



Pews

It's that time again! It's the Christmas season and is a very special time of the year for us all. We as creatures of habit are so easily pulled into a routine, and this time of the year can be as overwhelming as any. So, since we are about to experience a very distracting time of the year, I wanted to give us a couple of things to think about this Christmas season.

- 1) 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 against the other distractions. This year can be defined by shopping, or party preparations, or the anticipation of travel, or the anticipation of the arrival of loved ones, or decorating, or scheduling which social gatherings we will be attending, and 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 problem is when we allow these things to replace God as number one on our priority list. The reason for all of this craziness is one simple but exciting message – the Creator and Savior of the world is coming in the flesh!! Jesus is coming, and that has profound implications on our life. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will see to it that the Advent/Christmas

message is kept at the forefront of our minds and hearts during all the holiday chaos.

- 2) Remember that the Christmas season is not joyful for everyone. Are you making plans to spend time with loved ones? What a blessing!! But the reality is that not everyone is happy this time of year. In fact, many are hurting and this time of year only exacerbates the pain. Many may not have enough money to pay bills, much less buy all those 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 this time of year. They are hurting and lonely. And with the Coronavirus pandemic limiting who can and cannot be visited, it just makes the problem all the more worse this year. So, please remember those around you. Try not to get so busy and distracted that we aren't taking time to reach out to those who are hurting. A simple phone call or visit this time of year can be very powerful to those in need. 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!

Blessings In Christ,
Rev. Wagner

In person services



Trinity has in-person services under set guidelines on Sundays at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and Mondays at 7 p.m. .

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](https://www.Trinitylombard.org). You will find links to download the order of worship on the home page of the website and in the face book stream.



In-Person Advent & Christmas Services:

Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16, 2020 at 1 p.m.

Services will also be livestreamed on Facebook [@trinitylombard](https://www.facebook.com/trinitylombard)

CHRISTMAS EVE Services:

Thursday, December 24, 2020

In-person Family Service: 3 p.m.

In-Person Candlelight Service: 9 p.m.

The Candlelight Service also livestreamed on Facebook [@trinitylombard](https://www.facebook.com/trinitylombard) and on this page

You are to give him the name **JESUS**, because he **WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE** from their sins.
MATTHEW 1:21, NIV



From the Principal

The students got a little break from wearing their masks all day while over the Thanksgiving weekend. With possible household increased activity or visits with extended families that may have occurred, it was determined to do all day remote learning for the week following the holiday. Each child is able to interact within the class parameters online.

I'm grateful to have a flexible staff that can adapt to the necessary protocol to keep all of Trinity's students safe. Thank you teachers.

Continuing to use caution, we are discouraging in-person visits to Trinity's office. Contact us at secretary@trinitylombard.org or 630.627.5601 or if you have something to pick up or drop off or need information. Our central desk is manned on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Finally, get ready for Christmas! This year the annual worship service will be replaced by a special video celebration prepared by Trinity students and staff. It will be revealed online on December 18. We are excited to share it with you!

Blessings,

Julie Messina

Principal

7th & 8th Grade Teacher

Trinity Lutheran School, Lombard, IL

JMessina@trinitylombard.org

630.627.5601 ext. 205

God With Us:

Advent for Families

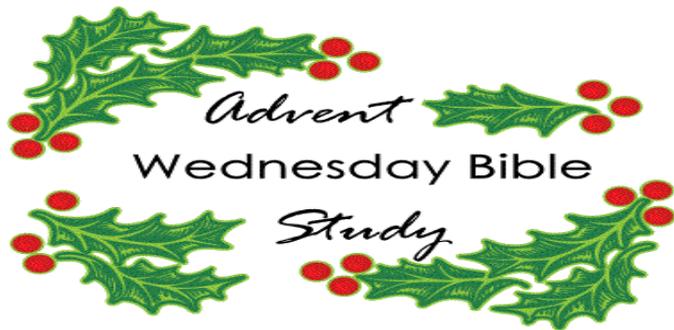
Trinity has sent home with its schoolchildren a

booklet titled "Weekly Advent Activities for Your Family: God With Us." If you would like



a downloadable printable version of these activities for your own family or to share with others, find it on the Sunday School activities page on Trinity's website at: <https://www.trinitylombard.org/advent-activities>.

If you don't have printing capability, you may request a copy from the office at 630.629.8765.



Studying God's Word together is important! **Wednesdays during Advent**, Pastor will continue with the evening Bible classes. They will be based on Advent Scriptures. They begin at 6 pm on **Wednesdays LIVE and are interactive** on Facebook [@trinitylombard](https://www.facebook.com/trinitylombard). Each one is unique so you can join in at any time. Pastor welcomes any of your Bible related questions.



"Ding a lings" are welcome!!

Why not consider joining the handbell ringers in the new year. The weekly practice sessions are a good way to get to know other members. Time and day of week TBD. Ringing handbells is an enjoyable activity that results in beautiful music presented

for the glory of God in worship. Masks and social distancing will be observed. If you have any questions or are ready to volunteer please let me know. Email questions to secretary@TrinityLombard.org or see me before or after services
Thank you.
Kurt Linstead



PRAYER PARTNERS *Bulletin*

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.

Thank you Lord for letting us talk to You, knowing that You hear us. Thank You that we can sit down with You daily for a talk or walk along-side You as we go about our day and just talk to You about a friend. You always listen.

Prayer Connection

Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.

- Max Lucado

Do you ever feel like you need a personal prayer warrior?

Certainly, we all have prayer requests that we want lifted to God. What if we could be each other's prayer

warriors? Not only could you have a listening ear to lift your ACTS (adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication) of prayer to God, but perhaps you could lift another's prayers to God as well. And you just might make a new friend while you are at it! We are excited to announce: PRAYER CONNECTION - a new network that creates a one on one connection, woman to woman, man to man. Interested? Send us your name and preferred method of contact and we will get you CONNECTED! "I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me." Romans 15:30 Contact us: prayerconnection@trinitylombard.org, 630.629.8765, or message us.

Board of Evangelism



When Holidays Can Be Hard...

The holiday season is often hard. There is the busy-ness of

preparing for company and celebrations, the shopping rush, and the feeling that it's all coming upon us so quickly that you'll never be ready.

Holidays can be lonely. It's a time when the absence of missing loved ones can be keenly felt, when fractured families are torn in different ways, and when the pressure of "having to be merry" can actually make one depressed.

Despite all the gift giving, parties, and family gatherings, there are many people who suffer from the "holiday blues." This is why it is important to share the real

message of Christmas with those around us during this festive, and often hectic, season.

A simple, "God bless you this Christmas," can go a long way toward uplifting the spirit of someone who may be struggling.

Thoughtful greeting cards that share the Gospel and Christ-centered gifts that point to the Savior of the world are one way to open the door to sharing the hope that is in our hearts when we know the Lord.

Filling the food pantry and working at soup kitchens are ways to help the material poor but consider offering to babysit for a single mother so she can shop for her children. Share home-baked goodies with the working couple who is rarely home. Offer to pick up or assemble a Christmas tree for an elderly neighbor.

We all need help at times, and positive encouragement is always a good thing. It is also a proven principle that the best way to make yourself feel better is by reaching out to someone else. And the best thing to hand them is the Good News about Jesus.

Jesus said, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

When you're feeling overwhelmed, the money's running out, your marriage is in crisis, or a loved one is struggling with a serious disease, remember, you are experiencing the fruits of a sinful world, to which Jesus is the antidote.

At this season of Advent before Christmas, we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of the Christ child. That same Christ child came to earth for the purpose of going to the cross to die for all of our sins. Share

Christ's gift and the blessings of trusting in Him with those who are hurting. Tell the people who come into your life that Jesus loves them, and that Jesus came to save them too.

The bad news: we will suffer in life and want someone to make it all better.

The Good News: Jesus did.

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you Good News of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.'" Luke 2:10-11

Submitted by,
Lori Solyom



You're invited to
Mary Martha
Christmas
Open House
3 - 6 p.m.
December 12

Christmas Gathering

A beautiful way to be together and enjoy fellowship with your sisters in Christ.

Lisa Zientara is hosting an open house gathering at her wonderland decorated home. There are lots of fun things to look at including 4 trees with different themes.

Address: 68 Adams Ct. - Unit A, Streamwood

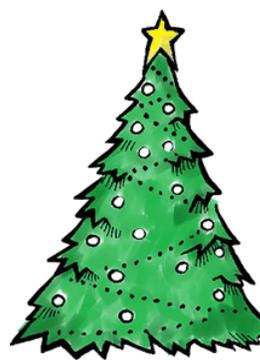
RSVP by text or call Arlene Solyom at 630.715.7764 if you would like to know more about the event or where to park.

& Bring a salty or sweet treat to share



CARING IS SHARING
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 – 11:30am. An individuals 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.



Trinity prairie path Christmas tree

It's been a tradition for Trinity to sponsor a Christmas tree on the Prairie Path in Villa Park. Most years we have strung cranberry and cheerio decorations for the tree as a class activity. Since the students did remote learning the week after Thanksgiving, they had "kits" in a Rubbermaid bin to take home for the project.

For younger kids, there was some stiff cord to string cheerios. For the older ones, there were cheerios, cranberries and a needle. Parents could choose what they felt was appropriate for

their child's dexterity level.

Once their strings were done, they were free to visit and decorate "Trinity's Tree" at a time convenient for their family.

The tree is marked with Trinity's name and located near the Lombard/Villa Park border where Addison Ave intersects with the Prairie Path. It's a nice walk to visit all the different community organizations' trees. You are invited to spot the tree some time this season.

I will also be hanging ziploc baggies containing warm hats, gloves, scarves and socks etc. for the homeless who use the Prairie Path. Blessings.

Jen Gronwold



One Approach to Gift Giving

A comment on a community discussion group prompted thoughts about gift giving. One participant

thought this might be the year to be frugal, another promoted the idea of being more generous than usual. The one that caught my attention posed the suggestion that we give each of our immediate families, "three gifts, like the wise men brought to the Baby Jesus."

"So if we were to give someone three gifts, what would they be?" I asked. The anonymous contributor suggested that the gifts be 1. A WANT, 2. A NEED, 3. SOMETHING SPIRITUAL.

That interesting idea might come too late this year for those of us who are ready for Christmas mid-summer or for those of us

who spent the stay-at-home months obsessively shopping online, however it presents a new framework for giving. And a guide for people scratching their head and searching stores for the "perfect" present.

For example, A young child might want a toy, need new clothes, and be blessed by a play nativity or Christ-centered coloring book. Your spouse might want their own copy of a "fav" film, need a remote starter for the car, and appreciate a DVD of hymns or a daily devotional.

Some places to look for Christ-centered gifts, online or call for catalog, include:

- Concordia Publishing House: cph.org – 800.325-3040
 - Dayspring: dayspring.com – 877.751.4347
 - CTA, Inc. (Christian Tools of Affirmation): ctainc.com – 800.999.1874
 - Christian Art Gifts: christianartgifts.com – 800.521.7807
 - Lifeway: lifeway.com – 800.458.2772
- Online marketplaces such as Etsy.com and Amazon - <https://Smile.Amazon.com> – also have broad selections of Christian gifts, easily found via onsite search.

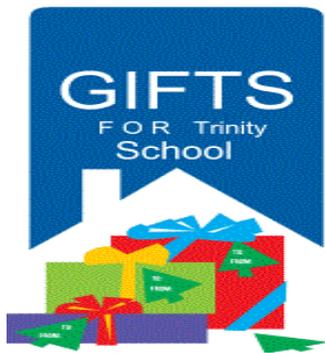
GIFTS THAT CAN SAVE YOU TAXES...

Even if you don't itemize – you can deduct a \$300.00 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.



Give a gift to help Trinity Lutheran School and get an Illinois Tax Credit

Would you like your gift to Trinity to earn you an Illinois tax

credit? Empower Illinois makes that possible. This win-win arrangement allows you to take a 75% 2020 tax credit on your donation to scholarship at Trinity Lutheran School. This is an opportunity to invest in the future of Trinity and open opportunities for more families to afford a Lutheran education. If you would like to learn more about the state tax credit program, visit EmpowerIllinois.org. Contact Trinity's office if you would like assistance in navigation the “how tos” of making the donation and receiving the tax credit.

ADDITIONAL GIVING IDEAS...

#GivingTuesday

In response to the commercialism of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday promotes philanthropic giving.

#GivingTuesday is recognized annually on

the first Tuesday following Thanksgiving. Even if you missed the actual day, December 1, Trinity would still be honored to receive your #GivingTuesday gift at any time during December.

Online Shopping

If you shop online via

Amazon, you can sign up to

donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Log in to your Amazon account through smile.amazon.com and designate Trinity as your charity – or log in direct at:

https://smile.amazon.com/b?node=15576745011&ref=pe_732550_434054570



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.

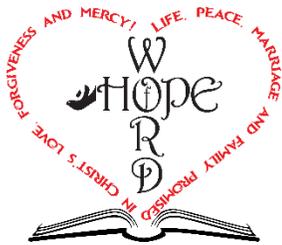
CONFIDENTIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

If you should need help becoming an online giver at Trinity, setting up regular gifts and

offerings, making a special designated gift or memorial, setting up an employer matching donation, giving through Empower Illinois, establishing a legacy gift, or obtaining a copy of your giving records, please contact Trinity's office at 630.629.8765 or

secretary@trinitylombard.org and a member of our Financial Committee will contact you to provide confidential assistance.

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of light..." James 1:17



God has not forgotten you "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you." Hebrews 13:5c

Word of Hope Offers Help for Sadness

Are you uncomfortable attending church? Does the focus on the Baby Jesus make you sad? Are you struggling with secret guilt from an abortion in your past? If you suffer from feelings of depression, guilt, grief, anger or regret as a result of an abortion, there is forgiveness and healing. Word of Hope offers confidential counseling, support, resources and referrals for anyone dealing with the aftereffects of an abortion, whether recent or long ago. If you or someone you know is suffering secretly because of abortion, call 888.217.8679 or email info@word-of-hope.org. Word of Hope is caring and completely confidential.

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.



Recipes
Passed Down

Lisa Zientara was willing to share her mom's favorite **Vienna French Toast** recipe. It is sooo good!

Vienna French Baked Toast

- 1 12oz. loaf of French bread cut into 1" slices
- 8 eggs
- 2 C. milk
- 2 C. half & half
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- ½ tsp. nutmeg
- ½ tsp. cinnamon
- ½ tsp. mace

TOPPING:

- ¾ C. butter softened
 - 1 1/3 C brown sugar
 - 3 T. dark corn syrup
 - 1 1/3 C. coarsely chopped pecans
- Heavily butter a 13X9 pan. Fill pan with bread slices. Cut smaller pieces and push them into the hollow spaces. Set aside. In mixer beat eggs, milk, half & half, vanilla, and spices. Pour mixture over bread slices. Refrigerate covered overnight.

In the morning, make topping by combining all ingredients. Spread topping over top. Bake at 350 for 50 minutes or until puffed and golden.

Updates & FYI's



God called new members to our church last month.

Welcome to the

Harrison Family....

Mike and Karen

Amelie, Aidan, Ara

News about Trinity family members.....

Bob Gehrt is still in hospice. Lord we continue to lift him up to Your throne, we trust Your timing Lord.

Caroline Norderud is still in hospice care. Pray that our Lord receives His faithful daughter to His loving arms, in His timing.

Steve & Marge Klein are both improving every day, praise the Lord.

Remember our precious homebound during the season:

Dorothy Bezold
Lorraine Boehm
George & Judy Dallen
Betty Dudgeon
Norm & Arlene Iverson
Carol Klein
Steve & Marge Klein
Betty Kramer
Ron Nordman
Marjorie Peterson
Don & Linda Robertson

Lord, we are so blessed to have a church family. We thank You for all of the ways that You have provided for each of us. Amen



*Outreach Ministries,
Inc. Redeeming Life A
New Maternity Home
Coming to Illinois.*

Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and serves single, pregnant women and their unborn children. These women are often at-risk of homelessness, domestic violence, or choosing abortion. We are planning to open a new Christ-centered maternity home in the Chicagoland area in the Northern Illinois District (NID) as early as 2021. The Maternity Home Steering Committee and LCEF are partnering with us to preserve life and share the love of Christ with vulnerable young women.

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.