

News

from the Pews

December 2024



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, party preparations, the anticipation of travel, the anticipation of the arrival of loved ones, 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 came in the flesh!! As we Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus, his coming 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 a 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

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. " Luke 2:11



Scheduled Services

9 a.m. Sundays
In-person and
livestreamed

MONDAY NIGHT weekly services are at **6pm** unless otherwise designated

Enjoy Coffee & fellowship after church services on Sundays.

SUNDAY MORNING Bible Class follows fellowship, meeting in the sanctuary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL, following the service & fellowship time in the Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets, with 9:15 coffee in the Parish Hall, Study to begin at 9:30 in the sanctuary on Dec. 4,11.

WEDNESDAY EVENING in person, **ONLINE LIVE BIBLE STUDY 6PM** on Dec. 4,11 & 18th.

TRINITY'S OFFICE HOURS: 8 am to 3:30 pm. Questions? Call 630.629.8765 or email secretary@trinitylombard.org

December 4 and 11 Advent services at 11 am followed by lunch for those who have signed up and paid for such.

Evening services December 4 and 11 beginning with a meal at 5:30, followed by the Advent Bible study in the parish hall at 6 pm.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE ~ December 19 ~ 6:30 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES ~ December 24 ~ 3 pm and 10 pm ~ Candlelight

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE ~ December 25 ~ 10 am

NO WORSHIP SERVICES ~ December 23 or 30

Facebook: Additionally: 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

(<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard/>) or live at <https://www.trinitylombard.org/>



Principal's Page

It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is now in the review mirror. During November, older students were able to assist with the Craft fair, roughly at the same time as we held our parent/teacher conferences. It was wonderful to see parents and families leave conferences to set up and prepare for the big Saturday.

We had Kevin Tully speak to students on Veterans' day. Being a veteran, he was able to share insight on why we set aside a day for the courageous men and women who have served in our armed forces..



On Friday, November 15, we hosted a family reading night. Families came for dinner and broke into

groups to read, and have people read to them, and listen to some poetry. It was a great night for READING.

Looking into December, come worship as the students will tell the Christmas message on Thursday, December 19 at 6:30.

Yours in Christ,
James C. Baerenklau
Principal
7 & grade teacher
630.627.5601

Pastor Wagner Supports Trinity Students

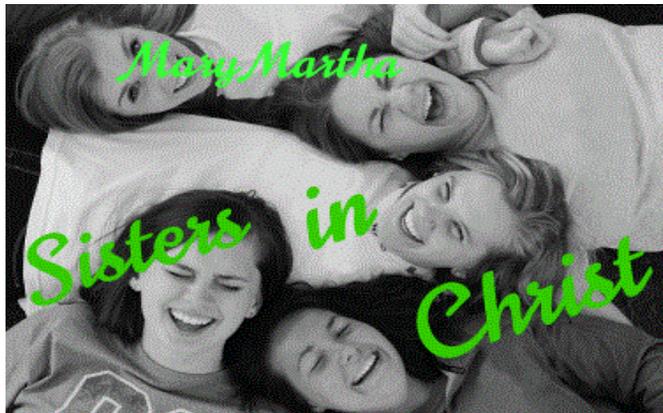
Pastor treated these test ace-ers to lunch at Raising Cane's.



Seventh and Eighth grade students who received A's on their tests were treated for their hard work, to a lunch out as an

acknowledgement of their efforts. Great job students.

Mary/Martha is not exclusive to a few,



it's for all women of Trinity to engage in friendship and service together at our Trinity Church "home".

Mary/Martha extends an invitation to all women to gather together to engage in either a bible study, a project or simply fellowship.

**Please join Mary Martha
On December 14th at 1pm**

Enjoy food and fun, laughter and games. Bring an Hors d'oeuvre to share.

Call Arlene Solyom for more info at: 630-715-7764 or directions to ...

68 Adams Court Unit A, Streamwood

LOOKING AHEAD:

January Souper Bowl

Game night

Soup will be served!

6:30p.m. in the Parish Hall



Explore God's Word

On Advent Sundays, December 8 and 15, children from age three through 8th grade are invited to join in a time of Christmas stories, activities, treats, and creating Christmas decorations. These special Sunday School sessions follow the after church fellowship time in the parish hall and run concurrently with Adult Bible class, which dismisses around 11:30. High school aged youth are welcome at either. Sunday School

will not gather on December 22 or 29, but will resume on January 5.

A Lifetime of God's Word Trinity's Sunday school meets concurrently with Adult Bible class, after church most Sundays during the school year for children aged 3 through 8th grade. Help your child begin a lifetime practice of setting aside time to explore God's Word. The setting is interactive and Bible-based and the 11:15 a.m. end time is designed to coincide with adult Bible class wrap up (don't leave Bible class early or feel you must hurry to depart it, supervised free play keeps children busy until you get there). Sunday school meets on Sunday mornings following after church fellowship in the parish hall, adult Bible class meets in the sanctuary, high school aged youth are welcome to attend adult class or help with Sunday school.

THANKS TO A GREAT AMOUNT OF VOLUNTEER TIME



by some very dedicated members, our S.T.E.A.M. LAB is ready to be furnished. There is a "Wish List" available for

those who would like to be a part of this exciting project that can be accessed directly, <https://www.amazon.com/registries/g/guest-view/A5BA4UPLBKDE> or pick up a card from the table in the back of church from which you can scan the QR code.

Submitted by, Sue Neihaus, Board of Education, Chairperson



News from the Board of Ed:

LET US HELP MAKE YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING EASIER ...

by purchasing gift cards through our **Raise Right** program. For quick ordering, you can use the order form in the bulletin once a month. Our next order will be placed on December 8, 2024 (in time for Christmas). If you have any questions, please contact the school office or Sue Niehaus.



WISH LIST GIFT TREE You may have noticed that a tree has bloomed in the Parish Hall. The tree has "apples" growing on the branches. Each "apple" lists a "gift"

that Trinity's ministries and or teachers would very much appreciate having but the cost is not within our budget. The hope has been that some folks will pluck an "apple" from the tree, check what is listed, note the cost of the gift, place the "apple" and the cost, in an envelope with payment and drop it in the offering plate. You will definitely make our teachers and ministry boards happy! We thank

Anonymous for an Orange P.E. Scooter, an HP Pro Book, donation to the Scholarship Fund and Stem supplies, 3 sets of plastic fraction pieces and stem lab safety supplies, Bridget Brogan for snacks and a gift card, Carolina Ediza for adding to our Scholarship Fund, Donnell Foreman for 3 sets of fraction pieces, Patricia and Arthur Frerichs towards volleyball uniforms, Arlene Iverson for donating the funds to purchase an HP pro Book, Sandy Goss for a blue P.E. scooter, Miss Kraegel for a gift card to purchase snacks and for S.T.E.A.M room supplies, a new American flag and a new Christian flag, Eileen Retel for a green P.E. scooter, John Seccombe for playground wood chips, for a yellow and a purple P.E. Scooter and towards the purchase of a snap circuit board for the stem lab, Dawn Tyler for new computers for the teachers and a donation to the S.T.E.A.M. class room.



HELP BUILD TRINITY'S S.T.E.A.M. LAB

Become a "S.T.E.A.M. Lab Builder" by purchasing an item from our wish list. Your donation will help us build our S.T.E.A.M. Lab.

*Purchased items are automatically shipped directly to the school.

Imagine where they will be with all the benefits of added learning from our lab.

Or you can click this link and go directly to the Amazon List:

Trinity Lutheran S.T.E.A.M. Lab Wish List - Amazon Gift List -

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/guest-view/A5BA4UPLBKDE>

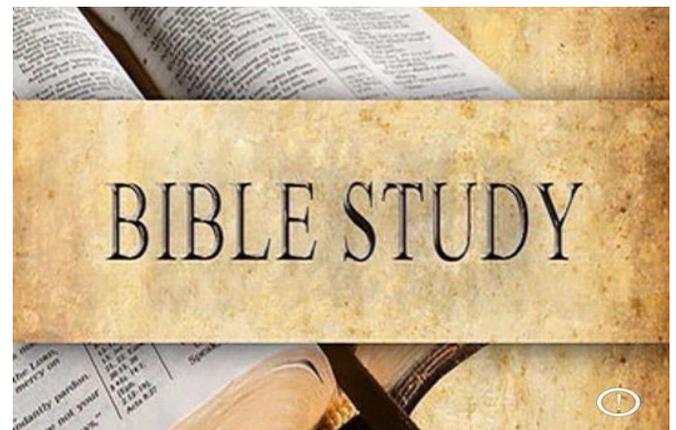
Submitted by: Kevin Tully



S.T.E.A.M. LAB

We're building a S.T.E.A.M. Lab at @ [Trinity Lutheran Church & School - Lombard, Illinois](#). If you'd like to help build our S.T.E.A.M. Lab please scan the QR code shown below and select an item or items that you'd like to donate. Many hands make light work, and you can help give a gift that will help build the future.

Fun Fact: Trinity Students are 7 WEEKS head of public school students after just the first 30 days in our school year.



Wednesday morning in-person and Wednesday evenings informal Bible Study online. In December, the 4th & 11th classes will be replaced by Advent Services.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets, with 9:15 coffee in the Parish Hall., Study to begin at 9:30 in the sanctuary.



CHRISTMAS MOVIE EVENT

Join us for a FREE matinee movie on Saturday, **December 7, from 2–4 pm** in the parish hall. Parents are welcome to drop children off or stay and enjoy the movie! Snacks and beverages will be provided. This is intended to be a community event. Please feel free to invite your children's friends and/or relatives.

Hosted by the Evangelism Board



MUSIC TO OUR EARS

Members of Trinity who worship in the church often do not turn around and look up to the balcony. (Perhaps we fear that this is impolite or distracting to those who sit around us, but perhaps we should.) There are a select few who have taken their time to practice and bring God pleasing music to our services.

Sitting in our church pew we hear the music in front, behind and above us:

We hear a very wonderful but small Choir of dedicated individuals... Hannah Solyom, Ken Koniewicz, and Sally Laren beautifully praising God in song.

We may hear the sound of a Trumpet played by Robert Potempa, or a Tympani played by Robert's Grandfather, Earl Flurkey. These instruments often energize us for special holidays.

The Organ played by Kurt Linstead, (and Paul Frese who plays in the event Kurt is absent) leading us for each hymn, and portions of the liturgy with chanting by Pastor Wagner or Principal Baerenklau is integral to our worship.

All those who are listed above are "talented instruments" of God's love, bringing the members of Trinity who worship in person or online, music to our ears for contemplative and joyful worship.

Please join in thanking these few who provide so much for all of us.

Ron Niehaus
Board of Elders Chairman



THANK YOU to all who generously donated to our door offering on Nov 23 & 24th. The generous hearts of Trinity folks netted (thus far) \$739.00, which went towards the purchase of Aldi gift cards, enabling families in need, to buy fresh produce and meat. In all likelihood you will never be thanked in person for your gifts, but we are reminded that Jesus tells us, "And the king shall

answer and say, 'inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto me'.

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.

To contact Ron or Dawn Tyler or if you have questions, please call the church office..

Trinity Lutheran Church and School contributes to the local food pantries: St. Vincent de Paul at St. Pius X, York Township Food pantry. Questions? Contact Trinity's office at 630.629.8765 or secretary@trinitylombard.org.

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



Board of
Evangelism

*God Will Use
Whom He
Chooses, to be
His Witness*



Detroit Lions kicker Jake Bates gave thanks to God following his team's victory against the Houston Texans in a post game interview on Nov. 10, 2024. | YouTube/NFL on NBC

Detroit Lions rookie kicker Jake Bates declared that his purpose as an athlete is to "spread the love of Jesus" after he nailed a game-winning 52-yard field goal to help his team battle back to secure an improbable victory over the Houston Texans on Sunday Night Football.

During an interview with NBC following the Lions' last-minute 26-23 victory, Bates, 25, was asked how it felt to go from a "brick salesman" who thought he was "out of football" to scoring the winning kick that secured the Lions' victory on national television.

"I think it just shows, you know, how good the Lord is," Bates replied.

Praising God as "so faithful," Bates remarked, "I hope people can see Jesus through my story."

"That's what I think I'm here to do is not make or miss or be a good kicker or a bad kicker but spread the love of Jesus," he continued. "So ... hopefully, I'm able to do that on the stage I'm given."

Sunday did not mark the first time Bates gave thanks to God amid athletic success.

After his team emerged victorious against the Minnesota Vikings three weeks ago, Bates [told](#) reporters, "I place so much faith in the Lord that He's going to provide."

The former University of Arkansas kicker said the Lord has provided "so many things beyond what I ever expected."

Bates said, "Knowing who I am and knowing who God says I am ... rather than ... what the world says I am" helps him remain calm in high-stress moments on the field.

"Reciting my favorite Bible verse, which is Hebrews 12:1, helps me stay calm as well," he added.

"Eighteen months ago, I thought I was done with football," he stressed, adding that "the dream was dead" and he was "working as a

brick salesman in Houston." He said his return to professional football is evidence of "how good the Lord's been in my life,".

Referring to his brief stint as a brick salesman, Bates said he was still "doing training" as he tried to move on with his life.

The athlete stresses the importance of his Christian faith on his social media pages. The word "Believer" precedes any mention of his background as a football player in his biography.

He said in the interview, "You relax on a bus not knowing the driver. You relax on a plane not knowing the pilot. Why not relax in life knowing God is in control?"

Written by: Ryan Foley a reporter for The Christian Post.

Remember...we ourselves witness every day, knowingly or unknowingly, how we witness, is how others see our trust in the Savior. How have you witnessed this past month?

Rest in His goodness and grace.

Blessings,
Board of Evangelism



Redeeming Life News & Updates

Dear Redeeming Life Advocates and Partners,

On behalf of everyone in our ministry, I **thank you** for the role you play in serving women and babies through our maternity homes and our transition home. With your help, we are serving women in dire circumstances with the love of Jesus and with practical help. **We praise God for you!**

To date, we have served four women in the East Dundee home since opening! Two of them reconnected with family and friends and found other living situations they felt were better suited to their needs. One of those women provided an update that she was approved for housing and is in the process of regaining custody of her two young children as she prepares for her little one's December arrival! Another woman has been strengthening her relationship with her parents; our deaconess has been in touch with them, and all are working together to help her stabilize her life. Two more women are in the applicant pipeline now. Praise God!

Christmas at the Maternity Home is in the works! Plans for a special holiday dinner and a cheery Christmas breakfast are coming together. Each resident and her baby receive a stocking and gifts from their wish list, funded this year by a local church group. We are creating traditions as we make decorating our home a special event for residents and staff and building in ways that we can share the joy with others as well. Those interested in funding or partially funding the holiday meals may send donations or gift cards.

Year-End Giving provides the bulk of our operating expenses with gifts made or postmarked by 12/31/2024. We joyfully accept QCDs (Qualified Charitable Donations) from donor IRAs as well as gifts of stock and appreciated assets such as real estate and automobiles. If you have any questions, please email us at info@rlom.org or phone 407-790-9745. Gifts can be made online at rlom.org/donate or mailed to our

HQ at PO Box 1496 Sanford, FL 32772.

Women and their babies are so blessed by your efforts to support this maternity home.

Thankfully,
Julia Heinz
Director of Mission Advancement

*Look for more ways to help in coming issues of NFTP



NID Theme for 2025

Joy and Perseverance By Beverly Bayes, LWML NID Strategic Plan Facilitator

Our LWML NID theme for 2025 is “Joy and Perseverance” based on James 1:2-3. “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.” (NIV) Let today be a day you remember with joy. Never give up when we face trials and temptation

The 2024 LWML NID Convention has come and gone. We elected Rev. Roger Drinnon as our Jr. Pastoral Counselor, Lori Solyom as our Vice President of Communications, Jackie Genius as our Financial Secretary, and Barb Himley as our Nominating Committee Chair. •

Delegates voted to keep our mite goal at the same amount as the previous biennium, \$160,000. \$89,400 will be used to fund the NID Mission Grants, plus \$18,000 from previously unspent mission grant money. Therefore, the total amount to be spent on Mission Grants for the 2024-26 Biennium will be \$107,400. 25% of the mite goal, or \$40,000, will be for national LWML Mission Grants, and \$30,600 is

designated for district in-reach. • Delegates selected seven Mission Grants for the 2024-26 Biennium.

*see more about the grants selected, in the upcoming NFTP in months ahead.

ADVENT

Hey Young Women!
Join us for a Zoom Advent Candlelight!

Thursday December 12 7 pm

RSVP:

RSVP FOR THE ZOOM LINK!

We will be participating in Advent devotions and songs!

Candlelight

Questions Email Kirsten at ywchairman@lwmlnid.org

#grateful #thankful

Thank you for the donations!

Northern Illinois District's LWML

Thank You for Your Gifts from the Heart
Julia Heinz from Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries in East Dundee, Illinois, was overwhelmed by the generosity of the Lutheran Women in Mission at our 2024 NID LWML convention. She loaded her van full of items on both Friday and Saturday. The items given were too numerous to list, but all will be very useful. There was even a car seat, along with clothing for the residents, diapers, many household items, and gift cards.

*Article contributors: LWML NID President Gayle Thanepohn and Marilyn Hess, LWML NID Convention Co-Chair



GIFT 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 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 2024 must be directed before the end of March 2025
- 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 and the Board of Stewardship can

connect you with a variety of helpful giving resources.

Thank you to all who have continued to give faithfully to those who have increased their giving, as well as those to whom the Lord has enabled to give special gifts of varying sizes to Trinity throughout the year.



For those of you who wish to purchase poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary for the Christmas season, there is a chart on the wall next to the regular

flower chart for you to sign. The plants are \$20.00 each and come in a foil covered pot with a festive bow. They will remain in the sanctuary until Sunday December 29th after the 9 a.m. Worship Service. You may take them home afterwards. There are envelopes for the purchase request next to the chart. Please place your payment in the envelope and drop it in the offering plate prior to December 15th. What a beautiful way to decorate the altar.



Congregational Cards

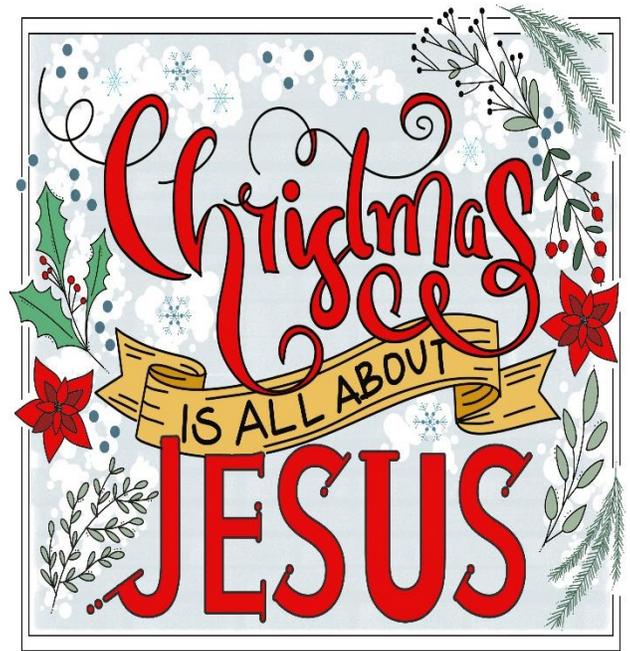
Once again we offer our members and friends an opportunity to take part in our Congregational Christmas Card.

Simply sign your name on the Christmas Card sign-up sheet on the wall next to the flower chart by Sunday, December 15. Your name will be included in a Christmas Card sent to all of our members. We ask that you place the amount you saved by not purchasing cards and stamps, in an envelope marked "Congregational Christmas Card", found in the box next to the chart by Sunday, December 15th, and drop it in the offering plate or drop it off at the office.

My Prayer for You Today

Lord God, our heavenly Father, You are the hope we have with every breath we take. You are the author of life. The promise that we hold onto every day of our existence is dependent on You. This season of Christ's birthday, we give You thanks for all that You have provided for us, our families, and our friends. We thank You for all that we have, including the years we have enjoyed our health, our friends and our walk with You. We love You Lord God. But it is only through Your love for us that we have hope. This morning and all mornings that you open our eyes, we give You thanks and praise for each breath we have to take. We thank You again, for the families we have, the friends we have, the church we have, the homes that we have been provided and for the gift of life itself. We praise You and adore You. We never want or intend purposely to take for granted, Your gift of life. We come to You thanking You for all that You have given to us, even while we boldly lift up

our families, and all of our loved ones to



You this morning. We believe that You love them and gave them the breath of life. We trust Your love for them.

We come in that trust, and out of love today, in the sweet name of Jesus. Amen

I pray that you all had a beautiful Thanksgiving day with family and friends. And, as we close out this year together in His name, I pray that we worship with "thanks giving" for every day we are given.

Blessings,
Judy Cuchetto

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 via text or email to vinjud60@yahoo.com

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