 2 - Madison, WI

January 10 - Omaha, NE

*** January 16 - Fort Wayne, IN, 4 p.m.**

(Eastern) – sponsored by the LCMS, featuring Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President, Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and Christina M. Francis, MD, President, American Association of Pro-Life OB/GYNs

*** January 17 - Mundelein, IL, 1 p.m.**

(Central) – featuring Melissa Villalobos, who survived a dangerous pregnancy, Linda Couri, MSW, LCSW, a former Planned Parenthood employee, Patrick McCaskey, Bears' Vice President and Kevin Grillot, Executive Director of weDignify

January 22 - Indianapolis, IN

*** January 23 – Chicago, IL, 1 p.m. (Central)**

– featuring Pastor Mark Jobe, President of Moody Bible Institute, and Mary FioRito, J.D.,

Cardinal Francis George Fellow at the Ethics & Public Policy Center

Find additional details and information on all March for Life Chicago tour stops at <https://marchforlifechicago.org/>.

The National March for Life is in Washington, DC, on January 29, 2021. Additionally, the LCMS Life ministry participates in regional March for Life events in St. Paul, MN, Topeka, KS, San Francisco, CA, Salt Lake City, UT, and St. Louis, MO.

Recipes from the Pews: Recipes or

suggestions from our "church family" are welcome. If you have anything you would like to contribute, please feel free to text, or email your recipes to the editor.



Recipes Passed Down

Cold winter days are a good time to try this quick easy version of a traditional New Year's dish that is true Southern comfort food. Lori Solyom likes this dish for lunch or supper. Put some corn bread with it and enjoy.

Southern Hoppin' John

TOTAL TIME: Prep: 10 min. Cook: 30 min. YIELD: 6 servings.

Ingredients

1/2 pound sliced bacon, cut into 1-inch pieces
OR 1/2 pound chopped cooked ham
1 small bell pepper, chopped
2 celery stalks, chopped
6 green onions, sliced
1 cup uncooked long-grain rice
2 cups water
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1/2 teaspoon dried basil

1/4 teaspoon dried thyme
1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
1 bay leaf
1 can (15 ounces) black-eyed peas, rinsed and drained

Directions

In a large skillet, cook bacon over medium heat until crisp. Drain on paper towels; discard all but 2 tablespoons drippings. Sauté pepper, celery and onions in drippings until almost tender. Add rice, water, and seasonings. Cover and simmer 10 minutes. Add peas and bacon; simmer 10 minutes longer. Discard bay leaf. Serve.

Updates & FYI's

News about Trinity family members.....

Asking for continued prayer....

Bob Gehrt is still in hospice. Lord we continue to lift him up to Your throne, we trust Your timing Lord.

Caroline Norderud is still in hospice care. Pray that our Lord receives His faithful daughter to His loving arms, in His timing.

Marge Klein is going to begin OP treatment at Marianjoy on Jan. 4th. She can walk with her walker... yea! Steve has completed his OP treatment. Thank the Lord for their progress.

Homebound ... Pray for all of Trinity's members who have not been able to attend in person services due to concerns of the virus. Pray that they are able to maintain contact thru the various means and do not feel forgotten. We look forward to when we can all be at church together. It's something to look forward to with joy and anticipation. It's good to call and just say, 'Hi!' to each other to keep in touch.

If you know of members who are not able to attend or do not have email, please contact the office or Pastor with their name. Bless our Pastor for the calls he has made during the

visiting restrictions.

Other info and updates.....

Online Shopping

If you shop online via Amazon, you can sign up to donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Log



in to your Amazon account through

smile.amazon.com and designate Trinity as your charity – or log in direct at:

https://smile.amazon.com/b?node=15576745011&ref=pe_732550_434054570

Yep, It's time to start thinking about taxes. GIFTS THAT CAN SAVE YOU TAXES...

Even if you don't itemize – you can deduct a \$300.00 given to Trinity.

Gifts to Trinity Lutheran Church and School are always tax deductible, but when Congress recently passed the CARES Act in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, it included a partial deduction for charitable contributions. This provision encourages individuals to contribute to religious, charitable and educational organizations by creating a new "above the line" deduction for all taxpayers. This deduction will permit a taxpayer to deduct up to \$300 of annual cash contributions regardless of whether the taxpayer itemizes contributions or takes the new, higher standard deduction. If you are in a position to give charitable gifts this

year, we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity.

News from Trinity is distributed via email and Trinity's Facebook page www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard and Trinity's website – www.TrinityLombard.org, and social media sites – on Instagram www.instagram.com/trinitylutheranlombard. School families keep up to date with the JupiterEd app.

(do we have your current email address?)

Next month's info for NFTP may be submitted to vinjud60@yahoo.com or call or text Judy Cuchetto 630-698-2208.

Epiphany January 6, 2021 ... the Magi visit Jesus

Nations shall come
to your light,
and kings to the
brightness of your dawn.

Isaiah 60:3, NRSV



*To all of
Trinity's church family,
be blessed!*

