

News from the Pews

March 2021



This month as we are in the beginning of Lent, the theme of our Lenten focus, as stated in the book of Joel, can be summed up as “Return to the Lord.” The point is that we *need* to return to the Lord, because sin has separated us from God. And that, is not a good thing.

Lent is not a pleasant time in the church calendar, but is a very important time nevertheless. As the church, we’ve gone through Advent, which was a time of anticipation in the coming of Jesus. Then there was Christmas when Jesus was actually born. That was followed by the Epiphany. That’s the time in which it was revealed to us that Jesus, who came to us at Christmas, was in fact God in the flesh.

So now that we know who Jesus is, Lent shows us our need of Him. Being separated from God by sin has had devastating consequences. God is the only source of life, of love, and of joy. So, sin left us by nature oriented towards death, hate, and pain. The Lenten preparations we participate in call us to recognize the reality of our sinfulness, and its horrific implications, and thus seeing our need to return to the Lord.

But the million dollar question is: “How can I return to the Lord?” This is in fact, a big problem, because on our own, not only can we not return to the Lord ... we would not want to

do so. This shows us the importance of Christ the Savior. You return to the Lord by God’s power, on the basis of Christ’s death and resurrection. Our sin is a major problem, but Jesus is the answer. After spending 40 days, in the season of Lent, being reminded of the effects of sinfulness and its seriousness, we are then told during Holy Week of our miraculous salvation. This has been done thru Jesus dying as payment for our sins, and His rising again as the means of our salvation. Knowing this, we repent and confess that Jesus is Lord.

So, as we are going thru this time of Lent, we pray that the Holy Spirit leads us to meaningful self-reflection. Pray for the power to recognize any sin that separates us from God so that we can then repent and believe in the promise of God that saves each of us thru Jesus. Lent is about reality – the reality of our sinfulness, and the reality of God’s love for us in Christ Jesus! Have a blessed March and see you in church!

Blessings In Christ,
Rev. Wagner

You can view any of the worship experiences at <https://www.trinitylombard.org/sermons> where you will find sermons, services, and Bible studies available to watch or listen to at any time.



In person services
Trinity's in-person services continue
 with set guidelines...
 In-person and livestreamed
 Sunday mornings at 9 a.m.
 and Mondays at 7 p.m.

Lenten Schedule:

Wednesday's during Lent - 3/3, 3/10, 3/17,
 and 3/24 - worship service at 1 p.m.
 online Bible study at 6 p.m.

Palm Sunday - 3/28 - Divine service at 9 a.m.

Maundy Thursday - 4/1 - Divine service at
 1 and 7 p.m.

Good Friday - 4/2 - Service of darkness at
 1 and 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday - 4/4 - Divine service at
 7 and 9 a.m.

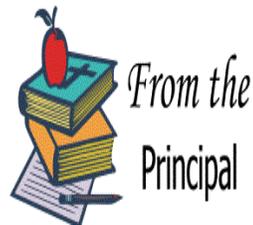
Important Notes –

* **Reservations will be required for Easter Sunday attendance. Reservations will begin on or about March 1.**

* **9 a.m. Sundays and 1 p.m. Wednesday Lenten services, Good Friday and Maundy Thursday 7 p.m. services will be livestreamed**

ALSO. PLEASE NOTE THAT FACE MASKS ARE still REQUIRED along with social distancing..

Unable to attend in person on Sunday? The 9 a.m. service is livestreamed on [Facebook@TrinityLombard](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard) and on Trinity's website at Trinitylombard.org. A downloadable order of worship will be attached, and the bulletin blurbs are emailed weekly prior to the Sunday services.



Lutheran Schools
Week:
March 1 thru
March 5

This year's activities are all based on Dr. Seuss's books. *Mark your calendars: March 2*

*is the 24th anniversary of **Read Across America Day.***

*"The more that you read,
 the more things you will know.
 The more that you learn,
 the more places you'll go." Dr. Seuss*

We are also holding a book drive to benefit St. Paul Austin. We are collecting children's new and gently used books. The books should be appropriate for students in preschool through eighth grade.

Dress-up Days:

Monday: Dress like a Dr. Seuss character

Tuesday: Dress like your favorite animal

Wednesday: Dress wacky

Thursday: Trinity Spirit Wear

Friday: Pajama Day

Students will be making blankets for a local PICU (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit). There will be apple and caramel snacks on Tuesday and an ice cream snack on Wednesday. Friday morning will be our traditional breakfast. There will be a variety of different activities happening in the classrooms as well.

Congratulations! The students have put in a lot of effort and dedication. The following students made the second quarter high honor roll and honor roll:

High Honor Roll: Riley Baker, Roscoe Barnett, Richard (Richie) DeMondo, Sophia Garcia, Abigail Gronwold, Amelie Harrison, Angelina Iverson, Alexandra (Alex) Liese, Catherine (Cate) Liese, Naomi Pulli, Grace Sabourin, Aliya Sanchez, Abigail Schnittker, Josie Woods,

Honor Roll: Ava Harrison, Carli Highberger, Addison Meredith

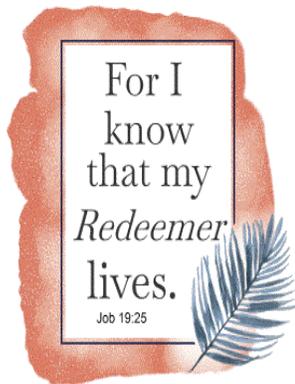
Blessings, Julie Messina Principal - 7th & 8th Grade Teacher JMessina@trinitylombard.org
 630.627.5601, ext. 205

each other. We are instructed by scripture to meet together and encourage one another. When we pray together, we remain together. Connecting via text, phone or email, gives us a safe way to stay in touch. If the Holy Spirit is nudging you about it, please email your name and phone number to prayerconnection@trinitylombard.org, or alternatively, contact the church office at 630.629.8765 and a Board member will contact you promptly.

Jeremiah 29:12 “Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.”

Board of Evangelism

Hebrews 4:16 “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and obtain grace to help in time of need.”



Gathering together

March 4,
6:30 p.m.
Parish Hall

Mary/Martha women (includes all women and young ladies) will meet in the Parish Hall to create [Easter Greetings](#) for those who have been homebound. Bring a snack to share and your artistic flair, we will have the "goods" to create and send all of your caring thoughts. Yes, it is a repeat...filled with blessings!

RSVP by text or call Arlene Solyom at 630.715.7764 if you would like to know more about the event. Park in the rear for easy access.



All women of Trinity Lombard are automatically members of the LWML and women in mission, thru the church.

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) is an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. For over 77 years, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman’s relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions.

2021 Convention



Date: June 24–27, 2021

Location: Lexington, Kentucky

Theme: Running the Race...Looking to Jesus

Scripture Verse: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with*

endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:1-2).

President: Debbie Larson

Goal Statement: Looking to Jesus, we run the race set before us and proclaim the joy of the Lord.

Objectives: Convention attendees will:

- Focus on Jesus through God’s Word and Sacrament.
- Joyfully celebrate our salvation with song and prayer.
- Serve our neighbors through witness and mission.

Two Grants from NID will appear on the National LWML Ballot...

1. Phil’s Friends

2. Mercy House Belize Lutheran

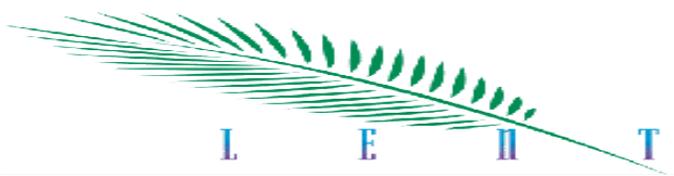
3. Another grant on the ballot which benefit Northern Illinois was submitted

Redeeming Life Outreach Minis.....

Florida to locate a maternity home in the Northern Illinois District.

4. A fourth grant on the ballot will provide 50% of the funds for **LINC Chicago**.

Voting delegate and alternate for Zone 6 will be Arlene Solyom from Trinity Lombard and Marilyn Hess, Zone 6 President



Northern Illinois District
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Our Northern Illinois District of the LCMS recently adopted a Lutheran ministry to Belize as an official ongoing project. All are welcome to enjoy this online presentation featuring Cathy Dulgarr of the Belize Mission Society, live at 6 p.m. this Thursday, just before the Mary Martha gathering in the Parish Hall. As Mary Martha, we are part of Lutheran Women in Mission and you may find this interesting. We are already involved in by virtue of being part of the NID.

Join us March 4, 2021, as we come together to discuss important updates in our work together.

“He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.” Isaiah 40:29

When the battle continues to rage with no end in sight, you grow weary. Is that where you are today? Are things that once ran smoothly no longer working? Have you done all you know to do but it hasn’t helped? What should you do? Spend more time with God in prayer and listen to Him as He speaks to you through His Word. As long as you don’t give up within, victory is assured without. It’s a matter of replenishing your strength by drawing on God’s strength, refocusing your faith towards victory, and *‘[calling] to remembrance’ God’s promises (Psalm 77:6)*. When you feel overwhelmed by trouble in your marriage, your business, your health, your job, or your finances, stand on these two Bible promises: *‘He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar*

high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint' (Isaiah 40:29-31). 'We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and...thought we would never live through it. In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God...And he did rescue us...We have placed our confidence in him, and he will continue to rescue us' (2 Corinthians 1:8-10). Instead of trying to escape the situation, seek God and He will give you strength and a strategy to come out of it stronger.

The above devotion was written/compiled from multiple sources **by Tim Hetzner, President / CEO of Lutheran Church Charities** and author of WORD Bible Studies.

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Weekday Devotions

Weekdays at 10 a.m. (Central) you can participate in chapel, live from the LCMS International Center in St. Louis, Missouri, as Lutherans from around the world join in at <https://www.facebook.com/TheLCMS/>

LCMS LIFE MINISTRY TO HOST A LIFE CONFERENCE

“This conference is for everyone.”



LCMS Life Ministry will host its first-ever virtual life conference March 19–20, under the theme “Making Disciples: Valuing Life.”

How to Register: Google LCMS Life Ministry Conference 2021 and there will be step by step

instructions to join in this event. Participants will have live stream access through Zoom to watch all the in-person events. This means, you'll be able to watch and listen to every speaker.

Virtual participants will also have the option to chat prayer requests and submit questions for the speakers to address during Q&A time.

How will I receive my Virtual Conference Pass?

Registered virtual members will receive an email with a link to log-in. The link will take you to the Virtual Conference framework where you'll review the agenda and click on the Zoom link to watch and participate remotely.

The day of the conference, we will also post a Log-In button on this website Home Screen that will let you enter the conference.



You made a big difference!

Thank you for making a life-changing impact in your community by participating in a Thrivent Action Team project.

Any way you Participated and directed your actions or Choice Dollars, you contributed to the ministry of your church and/or school.

Thrivent Choice Dollars Eligible Thrivent Financial members earn Choice Dollars which may be directed to Trinity Lutheran Church and/or Trinity Lutheran School. **These must be directed each year prior to March 31.** Don't

miss this easy opportunity to benefit Trinity. To learn more or direct your Choice Dollars, go online to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800.847.4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

Updates & FYI's

News about Trinity family members.....

Asking for continued prayer....

Bob Gehrt is still in hospice. Lord we continue to lift him up to Your throne, we trust Your timing Lord. Pray for Bob's family as well.

Norm Iverson has been placed in hospice last week. Pray for Arlene and family as they yield to God and place Norm in His care.

Wayne Hoepner Lord we lift up Wayne as he is struggling physically. Pray for Barb and give her strength as she encourages Wayne.

Recipes from the Pews: Recipes or suggestions from our "church family" are welcome. If you have anything you would like to contribute, please feel free to text, or email your recipes to the editor.



7 layer Salad w/ a twist



Overnight 7+ layer

- 1 medium head iceberg lettuce, torn
- 1 medium green pepper, chopped
- 1 small sweet red pepper, chopped
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 cups frozen peas (about 10 ounces)

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 12 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled (drain grease)
- 3/4 cup dried cranberries (optional)

In a 4-qt. or 13x9-in. glass dish, layer the first 5 ingredients. In a small bowl, mix mayonnaise and sugar; spoon over salad, spreading to cover.

Sprinkle top with cheese, bacon. Refrigerate, covered, overnight. You may toss before serving.



CARING IS SHARING

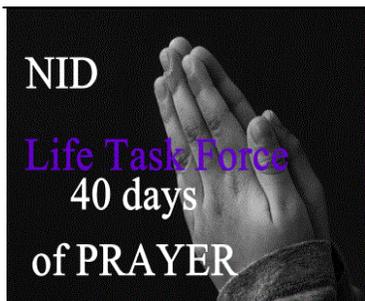
Food Pantry FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS

The Food Pantry is located at St. Pius X church located at Madison and Westmore-Meyers Rd, in Lombard. Individuals and families who live in the Villa Park and Lombard areas are able to come to the St Vincent DePaul food pantry for pre-packaged food on Mondays, from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. An individual or families may come twice a month. No appointment is necessary. For no contact services only, you may drive up. Stay in your car, wear a face mask and provide ID. Please stay in your car and call 630.300.4353 when you arrive in the Madison St parking lot of St. Pius X. For questions, call Ron Tyler at 630.696.6183. If you are unable to drive or unable to go to St. Pius church on Mondays for distribution, you may call Ron and arrange for delivery to your home.

Taxes, taxes, taxes!

Even if you don't itemize – you can deduct up to \$300 of a gift given to Trinity

Gifts to Trinity Lutheran Church and School are always tax deductible, but when Congress recently passed the CARES Act in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, it included a partial deduction for charitable contributions. **This provision encourages individuals to contribute to religious, charitable and educational organizations by creating a new “above the line” deduction for all taxpayers.** This deduction will permit a taxpayer to deduct up to \$300 of annual cash contributions regardless of whether the taxpayer itemizes contributions or takes the new, higher standard deduction. If you are in a position to give charitable gifts this year, we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity.



Reminder: The NID Life Task Force urges you to join thousands worldwide in the prayer vigil of 40 Days for Life which this year

corresponds to the season of Lent. 40 Days for Life spring vigil will run from **Feb 17 - Mar 28**. We encourage you to use the LCMS resources found at <https://www.lcms.org/life-ministry/life-sunday-resources> to aid you in your personal time of prayer and worship.

News from Trinity is distributed via email and Trinity's Facebook page www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard and Trinity's website – www.TrinityLombard.org, and social media sites – on Instagram www.instagram.com/trinitylutheranlombard. School families keep up to date with the JupiterEd app.

(do we have your current email address?)

Next month's info for NFTP may be submitted to vinjud60@yahoo.com or call or text Judy Cuchetto 630.698.2208, hopefully by the 25th of the month.

