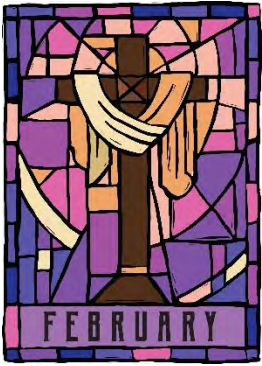


News

from the

Pews

February 2024



What does it mean to be called a Christian? Well, it's about Christ of course! But what about Christ? Are we free to believe

anything we want about Him? Does what our confession of who Christ is, actually matter? Being a Christian is about believing in Christ, but what we believe does matter.

After asking the disciples about what other people were saying about who He was, I often think of Jesus' question to Peter: "What about YOU? Who do YOU say that I am?" Just like today, people at that time had different views on who Jesus was. Today, there are lots of "popular" views of Jesus, such as "Jesus is my friend", or "Jesus is my inspiration", or "Jesus is a great teacher", and even "Jesus is a great example to follow".

Now, the truth is that all of these things are true. Jesus is most certainly your friend. He is a great source of inspiration, He is a wonderful teacher, and He is the best example that there is to follow. However, He is much more than just these things. The problem with seeing Jesus in only that way is that Jesus the friend, Jesus the inspiration, Jesus the teacher, and Jesus the example will do you absolutely no good whatsoever on Judgment Day. They will be of no help at all.

Only Jesus the sin sacrificial Savior can and does save you. You will be declared innocent on Judgment Day **only** because of Jesus the Savior. Jesus died on the cross to be the final, all sufficient, complete, and total sacrifice for all of our sins forever and ever. His Good Friday death was His offering to the Father for you and me, and Easter is the Father's acceptance of His sacrifice as all sufficient. Christ's rising up from the grave on Easter gave Him the final victory over sin, death, and the devil. That's the entire point of Christianity. His victory is our victory, received by faith.

Jesus the Savior is the reason you and I are going to heaven. His death and resurrection are why Christ is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Jesus is our Savior, and that is why we can be called a Christian. Look forward with great joy to hearing the Word of your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Have a blessed February and see you in church!

In Christ, Rev. Wagner

⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. Romans 5:8-9



Scheduled Services

9 a.m. Sundays
In-person and
livestreamed

6:00 p.m. Mondays
In-person only

Enjoy "Coffee &..." fellowship after church services on Sundays.

Sunday Morning Bible Class will meet in the Sanctuary after "Coffee &..."

SUNDAY SCHOOL, IN-PERSON, in the parish hall following post service fellowship

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:
Class will resume on Feb. 7, meet at 9:15 a.m. for "Coffee &..." followed by class

LIVE ONLINE WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS, 6 p.m.

February 11: Students sing in church, 9 a.m., followed by All-Trinity Pot-Luck

Lenten services:

February 14: Ash Wednesday Service

* 11 a.m. & 5/6 p.m. Dinner/Service

February 21: Midweek Lent Service

* 11 a.m. & 5:30/6 p.m. Dinner/Bible Study

February 28: Midweek Lent Service

* 11 a.m. & 5:30/6 p.m. Dinner/Bible Study

March 6: Midweek Lent Service

* 11 a.m. & 5/6 p.m. Dinner/Service

March 13: Midweek Lent Service

* 11 a.m. & 5:30/6 p.m. Dinner/Bible Study

March 20: Midweek Lent Service

* 11 a.m. & 5:30/6 p.m. Dinner/Bible Study

March 24: Palm Sunday Services

* 9 a.m. (and March 25, 6 p.m.)

March 28: Maundy Thursday Services

* 11 a.m.* & 7 p.m.

March 29: Good Friday Services, 11 a.m. & 7

March 31: Easter Sunday Services, 7* & 10 a.m. with Easter Breakfast, 8:30 a.m. (no service April 1)

We continue to livestream on Facebook [@TrinityLombard](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard) and on Trinity's website at [TrinityLombard.org](https://www.TrinityLombard.org).

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 9a.m. orders of worship, along with easy to share video and audio versions of the sermons at <https://www.trinitylombard.org/sermons>. Services and Bible classes air live on Facebook [@TrinityLombard](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard/) (<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard/>) and can also be viewed live at <https://www.trinitylombard.org/>.



*“Trinity
Has
Faithful
Teachers”*

Thank You, Mrs. Solyom – After many years of service and devotion to Trinity Lutheran School and her Lord, Mrs. Arlene Solyom is no longer arriving each day to care for our little tykes. She is carving out time to rest, take care of herself, and meditate on the many children and families she served during her extended years of service to Trinity. She molded and shaped young hearts and minds as preschool teacher/director and, later, as a classroom facilitator. We are grateful to God for supplying a loyal servant, faithful in vocation and calling. Through her, He supplied blessings galore. Thank you, Mrs. Solyom. We

will miss you. "The LORD bless you and keep you." *Numbers 6:24*

Hydration Station – Anyone needing a drink of water should drop by our new hydration station, located near the entrance to the preschool wing. A drinking fountain with a wall accessory for filling a water bottle, this new addition to our school was received through a grant from Delta Dental. The grant included a water bottle and toothbrush for each student. These days, there's no excuse for anyone being thirsty. We have what it takes to eliminate that problem!

Lutheran Schools Week – Trinity is gearing up to celebrate our Lutheran school the first week of March. We will be honoring families Friday, March 8, on Grandparents Day. All grandparents of our students are invited. If any member of Trinity would like to serve as an honorary grandparent for a child, please contact the school office.

Chapel Offerings – Our January/February project for Chapel offerings is St. Martin Lutheran School in the Detroit area. This school offers programs for hearing impaired children, affording the opportunity for children with a hearing deficit to know Jesus. To assist our students' understanding of this endeavor, kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Scott, a sign language interpreter, is teaching Trinity students to say the Lord's Prayer in sign language. She has also posted the sign language alphabet in the hallway for children to learn.

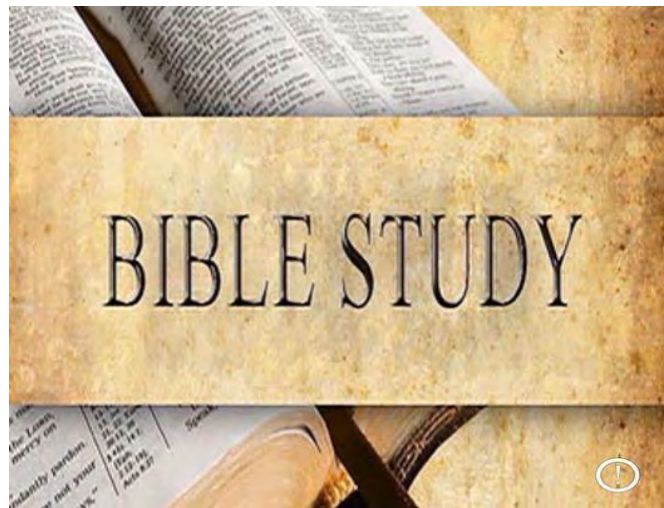
Looking Ahead:

February 11: Students sing in church, 9 a.m., followed by **all-Trinity Pot-Luck**

Blessings,

Virginia (Ginny) Terrell, Principal
5th & 6th grade teacher

principal@tislombard.org



Studying God's Word together is important!

Wednesday morning informal Bible Study has resumed. We are continuing our study of Genesis; a saga of God's infinite patience with His Chosen People. We begin at 9:15 a.m. with "Coffee &..." and study at 9:30 a.m.

Pastor offers Online Bible Study, on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. The online study is on Facebook, as well as online @trinitylombard.com .

Pastor Wagner welcomes any of your Bible related questions. *You can interact online as the study is going on. All are welcome to participate – live interaction is only through Facebook.

You can also view the Bible Study at TrinityLombard.org.

All are welcome to participate – live interaction is only through Facebook.

ASH WEDNESDAY
February 14



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

**Join us on February 11
All-Trinity Valentine
Potluck Brunch following
church service**

Sign up on the sheet outside of the school office or in the Parish Hall by February 7 to bring your favorite side dish, salad, dessert, or to help with the day. Text or phone Arlene Solyom at 630.715.7764 or Lisa Zientara 630.222.0114 with any questions.



Two valuable reasons for coming together as sisters in Christ: **The first one** is to share friendship with women of all ages, who want to serve the church out of their love for Jesus. **The second one** is to know that you have the strength of many hearts, hands and voices when needed, for prayers or action when asking for help of any kind.

Mary/Martha is also the host for the

LWML, which is the Lutheran Women's Missionary League or Lutheran Women in Mission. Together, hundreds of thousands of women throughout the nation, the LWML with God's blessings, has supported important ministry projects all over the world and here at home, too.

So, the question then is....how do YOU join? You DON'T, you already belong to Mary/Martha and the LWML because you are a woman, and you are a Lutheran. You have an open invitation to come to all monthly gatherings, join in any of the events offered and participate in any of the activities that Mary/Martha and the LWML engages in. Oh yes, and we never get together without laughter, dessert, and prayer.

- * We are “**Mary**” when we study the Word of God.
- * We are “**Martha**” when we serve the Lord with gladness.

Heavenly Father, thank You that You are gracious and compassionate, and abounding in steadfast love. Our desire is to be women of gratitude and thanksgiving for the countless ways that you have blessed us throughout our lives. Amen

Any questions may be directed to Arlene Solyom at 630.715.7764 or Judy Cuchetto 630.698.2208. Call or text.



Speaking of serving the Lord. The funeral repast that was recently served for Les Schumacher was prepared by

“Martha” women of Trinity. The generous giving of time and food prepared, honors the families that have a loved one called home by the Lord. We are grateful that we can offer this to Trinity members. It can only be done through the loving kindness of those willing to provide food and help to serve after the funeral services.

Lisa Zientara suggested that if you would be willing to get on the call list to bless a family who has requested that a repast be served in the future, please text or phone Arlene Solyom at 630.715.7764 or Judy Cuchetto at 630.698.2208.



God's Plan for Redeeming, Transforming, and Changing Lives in Northern IL

How do you know when something is truly God's plan?

“All in God's perfect timing” is the phrase Deaconess Lori Trinche is familiar with using to describe progress on **Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries**, which is preparing to open a brand new

maternity home in suburban Dundee, IL. This plan to help single, pregnant women began with the LCMS – Northern Illinois District leaders and the NID Life Task Force envisioning a safe place for women in crisis pregnancies to live and learn while connecting to a Lutheran church as their spiritual home. Work is moving along on Redeeming Life Maternity Home. It seemed Satan in his power was trying to stop this place from being, but the Lord continued....This is an answer to prayer...that people have been praying for something different to start with the Lord on the Life issue. May this home be the first step!”

“As God’s plan for opening this home unfolds, we look forward to inviting all of our partners in the NID to visit and celebrate together what God is doing here,” Sheryl DeWitt summed up. “We are planning an Open House and party and can’t wait to welcome everyone!” Visit rlom.org for more information.

Taken from an article By Julia Heinz, Director of Mission Advancement, at RLOM, written for NIDnews.org



Learn How to Talk to Pro-Choice Christians About Life!

We often think we need to convince “the culture” to be pro-life, but there are millions of Christians who profess to be pro-choice, too. More than half of abortions are among women who

profess to be Catholic or Protestant. So, what does the Bible really say about life? What do the Great Commandment and Great Commission have to do with abortion?

Curious about this issue? Go to <https://carenetresources.org/online-learning/> to get free e book online.

Lester Schumacher



March 5, 1932 – Jan 5, 2024

Lester Schumacher was born on March 5, 1932 in Elmhurst, Illinois to Hugo and Hilda Schumacher. He passed away on

January 3, 2024. Les was married to Janet, the love of his life, for 65 years. They met on the steps of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lombard, the same church where he was baptized, confirmed and where they were married on June 7, 1958. After graduating from York Community High School he joined the Army and served in the Korean War for two years. Les and Jan were blessed with four children, eleven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, who have been a source of great pride and joy. He was a devoted Christian whose faith in Jesus was a guiding force throughout his life. He was also a well-known and respected local business owner for many years.

Les will be missed. Lift up Janet and the family as the Holy Spirit comforts them.



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.

Updates &

The Lord receives His own!

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Almighty and Everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days.





**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

*Life Sunday was celebrated
on January 21.*

**But, that's not the end of it. We
celebrate life EVERY day.**

The theme chosen for celebrating life that day
of recognition was:

Just As ... I AM

Verse: Ephesians 2:10 – “For we are his
workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good
works, which God prepared beforehand, that
we should walk in them.”

We celebrate the life of the children in our
school, their parents, our teachers, our staff in
the school. We celebrate our Pastor and all of
our church family. We celebrate our own
families and dear friends. And for all of these
precious lives, we celebrate and give thanks
every single day to our Heavenly Father, who
is the Author of life.

Every life is precious before birth as well as
after being born. We don't know who that
unborn child will become. God knows,
because He knits all of us together in our
mother's womb.

*“For you created my inmost
being; you knit me together in
my mother's womb. I praise you
because I am fearfully and
wonderfully made; your works
are wonderful, I know that full
well.” Psalms 139:13-14*



*God is in
charge. A
beautiful
witness of His
goodness and
mercy.*

First of all, I would like to thank all of you who
prayed for me during my recent
hospitalization. I believe that your pleas were
like the “golden bowls of incense which are
the prayers of the saints.” (Rev. 5:8b) The
Lord granted special healing through those
blessed prayers that were mixed with the
prayers, love, and concern of each one of my
tenderhearted and precious family members,
especially my beloved husband Bruce who
has continued to sacrifice and care for me in
my recovery.

Oh what a gift, the Father gave to us when He
instituted the family back in Genesis. Then
through His Son's sacrifice, He brought us all
together to become part of His blessed family
as brothers and sisters in Christ forever.
Praise God.

I especially thank Pastor Wagner, who gave
me comfort through holding my hand, praying
for me, giving me communion, assurance, and
hope. We are so blessed at Trinity to have
such a giving and faithful shepherd.

I'd like to share with you the amazing
blessings that came through this time of
suffering, pain, and even fear. Those
blessings seemed to be nowhere in sight at
the beginning of the battle, and as my
condition kept deteriorating and the doctor
kept shaking his head saying “There must be
a lot of scar tissue from her previous bouts of

pneumonia. I don't know what to do. I don't know what to do."

But God knew.

He allowed my daughter to demand that an Infectious Disease Doctor be called. He granted a dear friend to give me a word to cling to, "Fight." And fight I did, struggling for each and every breath I took. Healing was going to come even if I couldn't feel or imagine it yet.

The first step after a collaboration of now three doctors was seemingly to put my head in a "box" overnight that forced oxygen into my lungs and oddly enough allowed me to be able to get some sleep. The morning brought a procedure to intubate me while inserting a camera down into my lungs, giving them the ability to actually see the problem. They found no evidence of any scar tissue and they were able to remove much of the heavy mucus that was in my lungs hindering my breathing. I was not really aware that recovery was on its way following the effects of my anesthesia. My weak flesh was full of fear. So, the Lord comforted me by allowing my dear daughter-in-law to stay with me overnight. She blessed me by waiting on me hand and foot. The next morning would bring understanding and hope. The blessings would soon be seen and appreciated.

After a few days, I was able to leave the ICU. My voice even began to return. I was more able to see the care and kindness of each and every one who walked into my room. I saw all the doctors, nurses, techs, breathing specialists, cleaning, and food delivery personnel, and it all became so evident to me that God was working His healing. So besides just saying, "thank you" for their services, I was able make an offhand comment, or compliment on one of their attributes or inquire about an aspect of their personal lives. I was able to become acquainted with these dear people. And I tried to always say, "God bless you," as they walked out of my room. Many thanked or repeated the same back to me

...even the doctor who had mumbled, "I don't know what to do." Such interchanges gave me much joy. It helped take the focus off of me.

Then one day, when a tech came into my room to care for me, she began to sing a Christian song of praise. I looked at her and said, "We're sisters in the Lord." She hugged me, prayed out loud for me and began singing, "Amazing Grace." Miraculously the Lord enabled me to sing with her. My cup "runneth" over!

That's a long story to try and explain to you that during one of the worst times of my life, the Lord also gave me some of the sweetest moments of my life. Being given another chance to live (even at my age), the privilege of sharing His love and hopefully, being a witness to His goodness was such a blessing that I will always think of it as one of the most beautifully bittersweet times our God has ever allowed me to experience. I will always thank Him for His faithfulness and ability to work all things together for good.

Praise to our Heavenly Father, our Redeeming Savior and our precious Comforter for His everlasting and lovingkindness now and forever more. Amen. Amen. It shall be so.

May you also know the joy of Jesus. Peace be with you.

Arlene Solyom

*Editor – Arlene has been a gift to Trinity for many, many years, and in many ways. We are grateful for her recovery and for her life of witness, whether teacher the preschool children or serving as a former Chair of the Board of Evangelism. She lives what she believes.



