

News

from the

Pews

December 2023



This is the season to rejoice! It's the Christmas season and it's a very special time of the year for us all. But we as creatures of habit, can so easily be pulled into "a hectic

routine", and this time of the year can be as overwhelming as any. So, since we are about to experience a very hustle, bustle time of the year, I wanted to give us a couple of things to think about for this Christmas season.

- *Don't forget the reason for the season.* What defines this time of year for you? It is very, very easy to have the best of intentions to maintain a Christ focused approach, but it's hard to resist the other distractions. This time of year can be defined by shopping, or party preparations, or the anticipation of travel, or the excitement of the arrival of loved ones, or decorating, or scheduling which social gatherings we will be attending ... it can go on and on. It IS a VERY busy time of year. And to be sure, none of this is wrong at all. These things are blessings to us that God wants us to enjoy. The caution comes when we allow those things to replace the advent of Christ's birth, which is the absolute reason it is number one on our priority list.
- The reason for all of the craziness is one simple but exciting message -

celebrating the Creator and Savior of the world, who has come in the flesh!! Jesus has come, and that has profound implications on our life. Remember to pray that the Holy Spirit will see to it that the Advent/Christmas message is kept at the forefront in our minds and hearts during all of the holiday chaos.

- *Remember that the Christmas season is not joyful for everyone.* Are you making plans to spend time with loved ones? That's truly a blessing!! But the reality is that not everyone is "happy" this time of year. In fact, many have feelings of hurt and this time of year only exacerbates the pain. Many may not have enough money to pay bills, much less buy Christmas gifts. Some may long to spend Christmas with a loved one who is no longer around. Those grieving a death, or a broken relationship can often be very down at this time of year. They may be quietly hurting and lonely. So, please remember those around you. Try not to get so busy and distracted that there is no time left to reach out to those who are hurting. A simple phone call or a visit this time of year can be very powerful and healing. Remember them. Pray for them. Pray WITH them. Reach out to them. And most importantly – don't get too busy to love them.

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas season and see you in church!

In Christ, Rev. Wagner

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" Isaiah 9:6



Scheduled Services

9 a.m. Sundays
In-person and
livestreamed

6 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 in December we will be observing Advent Services

LIVE ONLINE WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS, 6 p.m. (Central)

Advent:

Wednesday, December 6

Church service - 11 a.m. (Central)* **IN PERSON & LIVESTREAM** - followed by lunch

Bible Study - 6 p.m. (Central)* **IN PERSON & LIVESTREAM** - dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 13

Church service - 11 a.m. (Central)* **IN PERSON & LIVESTREAM** - followed by lunch

***Bible Study - 6 p.m. (Central)* IN PERSON & LIVESTREAM** - dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Children's Christmas Service:

Tuesday, December 19 - 6:30 p.m.
(Central)* **IN PERSON & LIVESTREAM**

Christmas Eve Services:

Sunday, December 24 - 9 a.m. (Central)*
IN PERSON & LIVESTREAM

Sunday, December 24 - 3 p.m. **IN PERSON**

Sunday, December 24 - 10 p.m.
(Central)* **Candlelight IN PERSON & LIVESTREAM**

Christmas Day Service:

Monday, December 25 - 10 a.m. - **IN PERSON**

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

Additionally: keep up with Trinity news from church and school on Facebook and Instagram.

<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard/>

<https://www.instagram.com/trinitylutheranlombard/>

Find the orders of worship, along with easy to share video and audio versions of the sermons at

<https://www.trinitylombard.org/sermons>.





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

At this time of year, as is typical in a Lutheran school, students and faculty are in preparation mode. The end of the calendar year is near, so what is in the works for next year?

Christmas vacation is just around the corner, so what exciting adventures await us in our days of rest and relaxation? Most importantly, as the first Sunday of Advent begins our new church year, how do we get ready for Christ's coming? John the Baptist answers our last question. He instructed sinners to repent because the kingdom is at-hand. The treachery of our sins is severe. It is impossible we could ever be good enough or act as our own redeemer. Christ's incarnation, suffering, death, and resurrection bring healing for the transgressions which so easily beset us. Jesus came the first time to take care of sin. When He comes again, it will be as Judge. Repent. He is coming back, just as He promised. *"But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy...so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."* Titus 3

Speaking of preparation... Trinity Lutheran School is busy rehearsing hymns and songs as well as taking directions to learn this year's Christmas Service, "This Is My Son." All are invited to join the children, faculty, and staff Tuesday, December 19, at 6:30 p.m. as we bring glad tidings of great joy telling of our Savior's birth, news of the Infant King. A special thank you goes to the faculty and staff for their work and devotion to teach and lead the children in this worth endeavor. We are

grateful to Mrs. Pat Perez for her willingness to oversee and direct the service.

December 19: Children's Christmas Service, 6:30 p.m.

Christ Is Born! – As classes resumed, and students began 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 the service this year..

Blessings,

Virginia (Ginny) Terrell, Principal

5th & 6th grade teacher

principal@tislombard.org

Trinity Lutheran School partners with families for the total development of each child to become a lifelong learner and to serve others through an excellent Christ-centered education.

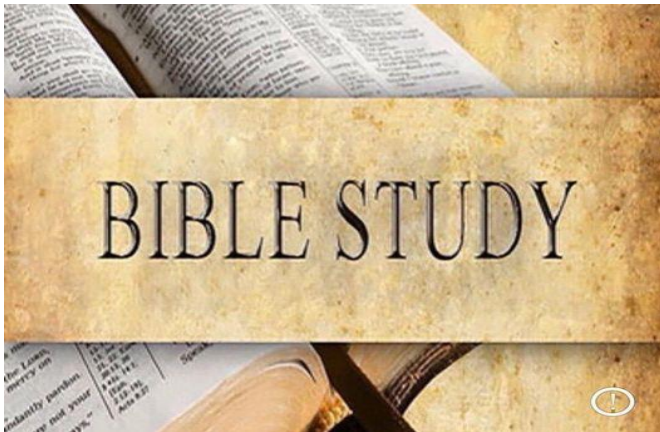


Rehearsing hymns and songs as well as taking directions to learn this year's Christmas Service, "This Is My Son."



December 10: PwtL Gift Wrapping, 1-4 p.m. - FREE WILL DONATION

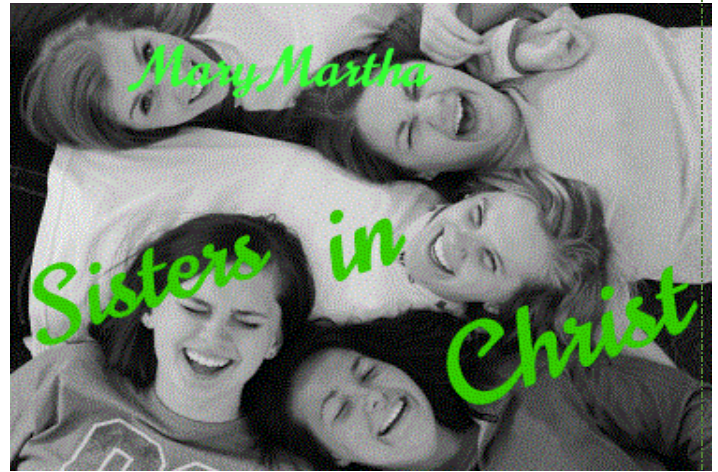
Studying God's Word together is important!



Wednesday morning informal Bible Study will return after Advent. We are continuing our study of Genesis; a saga of God's infinite patience with His Chosen People. We begin @ 9 a.m. with coffee and conversation and continue with our study at 9:15.

Pastor offers Online Bible Study, on **Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m.** It will be live and in person fm the parish hall on December 6 and 13, on hiatus for three weeks and is scheduled to resume January 10 on [Facebook@trinitylombard.com](https://www.facebook.com/trinitylombard.com). Pastor Wagner welcomes any of your Bible related questions. *You can interact online as the study is going on. You can also view www.TrinityLombard.org

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



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

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.

Looking Ahead

**Souper Bowl Supper
January 4,
at 6:30 p.m.**

in the Parish Hall. In January we will be enjoying our annual Souper Bowl Supper and hope to see you there. We will spend time together in friendship, eat some good soup, and play games. Bring a snack, side dish, or dessert to share.

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



Sunday School Celebration

Christmas Comes on December 17

Trinity Lutheran Sunday School invites all to join us during the Bible class hour following church on **Sunday, December 17**, for our Christmas celebration in the parish hall.

Please note that Sunday school will not meet on Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve), or Sunday, December 31 (New Year's Eve), but will resume on Sunday, January 7.

Sunday School meets following the post-church fellowship time concurrent with Adult Bible Class to enable all family members to spend time in God's Word.

Taken from Nov 20, 2023 Portals of Prayer



“Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” MARK 12:1

Of Taxes and Tithes

When it comes to their time, talents, and treasure, many people find great blessing in following the 10:10:80 rule—give 10 percent, save 10 percent, and spend the rest in joy and thanksgiving. Taxes take their percentage too; but when that is paid, Caesar is content.

When Jesus says, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s,” He is not suggesting a rule based on percentages. Everything belongs to God, so rendering to God the things that are God’s means not 10 percent but all that we are and all that we have. God is concerned with how we use all our time, all our talents, and all our treasures all the time. Rendering to Caesar may be defined by a percentage on our tax return, but rendering to God includes rendering to Caesar, supporting our families, saving for future needs, spending for pleasure, and giving our tithes and offerings to God.

God has generously given us all things solely out of “fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.” He equips us so we not only render to Caesar but also “thank and praise, serve and obey Him” (First Article of the Creed, Luther’s Small Catechism).

Generous Father, You gave me all that I am and all that I have. Help me give always to Your glory and the good of others. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Trinity has a subscription to Portals of Prayer so that you may enjoy the devotional at no cost. You may take one home each quarter for your own devotional time.

Portals of Prayer is a quarterly publication of the Concordia Publishing House of St. Louis, Missouri, the denominational publisher for the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Each daily devotion includes a Bible reading, meditation and prayer to apply to your daily life.

We are so blessed to have choices for daily Devotions



DAILY DEVOTION

“Give thanks not the Lord and proclaim His greatness. Let the whole world Know what He has done.” 1 Chronicles 16:8

November 20, 2023

Gordon MacDonald shared the following story: A pair of grandparents had just finished time with their grandson at Chuck E. Cheese. As grandmother put him into his car seat she said, “Now be sure to say thank you to your grandpa.”

But there was no response from her grandson. So, she said again, “Did you hear me? Be sure to say thank you to Grandpa.”

Again, no response.

At which point grandpa said, “I enjoy doing nice things with you especially when you say thank you.” Still more silence.

Grandma who was now getting irritated said, “Did you hear us? Are you ignoring us?”

The grandson finally spoke and said, “I’m thankful, I just don’t want to say it.”
(Thanks to Gordon MacDonald, Leadership Journal 2013)

THAT’S THE THING ABOUT GRATITUDE...IT IS TO BE EXPRESSED OUT LOUD.

Yet so often our gratitude to God is silenced. Sometimes our silence comes from our own stubborn resistance, pride, or arrogance. Other times it can be guilt or shame that silences our praise. While other times we may be afraid to express it out of fear. In this current culture, many of us are afraid to express our gratitude to Jesus beyond the walls of our churches or our homes.

Gratitude to our Savior is something that is to

be expressed OUT LOUD and it starts with our public recognition and praise of all He has done. Consider this...

1 – Jesus hasn’t been ashamed of you even in your worst moments.

Hebrews 2:11 explains, **“So now Jesus and the ones He makes holy have the same Father. Jesus is not ashamed to call them His brothers and sisters.”**

2 – Out loud gratitude creates a redeeming opportunity for those who hear it and believe. **Romans 1:16** states, **“For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Jesus. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes.”**



The entire scriptures call us to be OUT LOUD with our gratitude to Jesus. We hear it in the words of **1 Chronicles 16:8 – “Give thanks to the LORD and proclaim His greatness. Let the whole world know what He has done.”**

Every day is a day of “thanks giving”, and is an incredible opportunity to GIVE THANKS OUT LOUD and let the world know how great is our God. Just think of how much more of an opportunity we have to do this with social media compared to the original hearers of this verse! Let’s make our praise and gratitude go viral so that the world may know our God saves!

Updates &

Welcome to the Lord’s family.....

Luke 18:15-16 ¹⁵ “Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. ¹⁶ But Jesus called them to him,

saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."

**BAPTISMS:
November 12**



Evelyn Karczmarczyk, born June 22, 2023 to Tomasz and Kristi (Eggert) Karczmarczyk

November 24

Henry Schmidt, born June 8, 2022 to Eric and Jennifer (Holtgrewe) Schmidt



God's Plan is Not Always Known to Us Fully. But It's Always Known to God!

"Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand" (Proverbs 19:21; 20:24)

God's plan is unbelievably a part of who we are while we are being knit together in our mother's womb. When a life is created, it's not by accident or a mistake. God is the only one who is the Author of life.

Mark Lawry and his mom spoke about such things as "What it was like for Mary to raise the son of God?"

"Literally, what was it like teaching the Word of God to talk," he said, referring to a title used for Jesus in the Gospel of John."



Mary, Did You Know?

"Mary, Did You Know?", composed by Mark Lowry, is a modern Christmas song created in the late 20th century. The lyrics are asking Mary if she knew the eventual significance and salvation her son, Jesus Christ, would have for mankind and the miracles He would perform. The angel had told her, but Mark asked a beautiful question. Did she fully comprehend? In the Christmas tradition, this song celebrates the birth of Jesus as a gift from God. The witness of Mark's faith and ability to tell the story to others through his music, was part of God's plan for Mark. It is how he gave witness to others, of God's plan of salvation to all who would believe.

Mary, Did You Know? Lyrics:

Mary did you know
That your baby boy will one day walk on water?

Mary did you know
That your baby boy will save our sons

and daughters?
Did you know
That your baby boy has come to make
you new?
This child that you've delivered
Will soon deliver you

Mary did you know
That your baby boy will give sight to a
blind man?
Mary did you know
That your baby boy will calm a storm
with His hand?
Did you know
That your baby boy has walked where
angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby
You've kissed the face of God...
Mary, did you know?

The blind will see
The deaf will hear
And the dead will live again
The lame will leap
The dumb will speak
The praises of the Lamb

Mary did you know
That your baby boy is Lord of all
creation?
Mary did you know
That your baby boy will one day rule the
nations?
Did you know
That your baby boy is heaven's perfect
Lamb?
This sleeping child you're holding
Is the Great I Am

Oh, Mary, did you know?

Lyrics © Warner Chappell Music, Inc., CAPITOL CHRISTIAN MUSIC
GROUP

Each person is given a mission and the skill
to complete it. We may not always
recognize it, until someone points it out.

*Remember...we ourselves witness every day,
knowingly or unknowingly, how we witness, is
how others see our trust in the Savior. How
have you witnessed this past month?*

Rest in His goodness and grace.

Blessings,
Board of Evangelism



YOU Made the Difference

Our recent **Annual Craft Show** was the best ever with over 800 people walking through our doors to be greeted with a smile and given a handout about our church and school. Such a warm welcome to our community! This event could never have been undertaken without the amazing help from all of our volunteers. Because of you our Mary Martha will have the



**Volunteers of
all ages, made
the work a joy.**

cont.



The empty gym was taking on an exciting and fun filled anticipation, thanks to volunteers.



A delicious lunch was offered and lines formed quickly.



With the help of fantastic volunteers, the Craft Show was a success. Thank you!

resources to continue to serve our church and school as needed. And we will also be able to provide support for the ministry of the Lutheran Women in Mission which reaches out to local, national and international needs in the Name of Jesus.

Thank you, dear friends, for all the time and effort you gave to make this possible. Blessings to All.

Arlene Solyom, for Mary/Martha

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

What... ...If?

Trinity: Giving to YOUR Goals

I recently asked my fellow Board of Stewardship members this question, **“If money was no object, what is the one thing that you would like to see Trinity do?”**

Their answers were amazing, not because of what in particular they each suggested, but because each and every answer was geared toward sharing the Good News of Jesus with others.

As the calendar year comes to an end, I would like to pose that same question to each of you, members of the extended Trinity family – What is the ONE THING that you would like to see Trinity do?

Next, I follow that question with a challenge. How can YOU help make that happen?

Let’s open the dialog – email BringingLight@TrinityLombard.org, or drop a note addressed to Stewardship in the mail (Trinity Lutheran Church, 1165 S Westmore-Meyers Rd, Lombard, IL 60148), in the offering plate, or in the star shaped basket on the stewardship display table just inside the main doors to the parish hall.

And an additional challenge...consider a year-end gift to Trinity. If you wish, feel free to designate your gift to a specific purpose. Pray for guidance and let the Holy Spirit lead the way as we respond to God’s great sacrificial love for us.

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace” 1 Peter 4:10

May God bring you Advent peace and Christmas blessings!

Blessings,

Lori Solyom, Trinity’s outgoing Board of Stewardship chair



CHRISTMAS POKE CAKE Easy Festive Jello Poke Cake Recipe



Ingredients:

***1 15.25 ounce box
White Cake Mix**

***Ingredients on the
back of your cake
mix such as 1 cup**

**Water, ½ cup Vegetable Oil, and 3
Egg Whites**

- **1 3 ounce box Cherry Jell-O**
- **1 3 ounce box Lime Jell-O**
- **1 cup boiling water divided**
- **1 cup cold water divided**
- **1 8 ounce tub of Cool Whip**
- **¼ cup Christmas Sprinkles**

Instructions:

1. Preheat your oven to 350°F and grease your baking dish.

- i. Make the cake by combining the cake mix with the ingredients and the back of the box.
- ii. Bake the cake for 29-33 minutes, or the time it tells you to bake on the back of your cake mix.

2. Allow the cake to cool completely (at least 20-30 minutes).
3. Poke 5 columns of holes into the cake with a fork.
4. Make the Jello by placing the contents of each Jello mix into separate bowls, adding about half of the boiling water to each Jello mix, stirring, and then adding about half of the cold water to each Jello mix and stirring again.
5. Spoon the Jello mixtures over the cake with a spoon, in an alternating pattern.
6. Chill the cake in the fridge completely, at least 1 hr.
7. Add the cool whip to the top and spread evenly.
8. Chill the cake for at least another hour, preferably overnight, before serving and enjoying!

Christmas Blessings for Who?

If you are aware of a family at Trinity who you use a helping hand at Christmas, please notify Pastor Wagner (pastorwagner@trinitylombard.org) or Principal Terrell (principal@tislombard.org) confidentially via email or in person, in order that appropriate assistance may be provided.



- **Trinity Back-to-School from Christmas Break Night**

Sunday, January 7, 4-6 p.m.

Parish Hall

FREE Paying for College Workshop with Pizza Dinner

Dinner for all is followed by supervised playtime for children in the gym, while adults get the help and resources to keep planning for college stress-free.

Presenter: Joel Eggerding, CFP® & Thrivent Financial Advisor

This FREE opportunity is co-presented by Trinity's Board of Stewardship and Trinity's PwtL (Parenting with the Lord).

- **Trivia4Bibles with Pizza Dinner**

Sunday, January 28, 4 – 7 p.m.

Parish Hall

Trivia4Bibles will be an afternoon of fun at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lombard.

Participants will enjoy trivia with prizes, pizza, salad, snacks, and beverages, and **make a free-will offering to help purchase quality child-friendly Faith Alive Bibles** from Concordia Publishing House which currently cost \$33 each. Each year these Bibles are gifted to Trinity Lutheran School students as they enter 3rd grade, new students entering above 3rd grade, and Sunday School students, grades 3 and above who attend schools other than Trinity.

This FUN-RAISING fundraiser is presented by Trinity's Board of Stewardship.



Thank you!

Thank you to all of you who faithfully donate food to the food pantries that Trinity contributes to.

God provides the means to provide food for those who are not able to 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.

Trinity Lutheran Church and School contributes to the local food pantries: St. Vincent de Paul, York Center.

Questions? Ron & Dawn Tyler welcome questions if you need help, you may reach them by calling the church office at 630.629.8765 or secretary@trinitylombard.org.

“Eating is not an optional “habit”, it’s a necessity.”

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.