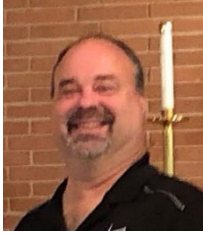


News

from the Pews

January 2025



Pastor's Page

So, how was your Christmas? For me, it seems as if it flew by. It came and went at 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 we will only find it 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 in 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, the Epiphany, which is January 6th, is a Christian feast day commemorating the visit of the Magi, the baptism of Jesus, and the wedding at Cana, in the church. It is also a revealing of Christ and who He is – namely God in the flesh who came for you. God didn't send a representative to come in His place to deal with sin. He instead, came, God incarnate... 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! and see you in church!

In Christ,
Rev. Wagner

²² *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:* ²³ *"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"^[a] (which means "God with us").* Matthew 1:22-23



Scheduled Services

9 a.m. Sundays
In-person and
livestreamed

MONDAY NIGHT weekly services are at **6pm** unless otherwise designated

Enjoy Coffee & fellowship after church services on Sundays.

SUNDAY MORNING Bible Class follows fellowship, meeting in the sanctuary.

SUNDAY SCHOOL, following the service & fellowship time in the Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets, with 9:15 coffee in the Parish Hall, Study to begin at 9:30 in Parish Hall.

WEDNESDAY EVENING in person, **ONLINE LIVE BIBLE STUDY 6PM..**

TRINITY'S OFFICE HOURS: 8 am to 3:30 pm. Questions? Call 630.629.8765 or email secretary@trinitylombard.org

We continue to livestream at Facebook @TrinityLombard and on Trinity's website at TrinityLombard.org.

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

You will find church and school newsletters, preschool news, chapel services, and details about Trinity's extracurricular happenings at TrinityLombard.org. Trinity's recent services, sermons, Bible studies and devotions are archived at: TrinityLombard.org/sermons.

Trinity Lutheran Church and School
1165 S Westmore Meyers Road Lombard, IL 60148

Church: 630.629.8765

School: 630.627.5601

www.TrinityLombard.org

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



Principal's Page

Trinity Lutheran School enjoyed its Christmas break. The students ended 2024 by leading the congregation in a Christmas worship service on December 19th. They read scripture, sang, and played instruments all while giving the Gospel message of Jesus's birth. A reception for friends and family followed afterwards.



Chapel families worked together Friday, December 20th building gingerbread houses. This annual tradition

sees the older students working with the younger ones by assisting the younger ones with the construction of houses using graham crackers, frosting, and assorted candies.

Classes resume January 6, 2025. During this month the second quarter will come to a close. The last day of the quarter will be followed with a three-day weekend as we honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

MAP tests will be taken during the last two weeks of January. Students will be singing in church Sunday, January 26th, and Trinity will end the month with a roller skating unit in PE. What a busy start to the new year!

Yours in Christ,
James C. Baerenklau
Principal, 7th & 8th grade teacher
630.627.5601

Mary/Martha is not exclusive to a few,



it's for all women of Trinity to engage in friendship and service together at our Trinity Church "home".

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

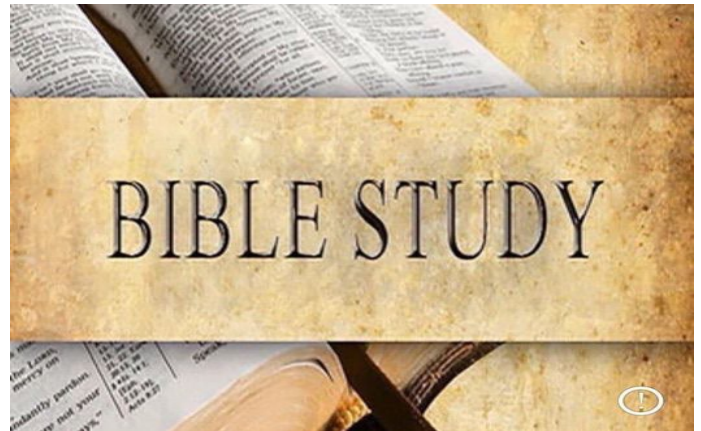
January SouperBowl

Trinity women will be
Gathering on

Thursday, January 9th

Annual SouperBowl Supper
for fun and games in the
parish hall at 6:30 p.m.

All you need to bring is a
smile. Call or text Arlene Solyom for more
info at: 630-715-7764 ,



Wednesday morning in-person
and Wednesday evenings informal
Bible Study online.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS
meets, with 9:15 coffee in the Parish Hall.,
Study to begin at 9:30 in Parish Hall.
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS ONLINE LIVE
BIBLE STUDY on Facebook 6PM

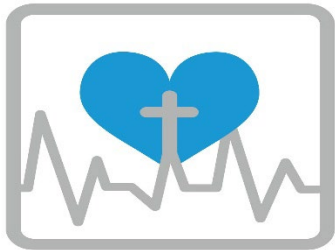


2025 will mark the 1,700th anniversary of the formulation of the Nicene Creed, the basic statement of Christian true understanding and belief. In 325 AD, Christian bishops from across the Roman world (and some from beyond its frontiers) gathered in the city of Nicaea, in present day Turkey, to address a contentious theological dispute: in what sense is Jesus Christ divine?

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



**Lutherans For
Life**

Several years back, Trinity's Mary/Martha group hosted a "Shower of Love" in support of lives that God knits together in women who need assistance.

"Life Shines In Darkness" is the Lutherans For Life's theme for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, which is set for **January 19, 2025**. This year's theme is based on John 1:4-5: *"In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*

The following poem was written for the day we celebrated a shower of love. But, it seems appropriate to share again as we are still living in a "Humpty Dumpty" world today.

Humpty Dumpty World

God's mercy and grace on women who need support bringing their unborn child into the "Humpty Dumpty" world we are living in today. The only King who can put any of our lives together again is an invited guest with us every day. He binds up the broken hearted and mends the trembling bones in our bodies.

In the nursery rhyme **Jack and Jill went up the Hill**, Jack fell down and broke his crown and Jill came tumbling after. In the scripture we know that Jill (Eve) was the one who took the tumble first and enticed Jack (Adam) to fall. His crown of glory was broken as sin came into the world through that fall. We know that it is sin that leads us to destroy the life of an unborn child.

Many families are left to sorrow over a **Little Boy Blue** who wasn't born into this world. A young woman may feel as if she has the right to make that decision. Women and men are being fooled into believing that the life that is being created, can be disposed of. It's as if they are asleep and don't have the eyes of their hearts open to the gift of life that's growing within the woman.

Maybe Mrs. Hubbard Went to the Cupboard and it looked bare. "What shall they eat?", she asked. No one

gave her an answer. It just didn't seem possible that another mouth could get fed. She may have felt like the **Woman Who Lived in the Shoe**. There were so many children, that she asked, "What shall I do?". We are told in the scripture that we should ask and it will be given to us. For those who don't know who to ask or are burdened because they didn't ask, there is often sorrow and a burden of guilt later.

The current **Knave of Hearts** who says that women have the right to choose what they do with their own body steals the joy of the gift of life from those women. Their response to their plea for help, is like the spiders' that comes beside **Little Miss Muffet** to try and frighten her into doing things their way. They offer no help. They offer to destroy.

But there is help - even for those who have in the past, listened to the Knave of Hearts.

Mary Had a Little Lamb - whose name is Jesus. He is the mender of hearts. He is the restorer of souls. He came to bear the burden of sin from the falls of all the Jacks and Jills that come to Him. He brings a pail of water to us when we are baptized into His Kingdom. He offers those who ask, the forgiveness needed.

Though "Jill" or any may have been **Quite Contrary** like the other Mary who had a garden, if we seek the kingdom of God first, He will take care of all of our needs.

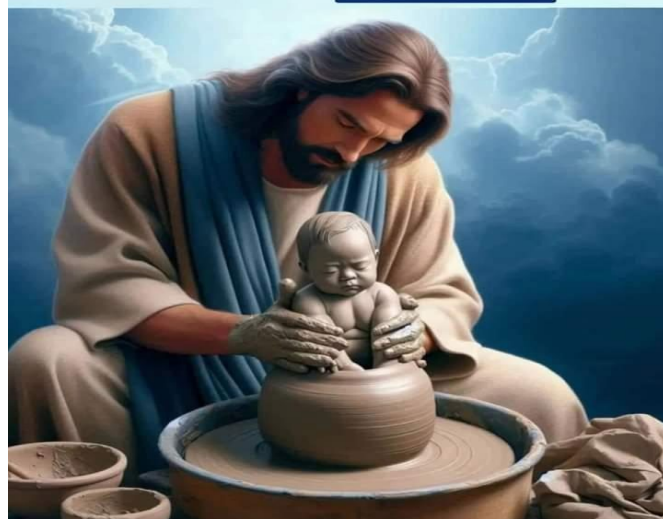
This message today is to remind us that we have a mission through Lutherans for Life to all those yet unborn babies, to offer help and love their mothers who ask, "What shall I do?".

Author: Judy Cuchetto

* "We cannot explain the mystery of physical birth, but we accept the fact of life. Just as surely as God implants the life seed in the tiny seed that produces the mighty oak, He instills the heartbeat in the life of the tiny infant yet unborn."

*This sentence is a quote from a devotional by Billy Graham

**Every child was created by God,
and every child matters to God.
That's why I'm pro-life.**



Isaiah 64:8 "But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hands."



What does the LWML do?

The LWML focuses 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. You become a part of LWML because you are a Lutheran Woman.

It's not too early to consider:

**Announcing the theme for the
2025 National Convention**



Date: June 26-29, 2025

Location: Omaha, Nebraska

Theme: Growing in God's Grace

Scripture Verse: *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and*

Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen (2 Peter 3:18).

President: Eden Keefe

Goal Statement: Through Word and Sacrament, I will grow in grace to serve our Lord and proclaim His glory.

Objectives: Each convention attendee will be:

- Inspired to dig deeper in God's Word.
- Nurtured to share the love of Christ with enthusiasm.
- Encouraged to support missions and our mission goal with joy.

Convention Information and

Registration: Find out all the details about the 2025 Convention, as found in the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Winter 2024* insert.

Ask Lori Solyom if you are interested.

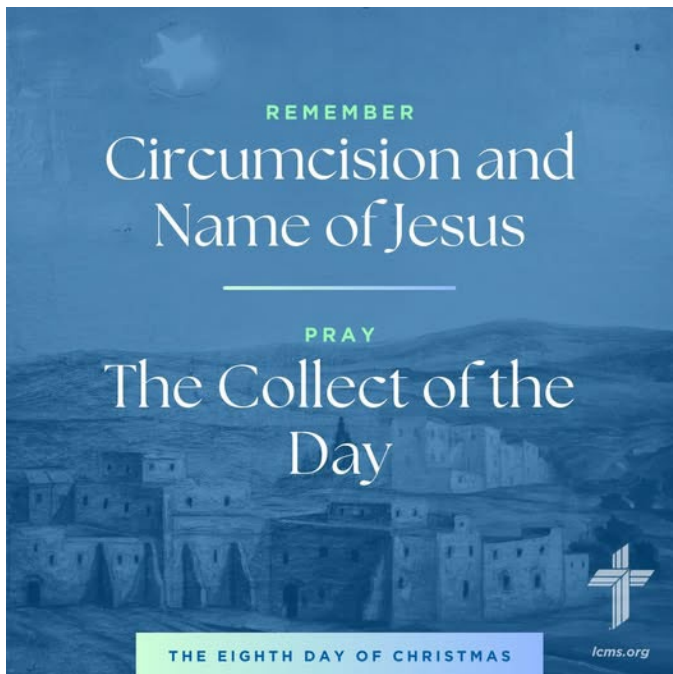
A Prayer for the New Year

Father God, each of us looks forward to seeing what is ahead because it gives us a fresh start according to the world. But thanks be to You, our God Almighty, we have a fresh start each and every day that we are blessed to open our eyes. We pray today that all of our tomorrow's will be blessed with

Your peace. And we also pray that the knowledge that we are Your children with a promise that will never be broken by a Father who loves us, will bring joy anew every day. Praise be to You Father, in the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen

We pray: Lord God, You made Your beloved Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to shed His blood on our behalf. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit that our hearts may be made pure from all sins; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Taken from Facebook page



Jan. 1 is the Feast of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus. It's a festival that's easy to overlook, but it's an important one, because it's the day we remember the first time Jesus shed His blood for us.

"And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb" (Luke 2:21).

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.
