

# News

from the

# Pews

October 2025



A little over 500 years ago, a truly historic event happened. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther, a Roman Catholic priest, nailed the 95 theses to the wall of the church in Wittenberg, starting what would come to be known as The Reformation. The church needed reforming. It had lost its way. The church's focus was on power, and money, and man-made laws, but it wasn't on God's Word.

Luther just wanted the church to reform itself. He wanted it to reexamine what it believed and taught.

Luther began to question his own salvation based on the church's teachings. So, he became a staunch student of the Bible. He read it extensively in its original languages (Hebrew and Greek). He discovered that lots of the church's teachings of the day weren't in line with what the Bible said. He also discovered that he had no reason to be concerned about His salvation. God's Word taught him that

he was saved, not based on what he does for God, but on what God did for him. He was saved because He was baptized into Christ Jesus. God didn't want Luther's good deeds to be saved, because his deeds would never be good enough. He found that it wasn't about Luther being enough. It is about Christ's death being the all-sufficient payment on the cross for Luther's sins, and God's forgiveness is received through faith.

It's the same way with you. You are loved by God. You didn't earn His love. You and I don't deserve His love. But God loves you anyways – because Jesus redeemed you on the cross. You are saved because God saved you. That is the message of The Reformation. That is why The Reformation is so important. It tells you the truth – you are a sinner, but you are saved in Christ. Treasure your salvation just as Luther did, and treasure God's Word, which revealed this truth to you. Happy Reformation Sunday, have a great October, and **see you in church!**

In Christ,

Rev. Wagner

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*<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:17*

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# Reformation Stewardship

-- Trinity Lutheran Board of Stewardship

Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of God's family — the church — in managing life's resources for His purposes. It involves using what God has given us according to His purposes for use in our vocations in home, church and society. It is about the generosity of our Lord toward us in Jesus and our Holy Spirit-inspired response of generosity toward others. In many ways, it is the Reformation of our attitude towards God's many blessings.



Martin Luther, in The First Article of the *Small Catechism* tell us:

*I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.*

Every child of God is called to be a steward of what the Lord entrusts to him or her. God has created us for this free and joyous task (*Genesis 2:15*). When our stewardship failed (*Genesis 3*), the Lord redeemed us through His work on the cross. We are restored to our role as stewards by virtue of our Baptism into Christ. The Holy Spirit calls us by the Gospel as He gathers, enlightens, sanctifies and keeps us in the one true faith (*Small Catechism*, Article 3 explanation). Our entire life of stewardship is then a response to this wonderful mercy shown us by our Lord (*Romans 12:1-2*).

If we understand that the act of giving to the Lord has very little to do with giving, but rather accepting God's call to steward what is already His, we move much closer to a right relationship with all through which He has blessed us: material wealth, sustaining provision, homes, families, and even our salvation in Christ Jesus.

When we are generous in all that we do, when we dedicate all of our life and our life's resources for God's purposes — this is whole-life stewardship. This is Reformation stewardship.

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**Scheduled Services 9 a.m.**  
**Sundays In-person and**  
**Livestreamed**

**MONDAY NIGHT** weekly services are  
at 6pm.

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

**SUNDAY MORNING Bible Class** has  
resumed, following fellowship.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**, following  
the service & Fellowship time

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS** is  
once again meeting, with 9:15 coffee, Study  
to begin at 9:30

**WEDNSDAY 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](mailto:secretary@trinitylombard.org)

Facebook: Additionally: keep up with  
Trinity news from church and school on  
Facebook @TrinityLombard and  
Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/trinitylutheranlombard/>.

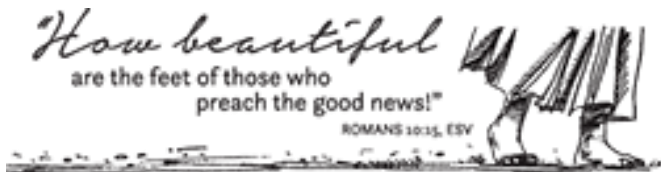
Find the 9 a.m. orders of worship, at  
<https://www.trinitylombard.org/sermons>.  
Services and Bible classes air live on  
**Facebook @TrinityLombard.com**  
(<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard/>)



## News from the Board of Evangelism

Trinity is excited to invite YOU to our next Prayer Service and Lunch! We will be gathering on Saturday, November 15 at 11:30am to join in a dedicated time of prayer and petition - lunch to follow. This service is especially unique because we will pray for your specific requests for loved ones and neighbors who have needs in any and all areas. Your involvement will help lift up these requests to our Lord who hears our prayers and answers with what is best for us. Please RSVP and send prayer requests to [prayerconnection@trinitylombard.org](mailto:prayerconnection@trinitylombard.org) or call the office at 630-629-8765

1 Timothy 2:1 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all people.



**MOVIE DAY** - Come one, come all! Trinity will be hosting a family Movie Day on Friday, December 5 in the Parish Hall following school dismissal. A faith and family friendly movie and snacks will be the perfect way to unwind after a long week. Parents and siblings are welcome to join in on the fun, or leave your children at the supervised event while you get some Christmas shopping done. Movie to be announced soon... but save the date now and RSVP later.

## Fall Fest Trunk or Treat

Trinity's popular Fall Fest Trunk or Treat returns on Saturday, October 25, 2025, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. This FREE event features games and fun activities and takes over Trinity's front parking lot.

Costumes are encouraged (non-scary please). Donations of non-perishable food and paper goods for area food pantries will be collected at the event. Goody bags will be provided for children. There will be nominally priced concessions, as Trinity's upper grade students fundraise for class activities.

If you would like to host a decorated "trunk" or supply individually wrapped store bought snacks or candy, please contact Trinity's office with details at 630.629.8765 or [secretary@trinitylombard.org](mailto:secretary@trinitylombard.org)

A vibrant orange and yellow poster for a "Fall Fest Trunk or Treat" event. The background is filled with pumpkins. The text is arranged as follows: "Saturday October 25" at the top left; "Trinity Lutheran School &amp; Church" in a bold, black font at the top right, with the address "1165 S Westmore-Meyers Rd (NE corner at Roosevelt) Lombard, IL" below it; "FREE" in large, white, outlined letters on the left side; "FALL FEST TRUNK OR TREAT" in large, yellow, outlined letters on the left side; "9 - 11:30 A.M." in a black box with white text, with the subtext "PLAY SOME GAMES - GET SOME CANDY SHOW OFF THOSE COSTUMES" below it; and "Enjoy FREE GAMES, &amp; ACTIVITIES PLEASE bring donations of nonperishable foods and paper good for area food pantries" at the bottom. The website "TLSLombard.org - TrinityLombard.org" is at the very bottom.

# Trinity's 2025 Holiday Craft Show!!

**Saturday, November 8, 2025:** Trinity's Annual Holiday Craft Show (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.) will feature a large assortment of purveyors of handmade, homemade or one-of-a-kind items, as well as a Vendor Village and pet adoption station. The festive event will feature an on-site lunch, free Kids Korner supervised activity tables, baked goods, and a popular resale area, Aunt Teak's Beautiful Junque Emporium.

To sign up for a craft or vendor space, email [events@trinitylombard.org](mailto:events@trinitylombard.org). You may also pick up an application in Trinity's office.

**Volunteers are needed.** There are tasks for all ages and all levels of physical ability. NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED - WILLING SPIRITS AND READY SMILES APPRECIATED.

## Assistance is welcome:

- Thursday, November 6, anytime between 3 p.m. and 10 p.m. (set up)
- Friday, November 7, anytime between 10 a.m. and 9 p.m. (set up)
- Saturday, November 8, anytime between 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. (set up/show/clean up)

If you are able to help in any way, contact Arlene Solyom at 630.715.7764 or notify Trinity's office.

Donations of hand-crafted items, baked goods, or objects for the rummage sale (no clothing please) will be accepted in Trinity's gymnasium, via the back parking lot, Thursday, November 6, between 4 and 10 p.m., or Friday, November 7, between noon and 9 p.m. If you need to drop off items prior to November 6 or need to arrange pick up of item, contact Trinity's office at 630.629.8765 or [secretary@trinitylombard.org](mailto:secretary@trinitylombard.org).

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

## Trinity Lutheran Women in Mission - Mary Martha Guild

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.**

*Thursday, October 2, will be a time of relaxing in God's Word with Sisters in Christ, for a Lutheran Women in Mission Bible study.* If you are able, bring a snack to share.

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.



# SCHOOL NEWS

## *From our principal's desk*

Our theme this year is: Let Us Make a Joyful Noise from Psalm 95. In all we do this year, our goal is to *make a joyful noise* to further the kingdom. If you have not seen the calligraphy artwork in the Parish Hall animating this scripture, take some time to check it out!



- Our cross-country team has been *making a joyful noise* by running for a month now. We have competed in two Lombard meets, one in Morton Grove, and we will be running at Walther. Team members include Addison Meredith (Captain), Keira Hager, Heidi Johnson, Addison Mann, Maya Amu, Adrina Gomez, Caleigh Hager, and Olivia Meredith. Thanks to coach Bryan Meredith for leading the team.
- Students will continue to sing in church after singing on Sunday (9/28). The next time they *make a joyful noise* during worship is scheduled for November 9.
- Trinity's annual "Fun Run" occurred this past Friday. This fund-raiser saw students complete 1/3 mile laps around the school backed by monetary pledges. Students were able to *make a joyful noise* by raising money for the music program. The event was run by PwTL. If you did not have a chance to make a pledge, you still can send a monetary donation to the office.

- The Dining-for Dollars program continued this past week at El Famous Burrito on Roosevelt Road.
- Liberian missionary, Joe Bokay, will be leading chapel Tuesday, September 30 at 8:30. All are welcomed to join.
- There is no school Friday, October 10 for a teacher institute. It is also closed Monday, October 13 to observe Columbus Day.
- Our annual Trunk-or-Treat is set for Saturday, October 25. It runs from 9:00-11:30 AM this year. Give some thought about hosting a car.



*In wake of the very public murder, mourning, and callous criticism of Charlie Kirk, the Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, offers a Biblical response:*

Read **A pastoral word from President Harrison** in its entirety here:

<https://reporter.lcms.org/2025/a-pastoral-word-from-president-harrison/>

### **Excerpts:**

“Charlie Kirk was a devout Christian, murdered for his conservative religious and political views by a young man who has fallen victim to the ideological demons of our time.”

...

“In the wake of Mr. Kirk’s unjust demise, extremists now revel in his murder, even creating media, T-shirts, etc., to celebrate the death. The depth of evil knows no bounds.”

....

“Hermann Sasse, the friend of the LCMS and great Lutheran who lived through the Hitler years in Germany, was the first publicly to reject the Aryan Paragraph of the Nazi party platform. He blew the whistle on real fascism and racism, and suffered for it. His collaborator Dietrich Bonhoeffer died for it. Last week, before our very eyes, Sasse’s comment on Marxism has again been proven true: ‘Marxist theory has been refuted with rivers of blood.’ For the radicalized Marxist, if the divine mandate not to murder interferes with ‘progress,’ so be it.

If an outspoken conservative Christian has to die for progress, then so be it.

Well, Charlie Kirk was such a Christian. I am such a Christian. And I know thousands more.”

...

“Our consolation is that Charlie rests in the arms of Jesus. He confessed Ephesians 2:8–9: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

As important as it is for Christians to participate in our national life near this 250th anniversary of our founding, it is more important that we know Jesus our Savior, and that others know Him too.

We weep for Charlie’s suffering and grieving wife, children and family, and we pray Christ and His blessed resurrection be their consolation. We weep for the devastated family of the accused, who helped bring him to justice. We weep for the accused himself, another soul lost to the lies of the evil one. We pray for repentance and faith in Christ. Come Lord Jesus quickly.”

## **Missionary Joe Boway Says,**

### **“Thank You”**

Joe Boway has started and operates Lutheran schools in Liberia. In what has been an annual tradition for many years, his scheduled visit to Trinity Lutheran School on September 30th was the pick-up date for the generous gathering of school supplies and monetary support for the education of children on Africa’s west coast. Joe’s visits always include speaking in chapel and spending time answering questions from the students. Joe’s service to the Lord is a wonderful example of a life lived for the Gospel. Please include Liberian Children’s Ministry, Joe and his family in your prayers.



## **Five Things to Know About Chris-**

**topher Columbus:** On October 13, most banks will be closed, the post office won’t deliver mail, and Trinity’s children will not be in school. That is because it is Columbus Day, a federal holiday – something that you probably already knew. Here are three things about Christopher Columbus that you might not already know

and that that might change the significance of this holiday for believers in Christ.

1. **Columbus committed his life to God.** In 1476, at the age of 25, Columbus was aboard a ship that caught fire and sank in battle. While overboard he found a floating oar and miraculously made his way to shore and survived. From this moment on he began to see and believe that God’s hand was upon him, preserving his life for something special.
2. **Columbus desired to bring people to Christ.** In letters to the King and Queen of Spain, Columbus begins “In the Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ.” He writes of his mission to evangelize the peoples and convert them to “our holy faith,” maintaining that “if they had access to devout religious persons knowing the language, they would all turn Christian.”
3. **Columbus believed the end times were near.** According to Columbus’ understanding of the end times, the time for the return of Christ was nearly at hand. Thus, India (his planned destination) had to be reached by the shortest way possible so that Christian missions could convert the heathen world and be ready for the Second Coming.

**“No one should fear to undertake any task in the name of our Savior, if it is just and if the intention is purely for His holy service.”**  
-- **Christopher Columbus**

[sources: *themajestysmen.com*, *aletia.org*, *britannica.com*

## Keep them in your prayers

Our deepest sympathy to Mission BBQ co-founder Bill Kraus and the entire family. His 39-year-old son Andrew was one of the four U.S. Army soldiers killed in a helicopter crash during a training mission in Washington State on September 17. This family's love for this country and our military is so evident. Every day at noon in all of their restaurants, the kitchen stops, the cash register stops, and all the customers stand at attention with the staff to sing the National Anthem. Pray for this family and the loved ones of the three other service members killed in this tragic accident.

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All news articles for the next month's newsletter may be submitted **if possible by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month in order to get proofread and approved by Pastor by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.** Thank you. Send via text or email to: [s.keenan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.keenan@sbcglobal.net)  
Questions ... call or text - Editor,

Chris Keenan (630) 330-5900 at any time.

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