

News

from the

Pews

November 2023



Pastor's Page

November is here, and the first thing people usually think of in November is Thanksgiving. And as Thanksgiving comes near the end of the month, it is often thought of as the bridge between the mild weather of Fall and the cold weather of Winter. We may also think of it as kicking off the holiday season. For most it triggers the start of the shopping for Christmas.

But, as is often the case, we tend to look past the true meaning of our holidays. As believers, we consider this holiday of Thanksgiving, which was formalized in 1863 by then President Lincoln, as being set aside for us to stop and reflect on all that we have in our lives, and to be thankful for what we have. The tradition goes all the way back to the pilgrims being thankful for beginning a new life in North America.

So then, what does Thanksgiving have to do with Christianity and God? Well, even though it is not an official date in the Church calendar, it is a holiday that is acknowledged in many congregations, including ours. Setting aside a day to give thanks makes sense when we focus our Thanksgiving on God as the

giver of all that we have. To whom do we give thanks to? Acknowledging God, the Father Almighty, as the creator, giver and sustainer of all, gives Thanksgiving a distinctly Christian perspective. In the bible, thanks giving means devotion, sacrifice, praise or an offering. God tells us to be thankful for what we have as opposed to bemoaning what we don't have. No matter how difficult things are, there is always someone worse off than us. And when we consider what God has given to us, versus what we deserve by nature, then we can be very thankful for God's unmerited mercy and grace.

So, please celebrate Thanksgiving this year with great joy. Spend it with the people you are most thankful for. Count your blessings. Be thankful for what you have. But please also make sure that you see God as that source of all giving that we receive from. Please make time to worship Him as part of your thanks, giving festivities. Have a Happy Thanksgiving, and a great November, and see you in church!

In Christ,

Rev. Wagner

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



Scheduled Services

9 a.m. Sundays
In-person and
livestreamed

6 p.m. Mondays
In-person only

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



*Connected:
"I am the
vine; you
are the
branches."*

As we celebrate All Saints' Day, we at Trinity can point to our very own "so great a cloud of witnesses." From 1860 until this present moment, God generously provided devoted congregation members, faithful workers, courageous hearts, and stalwart faith to navigate the choppy waters of starting and maintaining a Lutheran church and school. Through Christ, we are all one body, each offering unique gifts, daily begging His forgiveness, and glimpsing forward to the joyous heavenly reunion awaiting us.

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and sin which clings to closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith." Hebrews 12:1-2a

Looking Ahead:

November 4 – Chili Cook Off – 5-7 p.m.

November 9 and 10 – Parent Conferences

November 11 – Craft Show

November 12 – Students Sing for Worship

November 20-24 – Thanksgiving Vacation – NO SCHOOL

December 19 – Trinity Lutheran School
Christmas Service – 6:30 p.m.

Starting Again – The first quarter of the school year ended October 20. Now, we are off to a fresh start! Honor Roll will be announced November 1, and report cards will be distributed November 3.

Join the Fun – PwTL is hosting a Chili Cook Off Saturday, November 4, from 5-7 p.m. Bring your appetite and join us for fun, fellowship, and some exciting vittles!

Enjoy Coffee & after church services.

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

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS at 9:15 a.m. in November

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

Church & School Office hours M-F
8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. **Closed 11/20 – 11/24 for Thanksgiving break – NO SCHOOL**

Sunday, November 12: Students sing in church, 9 a.m.

Facebook: Find the 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/>)

and can also be viewed live at

<https://www.trinitylombard.org/>. Worship is

online each Sunday morning at 9 am.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

Christ Is Born! – As classes resume following Thanksgiving Vacation, students will begin rehearsing “This Is My Son,” the title of this year’s Christmas service. We are grateful for the talents and leadership of Mrs. Pat Perez, who graciously consented to write and direct this year’s service.

Blessings,

Virginia (Ginny) Terrell, Principal

5th & 6th grade teacher

principal@tislombard.org



The joy of having Wednesday morning Chapel, is seeing all of these beautiful faces. Trinity offers a state certified education and something more! They learn of the love of Jesus, love of family, love of others, and they learn appreciation for their country. Recently the Chapel service hosted a missionary effort that Trinity has supported for several years. Students learned what it is to demonstrate love toward others. In this case, they learned about students who live in Liberia. This is an account:

Learning About Life in Liberia

by Trinity Journalism students

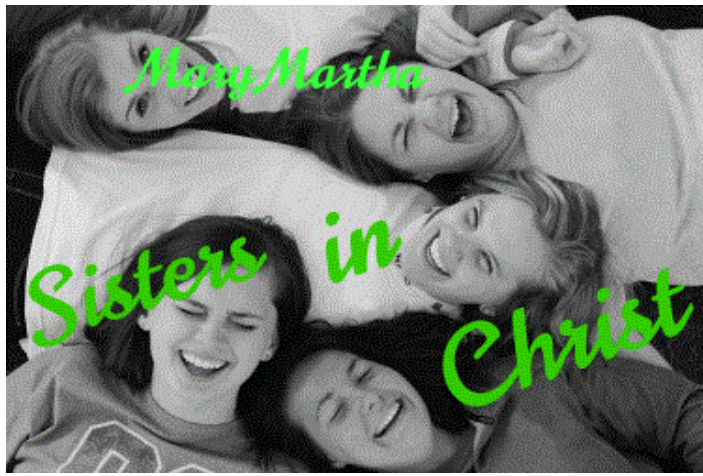
Joe Boway, a Lutheran Missionary to Liberia in West Africa, visited our school and spoke at Trinity’s chapel service on October 4, 2023. He told us about the 15 Lutheran schools in Liberia that he helped to start. Mr. Boway explained to us how important it is to share the goodness of Jesus with Liberian children and the rest of the world. While he was speaking, he thanked everyone for the school supplies we collected for his students. Liberian children traditionally carry their books on their heads, so he assured us that the backpacks will come in handy. We had an opportunity to talk to Mr. Boway after Chapel, and here is some of what we learned.

We found out that the schools are made with jungle materials, have a lot of windows, and sometimes chickens show up for class (really). Mr. Boway serves as superintendent at these schools. Liberia is very far away from the United States - all the way across the Atlantic Ocean (we located it on the globe Chicago and Liberia are over 5,200 miles apart). In Liberia, Mr. Boway is trying to get water wells for the schools so the children and their families can have more accessible water. Because the schools are in the jungle, they are

surrounded by monkeys, frogs, bugs, and other rain forest creatures. Mosquitoes can be a problem because they carry malaria. The areas don’t have



Students load supplies any electricity and if anyone wants internet access they have to pay for it themselves. The roads are made of mud so when it rains your vehicle could be stuck for up to five hours before help arrives. Mr. Boway wants to help the children learn



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

NOVEMBER

We will be gathering in November, on the 9th & 10th to prepare for the Craft Show and on November 11th to help out or participate in the Craft Show.

LOOKING AHEAD

**Christmas Gathering Dec. 16
at 1 p.m.**

Gathering together as sisters in Christ, would not be the same without CHRISTMAS at LISA'S. We will again be treated to the very festive decorating of Lisa Zientara's Christmas House...68 Adams Court, Unit A, Streamwood. Bring a treat to share.

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11: TRINITY'S HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW



DON'T MISS THIS...

Kick off your holiday season with a festive visit to Trinity's Annual Holiday Craft Show on Saturday, November 11.

- Invite friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors to start their Christmas shopping at 70+ displays of handmade, homemade, or one-of-a-kind items and a well-stocked Vendor Village.
- Browse for hidden treasures at Aunt Teak's Beautiful Junque Emporium resale center.
- Meet for a delicious meal at Martha's Kitchen – known for classic pulled pork and yummy homemade soup.
- Cuddle a kitten waiting for a

forever home at the pet adoption space.

- Let children enjoy creating in Kids Korner.

BETTER YET, BE A PART OF MAKING THIS FUN DAY HAPPEN...

- Help before, during, and after the event

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11:
between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.

- Help with set up, prep, and decorating

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9:
between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10:
between noon and 9 p.m.

– there are jobs for all abilities.

TO VOLUNTEER, text or call
Arlene Solyom at 630.715.7764.

- Donate:
 - ✓ hand-crafted items
 - ✓ baked goods
 - ✓ objects for the rummage sale (no clothes please)

Bring items to Trinity's gymnasium, via the back parking lot

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9:

between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m.

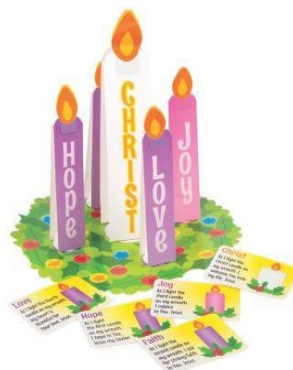
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10:

between noon and 9 p.m.

(baked goods may also be dropped off between 7 and 9 a.m. on Saturday, November 11)

Proceeds from the event support the service ministry of Trinity's Mary Martha Guild and LWML Lutheran Women in Mission.

KEEPING the ADVENT of our KING IN MIND



Advent is a time of preparation, a time of remembering how God has come to us and anticipating how He will come again. It is a

wonderful opportunity to take time amid the hustle and bustle to focus on the coming Christ. Whether you live alone or with others consider adopting an Advent “project” to keep the season in mind. Here are some simple suggestions:

Advent Wreath: This simple combination of flat wreath and five candles (one in the center) can go on a table. They are readily available for purchase, or you can be creative and make your own. Each week, light a new candle in anticipation of the Christmas Eve lighting of the Christ candle.

- ✓ Week 1: purple for HOPE
- ✓ Week 2: purple for FAITH
- ✓ Week 3: pink for JOY
- ✓ Week 4: purple for LOVE
- ✓ Christmas Eve: white for JESUS

Advent Chain: A simple alternative to a countdown calendar, write 25 opportunities to bless God and our neighbors on separate strips of colored construction paper. Connect as links with tape or staples. Each day through Advent, tear one off and do what it suggests (ideas:

make cards for neighbors, bake cookies for a friend, sing a favorite Christmas hymn, read Luke 2, write a letter to someone homebound, wrap gifts, paint stars on your window).

Advent Book: Select a special faith-based book and spend a few minutes reading from it each day. Consider:

- ✓ Non-fiction - *Spirituality of the Cross* by Gene Edward Veith, *Dying to Live: The Power of Forgiveness* by Harold L. Senkbeil
- ✓ Fiction - *Two from Galilee: The Story of Mary and Joseph* by Marjorie Holmes, *The Hammer of God* by Bo Giertz
- ✓ For the whole family - *The Very First Christmas* by Paul L. Maier, *The Crippled Lamb* by Max Lucado

The Gifts Christ Freely Gives

Everyone has a favorite hymn or two. How often do we take time to reflect on the meaning of the words that accompany that beautiful or inspiring melody? The hymn "The Gifts Christ Freely Gives" (#602 in the Lutheran Service Book) was written in 2001 by Rev. Richard Resch for the 100th anniversary of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Brookfield, Illinois. The six-stanza hymn, drawn from Ephesians 1:3-7 and 1 John 5:6-8, shares what God has done for us and culminates in an ascendant Trinitarian praise. In Resch's own words, "It is a sung confession of what Lutherans believe. It holds high the sacramental understanding of how God gives Himself to us in many ways." While the entire hymn is worthy of

meditation, the first verse stands alone in an appreciation of all we owe the Savior:

**The gifts Christ freely gives
He gives to you and me
To be His Church, His bride,
His chosen, saved and free!
Saints blest with these rich gifts
Are children who proclaim
That they were won by Christ
And cling to His strong name.**

From Trinity Lutheran Board of Stewardship

COMING UP...



Advent Schedule:

- Dec. 6 – 11 a.m. Advent Service worship w/o Communion...Livestreamed**
 - 12 noon Lunch, Church w/School
- Dec. 6 - 5:30 p.m. Advent Bible Study**
 - 6:00 p.m. w/ food
- Dec.13 - 11 a.m. Advent Service worship w/o Communion...Livestreamed**
 - 12 noon Lunch, Church w/School
- Dec.13 - 5:30 p.m. Advent Bible Study**
 - 6:00 p.m. w/ food
- Dec. 20 No Worship Service – online Bible Study 6 p.m.**

Dec. 24 - 9 a.m. Worship Service
3 p.m. Family Worship Service
10 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service
Dec. 25 - 10 a.m. Worship Service
Dec. 31 - 9 a.m. Worship Service
Jan. 1 - No Worship Service



#GIVINGTUESDAY

Tuesday, November 28, 2023, is a special day - #GivingTuesday. This is a day that offers a charitable and philanthropic response to the modern materialism of Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

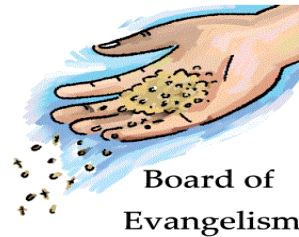
#GivingTuesday, designated annually as the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving, is a day when all are encouraged to “give for good.”

Understanding that the ultimate good in this world - and the next – comes through Christ alone, this is a wonderful time to give an extra gift to support kingdom ministry. You are invited to prayerfully consider a special gift to Trinity on this #GivingTuesday.

Your church and school are deeply appreciative of your gifts and offerings.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A SPECIAL GIFT TO TRINITY ON #GIVINGTUESDAY, YOU CAN GIVE:

1. online at <https://tinyurl.com/vbb68ns> - or click the green donate button at TrinityLombard.org
2. Mail a check payable to Trinity Lutheran Church to: Trinity Lutheran Church, 1165 S Westmore-Meyers Rd., Lombard, IL 60148.



There Are Many Ways to Witness

VETERANS DAY: *The following is excerpted from a class essay written by Trinity Lutheran School student Angelina Iverson for a 2022 Veterans of Foreign Wars essay competition:*

My Pledge to Our Veterans



Sometimes I wonder why people don't recognize Veterans more. They served our country, not because people forced them to, but because they love their country and want to fight every last strength that they have for our country. So many people have died in wars and some people don't acknowledge it. They had to leave their home, their families, and friends, but they did it because they loved their country.

Veterans mean a lot to me because most of my family was in the military. My



More Recipes to Celebrate Fall

Recipes Passed Down



STUFFED PEPPER SOUP

- 1-1/2 to 2 lb. lean ground beef
- 3 large green peppers, seeded and chopped
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 4 oz. fresh button mushroom, cleaned and chopped
- 1 carton (32 oz.) beef broth
- 2 cans (10 3/4 oz. each) condensed tomato soup
- 1 can (28 oz.) petite diced tomatoes, undrained
- 4 shakes of Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tsp. Italian seasoning
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 1-1/2 cups cooked rice

Brown the ground beef and then...

throw everything in the crock pot and dinner cooks while everyone is at work and school. (Using instant rice will cut down the preparation time making it an even easier recipe for you during the week.)

Easy peasy

~~Shanika Stambaugh~~

A Turkey Idea...



Your favorite cheeseball recipe, surrounded by Ritz crackers, with pretzel stick tail feathers, pretzel rod neck and candy corn face, is a hit with kids. Use frosting to hold the face on and make eyes.



Something to think about....

There was a moment when Moses had the nerve to ask God what his name is. God was gracious enough to answer, and the name he gave is recorded in the original Hebrew as YHWH.

Over time we've arbitrarily added an "a" and an "e" in there to get YaHWeH, presumably because we have a preference for vowels.

But scholars and Rabi's have noted that the letters YHWH represent breathing sounds, or aspirated consonants. When pronounced without intervening vowels, it actually sounds like breathing.

YH (inhale): WH (exhale).

So a baby's first cry, his first breath, speaks the name of God.

A deep sigh calls His name – or a groan or gasp that is too heavy for mere words.

Even an atheist would speak His name, unaware that their very breath is giving constant acknowledgment to God.

Likewise, a person leaves this earth with their last breath, when God's name is no longer filling their lungs.

So when we can't utter anything else, is our cry calling out His name?

Being alive, means we speak His name constantly.

So, is it heard the loudest when I'm the quietest?

In sadness, we breathe heavy sighs. In joy, our lungs feel almost like they will burst.

In fear we hold our breath and have to be told to breathe slowly to help us calm down.

When we're about to do something hard, we take a deep breath to find our courage.

When we think about it, breathing... is giving Him praise.

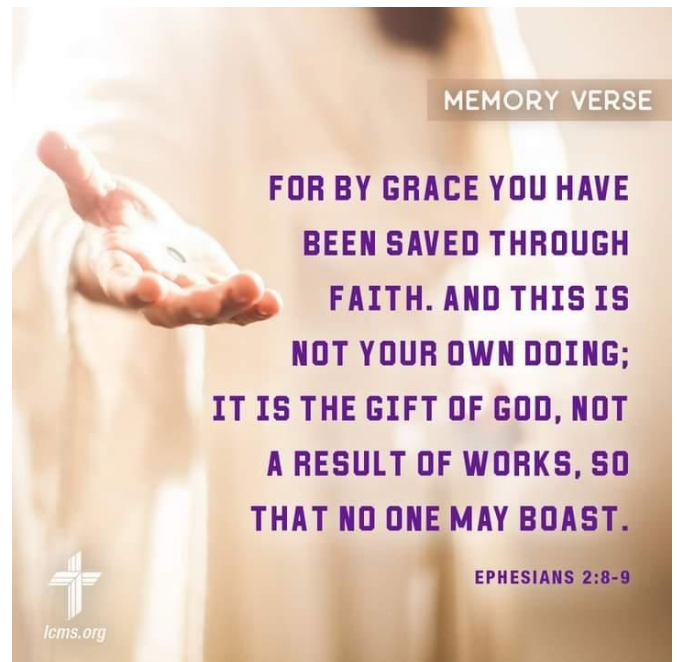
Even in the hardest moments! God chose to give Himself a name that we can't help but speak every moment we're alive.

All of us, always, everywhere. Waking, sleeping, breathing, with the name of God on our lips.

May God continue to bless each one of us in everything we do, Our Waking up, Sleeping and breathing in Jesus name. Amen,

Hallelujah Just BREATHE and absorb this wonderful message from within. Praise be to Almighty God! Amen.

Anonymous



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.