

Pews



So, how was your Christmas? For me, it seems as if it flew by. It came and went with lightning speed. And, if you are like me, you are probably exhausted from all of the hustle and bustle that comes with the holiday season. This time of year is joyous and exciting, but it does seem as if January can bring a bit of a letdown.

But why is that? It really is part of the same old story. This world has its shares of ups and downs. Worldly celebrations can be like a roller coaster. They start and they end. Nothing is constant with the world. Things are always changing, and change is hard. We like stability and structure, but stability and structure are very hard to find in “things of the world”.

So, when we crave that stability and consistency, we shouldn't look for it in the world because they aren't there, we can only find that in Christ. God and His Word never changes. His love for you is always constant. And more importantly, His forgiveness of your sins is constant and never changing. Our sin causes us heartache in more ways than we can count. But God's constant, unconditional love for you is always there, always healing, always comforting, always strengthening – always.

That is one of the themes we will be seeing this month in the church as we enter the season of Epiphany. Epiphany means a revealing or an

opening, as in the opening of one's eyes to be able to see what wasn't seen before. So, Epiphany in the church is a revealing of Christ and who He is – namely God in flesh who came for you. God didn't send one of His representatives to deal with sin. He didn't send some sort of intermediary. Instead, He Himself came in the flesh – for you!

So, when the roller coaster ride of the world wears you down and you are yearning for something more permanent and lasting, look to God! Come to His house. Hear His Word. Receive His body and blood. Confess your sins and hear His forgiveness. Pray to Him with your church family. The Lord Christ is revealed to us this Epiphany season, and His love for you, never changes. Thanks be to God!

Have a blessed Epiphany season and see you in church!

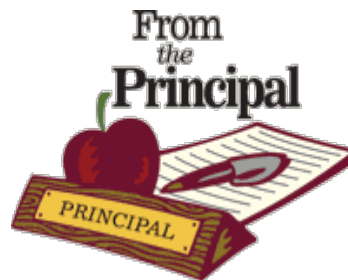
In Christ,

Rev. Wagner

And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell

down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Matthew 2:9b-11



All of the students did an excellent job during this year's Christmas programs. Thank you to everyone

who attended the programs. There were 116 in attendance at the December 14 program and 157 on December 16. Praise be to God. The students and staff worked hard to create such wonderful programs.

The students and teachers will be returning to school on Monday, January 3, getting back in the routine for learning.

We're looking forward to hearing the voices of our students when they sing in church on Sunday, January 9, at 9 a.m.

To recognize and honor Martin Luther King Jr. Day, there will be no school on Monday the 17th of January.

Students in kindergarten through eighth grade will be taking required MAP testing Tuesday, January 18 - Friday, January 28.

Then on Friday, January 28, the PwTL will be holding a Minute to Win It game night. The games will be made and run by the middle school students. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Blessings,

Julie Messina

Principal, 7th & 8th Grade Teacher
Trinity Lutheran School, Lombard, IL
JMessina@trinitylombard.org
630.627.5601 ext. 205

In person services

9 a.m. Sundays

In person &
live-streamed

7 p.m. Mondays

In person only...



Bible Study Resumes (In person, in Sanctuary) on **Sundays at 10:15 am**. We're beginning the book of Acts

Guidelines still in place for in person worship:

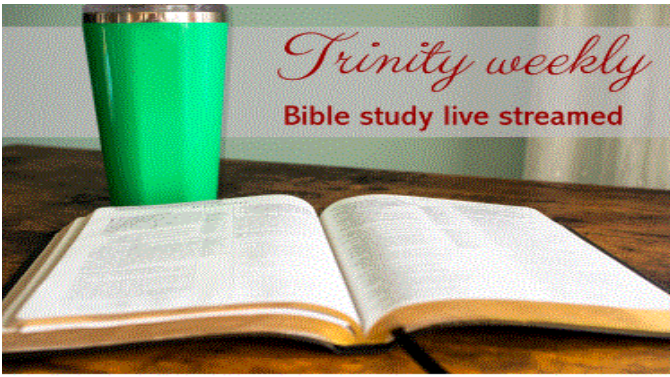
- ...**Please wear face masks upon entry and exit into church if you are unvaccinated**
- ...No mask is required while seated on the left side (lectern) of the sanctuary.
- ...Please leave masks in place if seated on the right (Pulpit) side of the sanctuary.
- ...Please sit in alternating pews as marked
- ...Help yourself to the Order of Worship
- ...Offering plates are in the rear of the sanctuary.

The 9 a.m. service continues to be livestreamed on [Facebook](#)

[@TrinityLombard](#) and on Trinity's website at Trinitylombard.org.

Facebook

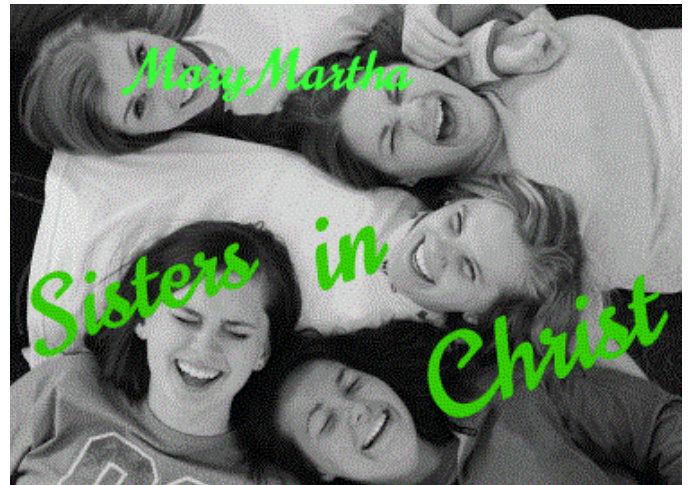
If you missed joining Trinity online for church this (or any) weekend, you can still take part. Relive the Sunday morning services, find the orders of worship, along with easy to share video and audio versions of the sermons at <https://www.trinitylombard.org/sermons>. You'll find recent online Bible study videos there too. 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 a.m.



Studying God's Word together is important! Pastor offers Online Bible Study, Wednesdays at 6 p.m. LIVE on Facebook [@trinitylombard](https://www.facebook.com/trinitylombard)

Pastor Wagner welcomes any of your Bible related questions. *You can interact online as the study is going on. You can also view it on the internet using www.TrinityLombard.org

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



Trinity's Mary Martha Guild will meet Thursday, January 6, 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.

All women of Trinity are considered a part of the Mary Martha Guild (Trinity's women's service group) and LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission). There is no membership, just an invitation to gather together as sisters in Christ's name.

You are personally invited to come and enjoy a time of friendship.

To RSVP or for more information on directions, text or call Arlene Solyom at 630.715.7764.



Sunday School Resumes

Sunday School is back on January 9, 2022. We meet in the parish hall

following Sunday's services. All are welcome. Invite a friend to join you.

Lori E. Solyom
Sunday School Superintendent
630.640.0426
lorisolyom@gmail.com

It's all about Life!



Join over 10,000 pro-life individuals from throughout the Midwest for



March & Rally, 1 to 3 p.m.—Downtown Chicago Loop
featuring LCMS President **Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison**

DETAILS: nidlcms.org/life-task-force

- Educational Breakout Sessions – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Gathering – 4:00 p.m.
- Banquet – 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. featuring LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison

Additional March for Life Chicago 2022 events are at The Hilton Chicago, 720 S Michigan Ave, Chicago.

Learn about:

- Parental Notification of Abortion Repeal
- Illinois's Sex Ed Law – What Parents Need to Know
- How Illinois's Abortion Laws Impact the Entire Midwest
- Abortion Pill Reversal

IMPORTANT:

Let the NID know you are participating. contact Kris Blackwell at kbwrk123@gmail.com or 630-234-1491. Please note that there is no NID bus transportation to the March for Life Chicago. Consider taking advantage of the Hilton's special rates (discount code MFL).

Join over 10,000 pro-life individuals from throughout the Midwest Saturday, January 8, 2022!

The Northern Illinois Life Task Force urges all Lutheran individuals and congregations to participate in the March and related activities featuring LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison.

Schedule of Events:

- March for Life Chicago Convention – 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Visit dozens of booths with pro-life resources, including LCMS booths:
 - LCMS Life Ministry
 - NID Life Task Force
 - Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries
 - Lutherans for Life
- March & Rally – 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Federal Plaza, 50 W. Adams, Chicago
- Youth Rally – 8:45 a.m.

-
1. **Required: Register at MarchForLifeChicago.org**
 2. **IMPORTANT: Let the NID know you are participating, contact Kris Blackwell at kbwrk123@gmail.com, or call 630.234.1391**
 3. **ENCOURAGE: Engage with the LCMS for this event at: http://www.lcms-onm.org/need/detail/?need_id=627330**
-

SAVE THE DATE – Sanctity of Life Sunday, January 16, 2022

The Sanctity of Human Life is something we celebrate every day. Sunday, churches throughout the United States celebrate God's gift of life, commemorate the lives lost to abortion, and commit to protecting human life at every stage.

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday in 2022 is the 49th anniversary of the Roe v Wade supreme court decision - more than **60 million** lives have been lost thru abortions have taken place since 1973.

Caring Network



Changing Hearts and Saving Lives Since 1981. Caring Network offers truth, hope and material goods to



pregnant women and new moms in need and brings hope to those who have abortion in their past. We ask for your continued support. **The Coins for Caring Network's Baby Bottle Drive in will return to Trinity in January 2022.**

Thank You for Your Prayers and Support!

LWML Bible Study on the Sanctity of Human Life

Deaconess Lori Trinche of Northern Illinois District and Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries will lead a Bible Study about the Sanctity of Human Life at an LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission) gathering on **Tuesday, January 16, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.** in the study at St. John Lutheran Church (410 N Cross St) in Wheaton. All are invited to join us. If the weather is questionable, please call or text Marilyn Hess at 630.414.0845 to confirm whether the meeting will take place. **All are invited!!**

Lutheran Women in Mission



Mite boxes support ministries world-wide!

Each month we will highlight one of the grants approved at the last LWML convention. This month we put the spotlight on...

“Making the Next Generation Disciples for Life”.

God formed every life in the womb (Jeremiah 1:5) and He is the author and creator of life, marriage, and the family. The LWML mission grant ***Making the Next Generation Disciples for Life*** will provide funding to develop resources to create an awareness and respect for life and the family as God designed it. These resources will provide education to children that will affect their choices as they grow and mature.

Please join LWML in supporting this and other mission grants. Your mites (coins, bills, and checks) can be contributed toward the grants at any time.

Use an LWML mite box for cash or checks (Mite boxes are located on the back table in church - you can put deposit your filled mite box in the big wooden mite box and help yourself to an empty box.

Make may also write a check out to “Mary Martha Guild” and designate it for LWML and put it in the offering plate.



What does it take to be a faithful church amid a turbulent culture? This is the central question that will be discussed at the **Making Disciples for Life Winter Conference**, set for January 10 –12, 2022, in person (in St. Louis) and online.

Online registration

Online participation is unlimited. [An online registration, which is \\$29, can be used by an individual, couple, family, or group.](#) The conference sessions will be presented live, and registration provides access to view recorded sessions for 60 days after the conference ends.

The conference, which has the theme of “The Rock in Shifting Sands,” will feature three tracks focusing on:

- Church and state, Christian citizenship, religious liberty
- Critical theory, its manifestations and how the church should respond
- Discipleship, Christian education, lifelong catechesis

The conference’s plenary sessions, break-out sessions, roundtable discussions, focus groups and LCMS Office of National Mission exhibits will be offered in a mix of virtual and in-person formats to accommodate as many attendees as possible. Those who participate in the focus groups will help identify needs and set the agenda for the next *MDFL* conference.

Register by: **January 7, 2022, 11:59 p.m.**

<https://calendar.lcms.org/event/making-disciples-for-life-conference/>



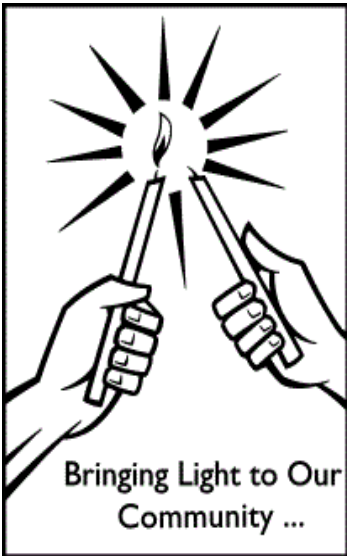
“Praying Together in Christ’s Name”

Lord God, we pray that there would be relief from the stress and pains of this world. From the virus that has plagued the whole world to the everyday struggles and grief, people are feeling hurt and hopeless. We pray that what the enemy is using for evil, You will use to bring us closer to You. Lord, hearts have gotten cold toward You and sin has been prevailing for a long time. Things that are not “normal” have now become the new accepted behavior. We know that as humans we are sinful, and we need You for our salvation. You are the only way. We pray with our, brothers and sisters in Christ, that through Your Holy Spirit, You will draw those who are in need of Your salvation, to You. We pray that you will heal the hurt and the ill. Thank You for the good that has surfaced in the middle of sin and tragedy. You are showing us that You are the only Way, Truth, and Life. Amen.

God’s Blessings to you in this New Year. May you be refreshed in His goodness and grace.

Blessings,

Board of Evangelism



TRINITY'S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Trinity's Bringing Light to Our Community capital campaign is ongoing.

The year has ended but not the goal. We look forward to reaching that goal

with your help. The goal is to raise \$65,000 to fund promotion and upgrades of the church and school, remodel the main school and church bathroom to be accessible, and install digital signage outside of Trinity.

Thank you again... to all who have continued to give faithfully, and to those who have increased their giving, as well as those to whom the Lord has enabled to give special gifts of varying sizes to the campaign.

Blessings in the New Year,

Board of Stewardship

There Are Many Ways to Give Throughout the Year

Take a moment to consider some of the many ways you can "give back" from God's blessings to benefit the kingdom work of Trinity Lutheran Church and School...

- **Empower Illinois** – a gift made to Trinity Lutheran School through this Invest in Kids program can earn you a 75% Illinois tax credit

- **Amazon Smile** – select Trinity as your designated charity and a small percentage of everything you buy comes back to Trinity
- **Shop with Scrip** – gift cards purchased physically or online return varying percentages to Trinity, while you get the full-face value of what you spend
- **Thrivent Choice Dollars** earned in 2021 must be directed **before the end of March 2022**
- **Employer matching gifts**
- **Tax deductible charitable giving**
- **Required Minimum Distributions/Qualified Charitable Distributions**
- **Planned Giving/Legacy Gifts**

If you have questions or need assistance in making charitable gifts to Trinity, please reach out to Trinity's office at 630.629.8765 or secretary@trinitylombard.org and the Board of Stewardship can connect you with a variety of helpful giving resources.



“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”

Colossians 3:23, 24

PRAYER PARTNERS



If you have a prayer request or would like to give an update on someone we have been praying for, please contact Pastor Wagner. Or you can also submit

your request directly to Nadine Anderson at 630.629.2197, or email duke3579@comcast.net. Look for the Prayer Partners coming each month to your email address.



Even thinking about the subject of time may prove discomfoting, but it is not a bad idea - especially at the beginning of a new year. As we look into the new year, we look at a block of time. We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds. And all is a gift from God.

We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or purchase it. Like the air we breathe, time comes to us as a part of life. The gift of time is not ours alone. It is given equally to each person. Rich and poor, educated and ignorant, strong and weak - every man, woman and child has the same twenty-four hours every day.

Another important thing about time is that you cannot stop it. There is no way to slow it down, turn it off, or adjust it. Time marches on. And you cannot bring back time. Once it is gone, it is gone. Yesterday is lost forever. If yesterday is lost, tomorrow is uncertain. We may look ahead at a full year's block of time, but we really have no guarantee that we will experience any of it. Time is one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it. We can worry over it. We can spend it on ourselves. Or, as good stewards, we

can invest it in the kingdom of God. The new year is full of time. As the seconds tick away, will you be tossing time out the window, or will you make every minute count?

* source: Steven B. Cloud

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A WAY TO INVEST SOME OF YOUR TIME, TRINITY HAS MANY WAYS IN WHICH YOU CAN SERVE. Talk to Pastor Wagner or contact Trinity's office at 630.629.8765 or secretary@trinitylombard.org.

Recipes coming from the Pews – Recipes or suggestions about food from our “church family” are welcome. If you have anything you’d like to contribute, please feel free to text, or email your ideas or your requests.

Tuna Noodle Bake



**Recipes
Passed Down**

It's easy, and fast. Serve this tuna noodle with a salad or nothing at all. Done!

Ingredients

- 4 cups cooked extra wide egg noodles
- 2 cans tuna, drained/broken apart
- 2 cups frozen peas, thawed
- 2 cans cream of mushroom soup
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste

Here's how to make it:

1. Put the pasta, tuna and peas into a bowl.
2. Add the cream of mushroom soup, milk, cheese, and salt & Pepper. Mix well.
3. Pour the mixture into a 13x9-inch baking dish. Bake in a preheated to 350 degrees for about 20 minutes.

Midwest Center for Hope & Healing: Christian Counseling - a few steps away

Would you or your family benefit from Christian counseling? Whether you struggle with stress and anxiety, are trying to overcome depression or substance abuse, or think you might need support while coping with the loss of a loved one, or if you are dealing with financial strains, infidelity, or communication issues in relationships, you do not have to feel alone. Midwest Center for Hope & Healing offers a full range of in-person and teletherapy counseling services. Trained and experienced licensed counselors are available with offices at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lombard, Trinity Lutheran Church in Lisle, and in Oak Brook. Call 630.560.1100 or visit <https://mchhcounseling.com>.



While we know that many low to moderate income families struggle to keep food on their tables due to the escalating cost of basic items as well as the weakened economy. There are also individuals and families who struggle with feeding their families on a consistent basis. This past year there has been a greater need. Maybe in some months most people are fine, but there can be other periods of time due to an unexpected bill or reduction in income that can make it more challenging.

We know that the need is **not going away any time soon!** The food pantries we donate to do not have enough to meet the needs of those

who come to them for food. Their shelves have been emptied weekly and they need our help. Trinity has always answered the call to feed the needy in His name and we humbly ask, that you continue to help us re-stock the shelves for the food pantries at St Pius – St Vincent DePaul, York Center and First Bethlehem. We ask for canned goods, staples such as needles, macaroni, spaghetti, breakfast cereal, granola bars, crackers etc.

Ron and Dawn Tyler are the faithful caretakers of our food pantry and will be more than happy to pick up your donations if bringing them to church is a problem for you. *“And they know we are Christians by our love”.*

THERE IS HOPE...

If time alone leaves you struggling with feelings of depression, guilt, grief, anger or regret and there's an abortion in your past, **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 & FYIs...

The Lord receives His own!

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” **John 3:16**

It is with great sadness that we are sharing the news of the passing of Robert "Bob" Gehrt



(January 26, 1930 – December 15, 2021). Our loyal and longtime member was called home to our Heavenly Father. A funeral service was held on December 20 at Trinity.



I might lose battles,
but I will not lose my
faith, nor the will to
keep going with my
God!



God doesn't care if
you pray fancy words,
He just wants you to
talk to Him.



I pray that **2022**
is a better year
for all of us.

All news articles for the next month's newsletter may be submitted to vinjud60@yahoo.com Articles of interest are welcome, as well as suggestions. Please submit by the 20th of the month for publication in the following month's newsletter. This allows time for articles to be proofread and approved by Pastor, in order that each issue might be published by the 1st of the month. Thank you. Questions? Call or text Judy Cuchetto, 630.698.2208, at any time.

*Blessings on
Your
New Year!*