

News from the Pews

August 2020



Well, this is usually the time for normalcy and getting back into the ol' routine. That's what usually happens when summer ends and school begins again. There still may be one last trip planned or one last visit from loved ones, but the start of school is just around the corner. But of course, nothing is normal during a world pandemic.

With all this change and hectic scheduling, how comforting is it to know that in spite of all the craziness of summer, and in the craziness of COVID-19, that God is still in control? God still loves you. God is still looking out for you and your family. Jesus still died for your sins. Jesus still has risen and lives. You are still saved by grace through faith in Christ.

We are very good at getting distracted. Life has a way of throwing a lot at us. It can be easy to lose our way. Thankfully, being a Christian means that it's not up to you to stay focused on God. Instead, God comes to you. God gives you His Holy Spirit, so you don't forget Him. God refreshes and strengthens your faith by hearing His Word in church and by receiving His sacrament. God loves you so much that He comes to you to give you the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

Have you been able to continue to come to church regularly this summer, or at least watch us online? Great! Keep doing so, and God will

continue to grow your faith. Have you been unable to come regularly or to watch because of extra summer work or an overfull schedule? That's ok. Every weekend can be a brand new beginning towards a closer walk with Christ. I pray all is well with all of you, have a great August, and see you in church!

Blessings In Christ,

Rev. Wagner



In person services

9 and 10:30 a.m.

If you have already attended either the 9 or 10:30 service, please keep that same time frame for future attendance until we resume our "all together" service time.

If you have not yet done so ... we are inviting all who would like to attend worship, to call the office at 630-629-8765 and leave a voicemail as to your preferred attendance time, or to email me at pastorwagner@trinitylombard.org with your preference. This allows us to manage attendance to ensure that we gather together in numbers that are responsible and in line with safe guidelines. *Please let us know your preferred worship time, or if you are open to worship at either service, before the first Sunday you plan to attend.

ALSO, PLEASE NOTE THAT FACE MASKS ARE still REQUIRED AND ATTENDANCE IS LIMITED.

Note: 10:30 service has the most openings. Please read Trinity's Guidelines for reopening:

<https://www.trinitylombard.org/church-reopening>.

The 9 a.m. service continues to be livestreamed on [Facebook @TrinityLombard](#) and on Trinity's website at Trinitylombard.org. A downloadable order of worship is attached, and is also available at: <https://tinyurl.com/ya5c8gev>.

Facebook

If you missed joining Trinity online for church this (or any) weekend, you can still take part. Relive the Sunday morning services, find the orders of worship, along with easy to share video and audio versions of the sermons at <https://www.trinitylombard.org/sermons>. You'll find recent online Bible study videos there too.

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 am. and Bible studies air each Thursday evening at 6 p.m. .

- Display a Trinity Lutheran School yard sign – pick on up in Trinity's office between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday or ask to have one planted in your yard - email Secretary@TrinityLombard.org or leave a voicemail message at 630.629.8765.
- If you are on social media, please share posts promoting the school. You can share posts already on Trinity's Facebook or Instagram or create your own with suggested texts and images here: <https://www.trinitylombard.org/social-media-posts>

Julie Messina
Principal, 7th & 8th Grade Teacher
JMessina@trinitylombard.org
630-627-5601 ext. 205

SAFE, SMALL CLASS SIZES, IN-CLASSROOM EDUCATION 5 DAYS A WEEK - Quality Christian Education - preschool through 8th grade - Register now - 630.627.5601 or secretary@trinitylombard.org –



*From the
Principal's desk*

TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL is gearing up for back to school and accepting registration for the 2020-2021 school year. School begins on Wednesday, August 19th .

You can help fill the classrooms:

- Let family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers with school age children know that Trinity is open for in class learning and offers a quality Christian education in a family-centric environment.

SUMMER CAMP

Summer camp was in full swing at Trinity and ended on July 31st.

We had two separate classrooms with 9 campers in each, so that we practiced social distancing by keeping our numbers small. In addition, we wore masks and sanitized often. Our themes this year were science fun, desert and reading stories. "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" was a lot of fun.



Following guidelines set by the CDC and IDPH to keep campers and staff safe, the children

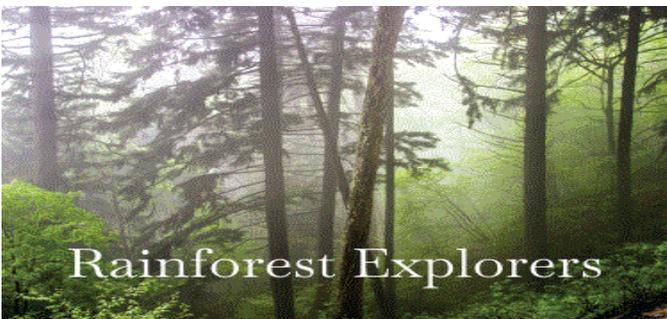


kept their masks on and had lot of good healthy activities.

Temperatures were taken upon entry into the building in the mornings. Campers were able to play outside during the day. Face masks were worn in the classrooms.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS...WHENEVER YOU WANT IT UNTIL SCHOOL STARTS.

This year Trinity's Vacation Bible School is conveniently planned to work around your family schedule and allows us to comply with current state requirements and guidelines for gathering together.



You will find Trinity's 2020 Vacation Bible School, Rainforest Explorers, online, at www.trinitylombard.org. We encourage you to participate in the way that works best for your household, choosing to explore one VBS unit a day for a week, or one VBS unit a week over several weeks.

Parents or grandparents are encouraged to participate with younger children, while older

students may be able to work through each unit on their own. We think that all ages will enjoy being Rainforest Explorers while Jesus leads the way.

Crafts and snacks are designed to use materials and ingredients you probably have on hand at home – if not, the needed items are easy to find and inexpensive. There are also alternate ideas provided – and a lot of additional music-action videos.

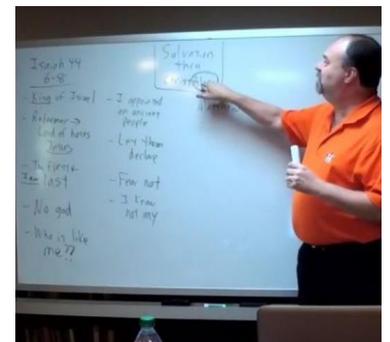
Offerings to benefit this summer's Mission Partner, Mission Papua New Guinea, may be made online at <https://tinyurl.com/vbb68ns> or mailed to Trinity Lutheran Church, 1165 S Westmore-Meyers Rd., Lombard, IL 60148. PLEASE DESIGNATE AS "VBS MISSION" and make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church.

Each unit includes:

- devotions by Pastor Wagner
- Bible verse
- action music video
- Bible Story lesson by Mrs. Messina
- craft with Miss Hannah
- easy-to-make snack
- coloring page
- science experiment
- and more!

While we are not meeting on Sunday mornings for Bible Study at this time out of caution

Studying God's Word together is important!



Pastor offers Bible Study, at 6 pm on Thursdays LIVE on Facebook @trinitylombard . Pastor Wagner welcomes any of your Bible related questions. *You can interact online through Facebook as the study

is going on, or email questions by noon on Wednesdays, Secretary@TrinityLombard.org

You can also view it on the internet using www.TrinityLombard.org .



You're invited
Mary Martha
September 3rd,
6:30pm.

We have not met in person this summer for



bible study as we have in the past. But we each enjoyed knowing that we could virtually engage in the Thursday night studies that pastor has been

offering at 6:00pm online.

In September, when we normally resume our once a month, meetings, it's *THE* Salad Supper event. This a good time to get to know what will be offered in the upcoming months ahead. We will be having a Salad Supper.. However, it will an outdoor event, held with plenty of fresh air around us to socially distance. In case of rain, there is a screen house. All women are invited, there is no membership ... just friendship offered.

We will meet at the home of Judy Cuchetto, 118 S. Ardmore Ave, Villa Park. Please join in and bring a salad of some kind to pass.

RSVP by text to Arlene Solyom at 630.715.7764 or call 630.620.0599 if you

would like to know more about the event or where to park.

Come and get to know just how Mary/Martha Women's fellowship serves the church, if you have any questions about how to get involved. There's always lots of laughter and good desserts.

Trinity's NEW Young Adult Group is online

Trinity's Young Adult Group is excited about some new opportunities! We have invited the young adults from St. Luke, Itasca to join us in Bible Study and hopefully in the near future, service projects and recreational events. We are thankful to our leader, Scott Gronwold, for his wisdom and to our few devoted members. As we started this brand new program in the midst of this difficult season that 2020 has brought us, we ask you to keep us in your prayers - that we may grow and most importantly, spread the love of Jesus.

In Christ's name,
Hannah Solyom
hannahsolyom@yahoo.com.

Get information on the Youth group from Scott Gronwold at sjohn75@gmail.com

Help at hand:

It seems like a very long time since we started this journey together, Trinity Family. And we had all hoped that things would be back to a normal pace in our lives, but it hasn't quite happened as we had planned. Because there may still be a need for extra help, Trinity has been blessed with helpers willing to run errands, prepare and deliver meals, and provide you with a fabric face mask if you don't

have, or still need one. Please let us know if you are in need of these or other services.



Email [Secretary@](mailto:Secretary@TrinityLombard.org)

TrinityLombard.org or leave a voicemail message at 630.629.8765.

Trinity has been partnering with nearby St. Pius Catholic Church and Sacred Heart Catholic Church in their Food Pantries.. **If you, or if you know of any in the area who are in need of food**, call 630.300.4350. Leave a message with your name, phone number, address, and the number of people in household. You will receive a call back to arrange a date and time for a local Knights of Columbus volunteer to *deliver groceries*. Again, thank you to Trinity members Ron and Dawn Tyler for helping to set this up.

Even at those times when Trinity’s office must be closed, you can still be connected. Trinity’s primary email address, secretary@trinitylombard.org is regularly monitored and voicemails left at 630.629.8765 are listened to.

News from the Trinity community is distributed via email and Trinity’s website



– www.TrinityLombard.org, and social media sites –

Facebook www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard and

Instagram www.instagram.com/trinitylutheranlombard. School families keep up to date with the JupiterEd app.

(do we have your current email address?)

.....If you ever have a critical need, please let Trinity know so that they can connect you with appropriate help and resources

If you love technology, Trinity is looking for you.

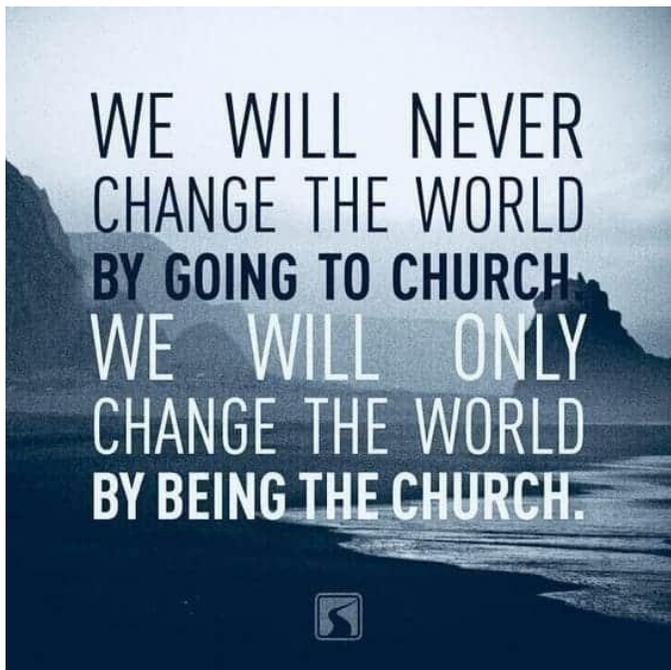
We need members who would be willing to be part of our tech and communications team. Even if you’re new to the field ... there’s a perfect opportunity here at Trinity to join our new team of online, IT, broadcast, and social media volunteers. Have an interest? Let us know with an email to

Secretary@TrinityLombard.org or leave a voicemail message at 630.629.8765.

If you are in need of...

- A FACE MASK
Donelle (Doni) Foreman has been making washable cloth masks
- A WEEKLY MEAL
A group led by Jen Gronwald has been lovingly preparing meals and running errands
- HELP WITH ERRANDS
Kevin Tully

Contact Trinity’s office with an email to Secretary@TrinityLombard.org or leave a voicemail message at 630.629.8765. If the virus is still a concern to you because of your health, don’t hesitate to ask for a helping hand.



Lord, God Almighty, you have given your created beings a purpose in life. You created all human life for the exact same purpose ... and that purpose is to glorify you. You have not created one group of your human beings to be superior to another. You have created all, equal. Forgive us for sinning against you by the hatred that is shown towards others. Forgive us for allowing the killing of our unborn babies in this nation. Forgive us for all of the murders that are committed daily by those that do not value life. Forgive us for worshipping false gods of hatred, spiritual rebellion, race baiting and destruction. You put us in charge of this earth that you spoke into being, but you are in charge over the whole of all you have created. Forgive us as humans for the utter disrespect of life that is displayed daily in this country. Create in us clean hearts oh Lord and renew a right spirit within us as a nation. Take not your Holy Spirit from this land. Speak to the hearts of those who have rebelled against you. Lord heal this land of sickness of the mind and body. We pray these things in the name of our blessed Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Yours in Christ, **Board of Evangelism**

Trinity's Sunday School remains on hiatus.



Until Adult Bible Class begins again in person on Sunday mornings,

Children's Sunday School will continue online. During this time, families are encouraged to visit Trinity's online Sunday School portal: <https://www.trinitylombard.org/sunday-school-activities>. Regularly updated, the page includes story time, coloring, crafts, devotions, projects, and more. Some items are downloadable to print. If you do not have the ability to print, please email and request the desired Sunday School activities via mail, at secretary@trinitylombard.org. Please include your mailing address.

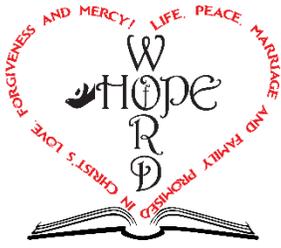
Adults or youth who would like to volunteer with Sunday School when in-person Sunday morning class resumes are invited to contact Trinity's office at 630.627.5601 or secretary@trinitylombard.org.

Blessings in the Name of Our Risen Savior Jesus Christ,
Lori Solyom



PRAYER PARTNERS

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.



Are You Struggling? You never thought it would be you that needed help. God has not forgotten you "I will never desert you, nor will I ever

forsake you." Hebrews 13:5c

THERE IS always HOPE...

If your heart is aching because of a decision that was made and you're struggling with feelings of depression, guilt, grief, anger or regret about an abortion in the past? Maybe it was not your choice, but the baby was yours. Word of Hope can help. The enemy of God wants you to stay in that pain. The Word of Hope offers confidential counseling, support resources and referrals for men or women, dealing with the after-effects of an abortion, to allow God's grace to heal you. If you or someone you know is suffering from grief over an abortion, call 888.217.8679 or email info@word-of-hope.org. It's caring and completely confidential.



ONE NATION
UNDER GOD

News coming 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 ideas or your requests.



Recipes Passed Down

Corn Bread Salad

This is one was passed around from Lori Solyom and has become Vince Cuchetto's favorite salad. .

Ingredients:

- 1 (9") pan of cornbread – (Jiffy Mix works well)
Baked as directed on box, cooled and crumbled.
- 4 slices of bacon, fried crispy and crumbled
- 1 smaller green bell pepper – or mix several varied color mini peppers, chopped small
- 1 medium red onion, chopped small
- 1 medium tomato, diced
- 1 rib celery, diced
- 1 cup mayonnaise (may add more if needed)

Mix all of the above together in a large salad bowl. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate. This salad tastes better the next day. It will keep for several days and tastes better each day. Makes 4 generous servings or 8 small servings.

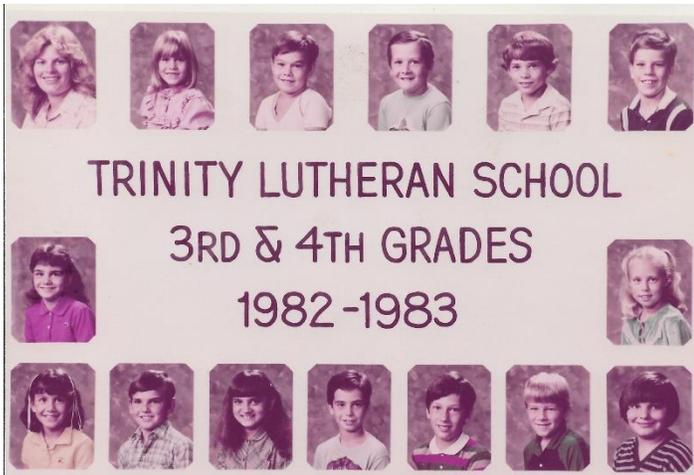
Enjoy,
Vince

Updates & FYI's:

OFFERING ENVELOPES...

If you are not yet able to attend services at Trinity and need your envelopes delivered, please let us know at 630.629.8765 or email secretary@trinitylombard.org.

Just for fun ... how many students can you name? Who is the teacher?



Submit your answers to Beth Kraegel at

bethkraegel@gmail.com. The person guessing the most names will win a \$5.00 gift card from Culver's. The winner will be announced in the next NFTP.

Giving Thanks for Trinity Lutheran School

by Lori Solyom

There's a saying, "Have an Attitude of Gratitude." In these oft trying times, that can be hard to do. Yet, every day God opens my eyes to the many things we can be grateful for, even in tough times. First and foremost, the all-pervasive, persistent love of God, and the blessings of families and friends come to mind. But not far behind that is the thanks I give daily for the treasure that we have in Trinity Lutheran School.

Here are ten reasons that I am incredibly grateful that Trinity Lutheran Church continues to sacrificially operate Trinity Lutheran School, as it has for 160 years.

1. **Trinity Lutheran School is open and operating under the unusual circumstances faced with the onset of the 2020-2021 academic year.**

Trinity's Board of Education, principal, teachers, staff, and families are going above and beyond ordinary efforts to ensure that in-person education will take place five full days a week in Trinity's classrooms.

2. **Lutheran schools care a lot – and Trinity demonstrates that on a regular basis.** Families in crisis know that reaching out to Trinity brings loving response. I've lived it on both ends, having been helped and been presented with opportunities to help others. Trinity is family.
3. **Trinity is not afraid of change.** New technology and new learning opportunities are embraced when they provide positive chances for students to grow and develop skills that will benefit them throughout life.
4. **Trinity never forgets its foundational roots and primary purpose.** Christ-centric is the definition of what Trinity seeks to remain. Trinity Lutheran School's mission statement, "To know Jesus Christ and to make Jesus Christ known," is boldly proclaimed at the school entrance and on the walls of every classroom. Trinity's dual mission of educating the children of the congregation and evangelizing the children in the surrounding community holds strong.
5. **Trinity's people are special.** Full-time church workers, contracted educators, part-time staff, and volunteers from among members, families, and the community are all focused on helping Trinity work together with parents and grandparents to raise up godly children, good citizens, and responsible members of society.
6. **Trinity teachers give above and beyond of their time and talents.** It takes dedication to be a Lutheran School Teacher. Not only will faculty and staff often be found working on the premises outside of classroom hours, but so will their families. And this solid commitment takes place at a sacrificial

salary level. These educators are on the front lines of the battle for the souls of the next generation. They need our prayers and support.

7. **Trinity has an involved pastor.**

Beyond teaching confirmation class, Pastor Wagner spends time weekly with students, reading stories or dropping in classrooms. His door is always open to students and their families for confidential conversations and spiritual guidance.

8. **As a parent of three grown Trinity alumnae, I can testify to the quality return on investment received.**

A Lutheran education can be a financial sacrifice, but I believe it is worth every penny. My adult children received strong foundations at Trinity. They were reminded regularly that God loved them and that they were of great value. They learned to interact with a broad range of ages in multilevel settings. They felt safe at Trinity and they found people they could trust. These “intangibles” made the solid academic backing they garnered at Trinity the best investment I ever made.

9. **As a Trinity parent, I knew that the community “had my back.”**

Even Christian students and families deal with uncomfortable issues. There is no guarantee against bad behavior and poor choices. Should those situations occur, it is a great comfort to know that teachers and school administrators hold the same Christian worldview as I do. There is no question that our common goals will focus on repentance, forgiveness, and the desire to achieve a God-pleasing outcome.

10. **Trinity Lutheran School is in it for the long haul.**

The fact that the school actually predates the church is amazing, and that it has been a light sharing Christ with the surrounding community for 160 years is even more so. This school, and the church that operates it have seen and survived the Civil War

and the sexual revolution, the terrorist attacks of 9/11 and the legalization of many things the church finds abhorrent. Yet, Jesus says clearly in John 16:33, “In the world you will have trouble. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” God’s Word is taught at Trinity Lutheran School – I am convinced that Trinity has spent 160 years “taking heart” in Jesus and will continue to do so for many years more.

Those are the ten reasons that came to my mind, but of course there are plenty additional reasons for giving thanks for our Lutheran school – some very unique and personal. Don’t be shy – share your reasons – with friends, family, neighbors and coworkers.



All news articles for the next month’s newsletter may be submitted by the 20th of the month. Send to vinjud60@yahoo.com
Questions ... call or text - Judy Cuchetto (630)698-2208 at any time.

Note:

Articles of interest are welcome, as well as suggestions. Enjoy and be blessed.