

JANUARY 2026

News From The Pews



Pastor's Page

So, how was your Christmas? For me, it seems as if it flew by. It came and went at 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 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 shouldn't 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 you is always there, always healing, always comforting, always strengthening – always.

That is one of the themes we will be seeing this month in the 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 wasn't seen before. So, the Epiphany in the church is a revealing of Christ and who He is – namely God in flesh who came for you. God didn't send one of His representatives to deal with sin. He didn't 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 this Epiphany season, and His love for you, never changes. Thanks be to God!

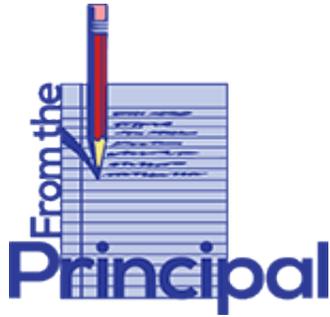
Have a blessed Epiphany season and see you in church!

In Christ,

Rev. Wagner



SCHOOL NEWS



- The school will enjoy a three-day weekend, as we will be closed Monday, January 19 in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- MAP testing will return toward the end of January. MAP tests are tests measuring each child's academic progress.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TRINITY FAMILY!

Trinity students and staff are currently celebrating Christmas during this year's Christmas break. School dismissed Friday, December 19 and will resume Monday, January 5. There are many things planned for 2026.

Here are a few of the exciting things we are looking forward to in 2026:

- Students will start the new year out on wheels in January as we skate during our annual two-week roller-skating unit. The gym will become a roller rink as each student will learn to skate or improve their skating skills when we return from Christmas break,
- The second quarter has flown by and ends Friday, January 16.

Our regular chapel schedule will return, at least until Ash Wednesday. Chapel worship begins each Wednesday at 8:30 AM. Join us for worship in person or via livestream. Offerings for January are designated for *Redeeming Life* ministries.

Looking forward to 2026.

James C. Baerenklau

Principal

Trinity Lutheran School

Lombard, IL 60148

630.627.5601 ext. 20



Feed The Hungry

There are people who don't know where their next meal is coming from. 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 cannot 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 the church 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.**



Trinity Lutheran Women in Mission - Mary Martha Guild

All Trinity women and girls are invited to a Soup-er Bowl Supper evening, Thursday, January 8, at 6:30 p.m. in Trinity's fellowship hall. Enjoy a warm and hearty soup supper and games - but NO FOOTBALL (we promise). Bring a snack or dessert to share. Friends are welcome. The evening is hosted by the Mary Martha Guild, Trinity's Lutheran Women in Mission. Questions? Text or call Arlene at 630.715.7764.



Come Join the Fellowship and Fun

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), which is the national women's organization to 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.**

NEWS FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday Morning Bible Class and Sunday School Resume January 4th

After a brief Christmas hiatus, Trinity's Sunday Morning Bible Class and Sunday School resume on January 4th. The classes meet concurrently following post-church fellowship on Sunday mornings, with Pastor-led Bible study in the sanctuary and children's Bible lessons and activities in the parish hall. As we enter the new year, resolve to give your family the gift of weekly time in God's Word.

Children in Church

The family is a primary building block for faith and worshipping 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. At Trinity Lutheran Church, children are welcomed and encouraged to participate fully in the church's worship, as we believe children are an important part of the church

OPPORTUNITY TO WORSHIP AND STUDY

SUNDAY Services 9 a.m.

In-person and Livestreamed
Enjoy Coffee & fellowship after church services on Sundays.

SUNDAY MORNING Bible Class has resumed, following fellowship.

SUNDAY SCHOOL, following the service & Fellowship time

MONDAY NIGHT weekly services are at 6pm.

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

Facebook: Additionally, keep up with Trinity news from church and school on Facebook [@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/>)



January is Sanctity of Life Month

- **The National March for Life** in Washington, DC, will be on Friday, January 23, 2026, (MarchForLife.org), kicking off on the Capitol Mall at 11 a.m. with a rally and Santus Real in concert.
- Pray for and support our Lutheran maternity home in northern Illinois. **Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries** is serving and ministering to single expectant mothers in East Dundee, Illinois. Learn more at RLOM.org/expansion.
- Also pray for and support our local Christian pregnancy help ministry, **Caring Network of Illinois**. Caring Network operates eight women's pregnancy centers in the Chicago area, with four more on the way. Learn more about this Christ-centered ministry that Trinity has been involved with for decades, at CaringNetwork.com.

BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Your Past Does Not Define Your Future

New Year's is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it's over), and we look to the future in hope and anticipation, and perhaps with some worry, for what it holds.

The point is that New Year's celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be, what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we've lost. Who we've lost.

New Year's is our own version of the Charles Dickens classic, *A Christmas Carol*. And we all play Scrooge. We are visited by the ghosts of our pasts, presents and futures.

In 2 Corinthians 9:6–15, Saint Paul writes: *“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, ‘He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.’ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.”*

Paul reminds us that the Lord will both supply and increase what we need to give to the church for its work in the world. He tells us that this work God does in us will enrich and bless us in every way, and through this, will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving in years past and change what could be adjusted, improved, or done away with altogether.

First, attend the Divine Service to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. If you've not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God's Word, to receive forgiveness and feast on the rich food

of our Lord's body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn't want your money. He wants you — all of you (Matthew 22:20–22).

Second, pray for the Lord's help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1–16).

Third, consider what the church is and what the church does. The church is a place of mercy. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward neighbors. You are a member of the church, of God's family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God's mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy through the generous giving of your income to support the work of the church in the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Leviticus 27:1–34).

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament's teaching on supporting the work of the church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, or ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church's work. Are you relying on God's promise to provide and increase what you need to do His work? If your answer is no to any of these, repent. If God gave you His only Son, will He not provide for you all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it.

So, don't let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of your income, which is God's gift to you for this body and life.

***Trinity Lutheran Church Board of Stewardship -
LCMS Stewardship Ministry***



[LIFE Week 2026: Fearfully and Wonderfully Made](#)

Lutherans For Life presents Life Week 2026, January 18 through January 24. The event features a week's worth of live and prerecorded presentations build around the theme, Fearfully and Wonderfully Made, drawn from Psalm 139:14, "*I praise you Lord for I am fearfully and wonderfully made,*" along with daily devotions, activities, fact sheets, coloring pages and more.

This Word of God from Psalm 139 reveals the care and intention that God takes in the creation of each and every human being. It teaches us that from the very first moments of our conception, God's hands are upon us, carefully and lovingly crafting each one of us through our fathers and mothers. And while each person is created by God with their own unique characteristics and personalities, the care that God takes in creating each person shows us that every person, from the moment of fertilization on, is precious to God regardless of their age, size, condition, or ability.

Find the details and links at: LutheransForLife.org/life-week-2026.

[Need Hope?](#)

Did you know that men, as well as women, can struggle with feelings of depression, guilt, grief, anger or regret, as the result of an abortion? If you are hurting, Word of Hope can help. Word of Hope offers confidential counseling, support, resources and referrals for anyone dealing with the after-effects of an abortion. 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.

[In loving Memory](#)



Vince Cuchetto
April 1939 - December 2025

Vince was a father of five and grandfather of 6. His wife Judy and he were long-time members of Trinity. Pastor will offer a memorial service to be held on July 25th in the backyard of their home. A tree will be planted in honor of Vince. Please keep Judy and the family in your prayers.

“Very truly,
I tell you,
whoever
keeps my
WORD will
never see
DEATH.”
John 8:51, NRSV



Now That the Christmas Music is Over...What are You Listening To?

The classic carols and hymns of Christmas are uplifting and joyful...but when the season is over, what's taking its place? For some it's talk radio, pop music, or even audio books. Why not check out these informative, interesting, and edifying Lutheran podcasts?

- **Issues, Etc.** A podcast featuring 10 hours weekly featuring expert guests, expansive topics, while extolling Christ, Issues, Etc., is hosted by Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Pastor Todd Wilken. More info at: IssuesEtc.org.
- **Liberty Action Alert** From the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, Rev. Dr. Gregory Selz weekly explores religious freedom, cultural engagement, secular policies in education, marital values, abortion issues, and political skepticism with special guests. More info at: LCRLfreedom.org.
- **Lutheran Ladies' Lounge** Inviting conversations, laughter, and fellowship with your Lutheran sisters...Join Sarah, Erin, and Rachel on the sofa in the Lutheran Ladies Lounge, a weekly oasis welcoming you to sit, rest your feet, and stay a while. And on the way out, we'll check your lipstick. More info at: KFUO.org/category/lutheran-ladies-lounge

And one more – it's not Lutheran, but it is sound journalism, grounded in facts and Biblical truth...

- **The World and Everything in It**

From the respected World News Group, this program delivers essential headlines, field reporting, interviews, and expert analysis every weekday, including unique coverage such as a weekly overview of every Supreme Court case, biblical cultural analysis, and key international stories. More info at: WNG.org/podcasts/the-world-and-everything-in-it.



Trinity News Corner –

Coming soon!

Submit your current news that you would like to share with the congregation. It can be anything from an engagement, baby news, new job, special birthdays or anniversaries. Let us celebrate with you in your joy.

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: s.keenan@sbcglobal.net
Questions ... call or text - Editor, Chris Keenan (630) 330-5900 at any time.

