

News from the Pews



November 2021

November is here, and the first thing people usually think of in November is Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving comes near the end of the month. Thanksgiving is often the bridge between the mild weather of fall and the cold weather of winter. Thanksgiving kicks off the holiday season and is the start of the shopping season for Christmas.

But, as often in the case, we tend to look past the true meaning of our holidays. The holiday of Thanksgiving is set aside for us to stop and reflect on all that we have in our lives, and to be thankful for what we have. The tradition goes all the way back to the pilgrims being thankful for beginning a new life in North America.

But...what does Thanksgiving have to do with Christianity and God? Well, even though Thanksgiving is not an official date in the Church calendar, it is a holiday that is acknowledged in many congregations, including ours. Thanksgiving makes sense when we focus our Thanksgiving to God as the giver of all we have. When we give thanks, to whom do we give the thanks to?

Acknowledging God the Father as the creator, giver, and sustainer of all gives Thanksgiving a distinctly Christian perspective. God tells us to be thankful for what we have as opposed to bemoaning what we don't have. No matter how

difficult things are, there is always someone worse off than us. And when we consider what God has given to us verses what we deserve by nature, then we can be very thankful for God's unmerited mercy and grace.

So, please celebrate Thanksgiving this year with great joy. Spend it with the people you are most thankful for. Count your blessings. Be thankful for what you have. But please also let's be sure that we see God as that source of giving that we receive from. Please make time to worship Him as part of your Thanksgiving festivities. Have a Happy Thanksgiving, have a great November, and see you in church!

In Christ,

Rev. Wagner

*"O give thanks unto the LORD,
for he is good: for his mercy
endures forever. * Oh that men
would praise the LORD for his
goodness, and for his wonderful
works to the children of men!"*

Psalm 107:1 & 8



In person services

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Monday

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](#).



Thanksgiving Worship Services

Thanksgiving Eve...
Wednesday, Nov 24, 7 p.m.
In person and Livestream

Thanksgiving Day...
Thursday, Nov 25, 10 a.m.
In person only

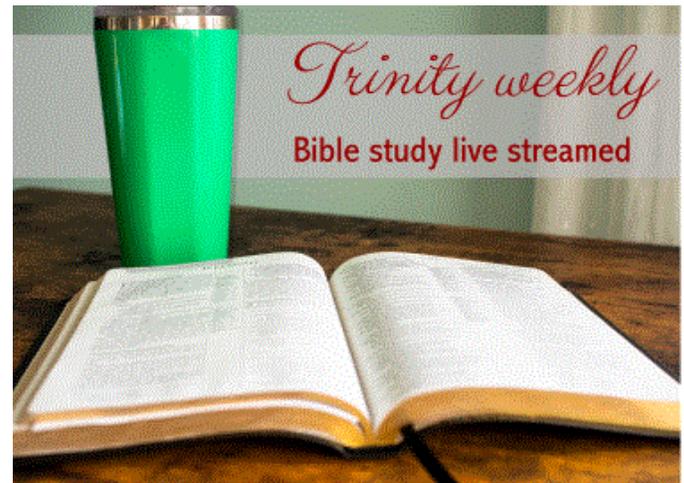
Facebook

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.

IN-PERSON SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASSES: immediately following church, in the Sanctuary, concurrent with Sunday school for children ages 3-years-old through 8th grade, which meets in the parish hall.

Wednesday morning in-person classes meet at 9:15 a.m. in the sanctuary.

PLEASE NOTE: FACE MASKS ARE STILL REQUIRED FOR IN-PERSON CLASSES.



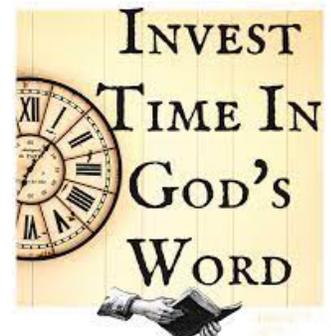
Studying God’s Word together is important!

Pastor Wagner leads Online Bible Study, Thursdays at 6 p.m.

LIVE on Facebook [@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 at [TrinityLombard.org](#)

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





From the Principal's desk

November can be a bit of a turning point during the school year. For the first time, the weather is cold more often than not, parents and teachers have their first conferences, and students look forward to the first multi-day break at Thanksgiving.

In sync with the season, the Trinity Lutheran School community has much to be thankful for. We give thanks for family friendly fun...

Trinity families ended October with a fun Trunk or Treat event, offering students and the community a safe and fun alternative to traditional trick or treating. Thanks to Trinity's PwtL (Parenting with the Lord) for putting on the family-friendly occasion. And thank you to all who helped and participated in the festive fall fun.

We give thanks for dedicated parents and staff... As November kicked off with a school picture day and parent-teacher conferences, we realize that we are better together than we could possibly be alone. Trinity teachers and staff have been working hard to bring students through the first quarter of school. And while it's true that Trinity's educators do all the academic heavy lifting, they are leaning on the prayers and support of Trinity's church family.

We give thanks for the freedom we have to praise God...

Trinity students will lift their voices to the Lord on Sunday, November 14, as they sing during the church service for the first time since school and church were closed over a year and a half ago.

Yes, as Thanksgiving draws near, we have so much to be thankful for: a loving Trinity family, engaged students, dedicated teachers, encouraging parents and grandparents, supportive church members, and a healthy thriving environment.

Students dismiss early on Tuesday, November 23 for Thanksgiving break and will return to school on Monday, November 29.

For most of us, Thanksgiving marks the beginning of the holiday season, and if we are not "Christmas in July" shoppers, we begin to think about giving gifts. One way that you could "gift" Trinity Lutheran School is through a tax-deductible donation through Empower Illinois. By giving to Trinity through this Invest in Kids program, you could also treat yourself to a 75% Illinois tax deduction. (Empower Illinois now accepts credit cards.) To learn more, contact Trinity's office at 630.627.5601 or secretary@trinitylombard.org.

Thank you to each of you for your support of Trinity Lutheran School. We are truly grateful for your prayers and for your support.



A little bragging. Our awesome volleyball team participated in the 22nd Annual Trinity Tigers Volleyball Tournament this past weekend and placed 3rd 🏆 out of 10 teams! Please show them some love & congratulations on their accomplishments! Go CHARGERS! Thank you too, to the coaches!



Thank you also to the Lombard fire department for their regular visits to Trinity Lutheran School.



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



A Lifetime of God's Word

Trinity's Sunday school meets weekly after church each Sunday for children aged 3 through 8th grade. Help your child begin a lifetime practice of setting aside time to explore God's Word. The setting is interactive and Bible-based and the 11:15 a.m. end time is designed to coincide with adult Bible class wrap up (don't leave Bible class early or feel you must hurry to depart it, supervised free play keeps children busy until you get there). Sunday school meets on Sunday mornings right after church in the parish hall.

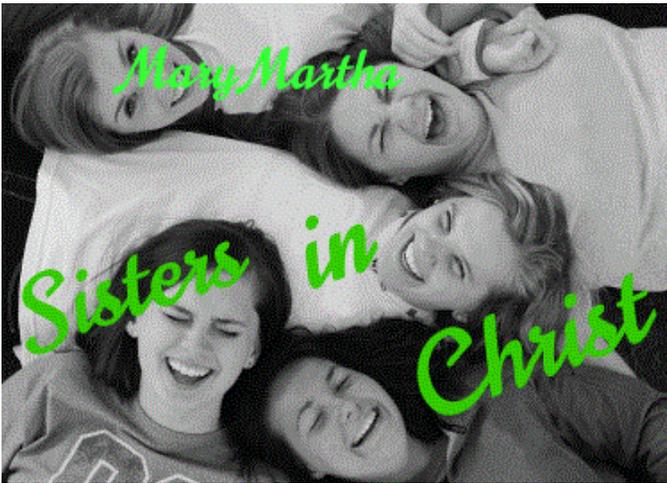
Lori E. Solyom
Sunday School Superintendent
630.640.0426
lorisolyom@gmail.com

Don't miss Trinity's popular annual holiday craft show on Saturday, November 13 from 9 AM to 2 PM. You are invited to shop, come for lunch, or volunteer to help make the magic happen!

The craft show will feature a large assortment of purveyors of handmade, homemade or one-of-a-kind items, as well as a Vendor Village and pet adoption station. The festive event will feature an on-site lunch, free Kids Korner supervised activity tables, baked goods, and a popular resale area, Aunt Teak's Beautiful Junque Emporium.

Donations of hand-crafted items, baked goods, or objects for the rummage sale will be accepted in Trinity's gymnasium, via the back parking lot, Thursday, November 11, between 4 and 10 p.m., or Friday, November 12, between noon and 9 p.m. Proceeds from the event support the service work of Trinity's Mary Martha Guild.

Volunteers are needed. If you would like to help with set-up or on the day of the craft show, contact Arlene Solyom at 630.620.0599. Feel free to post or hang a Trinity Holiday Craft Show flyer - find a downloadable/printable flyer at <https://tinyurl.com/xkhwh3wx>.



Trinity's Mary Martha Guild meets on Thursday, November 11, from 3 - 9 p.m. and Friday, November 12, noon to 9 p.m. in the school gym to set up for the craft show and will work at the show on Saturday November 13 all day (as early as 7 a.m. and as late at 6 p.m.) Come when you can, leave when you must.

We plan on getting together on Thursday, November 11, and again on Friday, November 12. We're hoping you can join us in the school gymnasium to begin setting up for the Craft Fair that occurs on Saturday, November 13. Any and all help to set up Thursday or Friday and help work Saturday at the Craft Fair, would be appreciated. This is the only fundraising event that sponsors the Mary Martha Guild's supporting service activities in the church.

All women of Trinity are considered a part of Mary Martha 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 an evening of friendship.

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



Fall LWML Rally at Trinity Lutheran in West Chicago

Several women from Trinity were privileged to attend the Fall Rally on October 30. They were served a delicious brunch. A great devotion was given by Pastor Fred Gaede of West Chicago. The keynote speaker, Pastor Tom Fischer, from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation, shared about the work of the LHF. What a God pleasing day. Please join in for the next LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission) event - open to all women from Trinity.

Lutheran Women in Mission

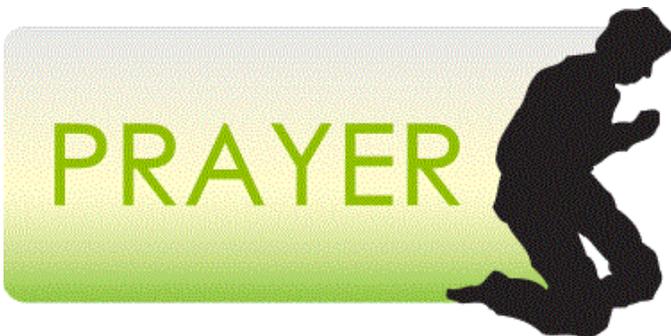


All Lutheran Women are invited to participate in mission work by collecting "Mites." You too, can support great mission work all over the world and

in our own back yard thru this simple thoughtful way of giving. Mite boxes are filled as each woman puts in their "mite"... which is what they are able to contribute. It can be coins, dollars or a check. A box to hold the Mite Boxes is at the back of the church. The mites are then sent to LWML to be used for mission projects here and around the world. The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is the official women's 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.



- *As Christian Women — We live as redeemed children of the Triune God.*
- *In God's Word — We live in joyful response to the Holy Scriptures.*
- *Mission-Focused — We answer God's call to share His Gospel at home and abroad.*
- *Embrace Diversity — We are sisters in Christ who value and benefit from each other.*
- *Servant Leaders — We are called and equipped by God to serve others.*



“Praying For Our Loved Ones”

The Board of Evangelism has begun an initiative to pray for our family members who need Jesus. All YOU need do to get involved is to write the first name (even the name “anonymous”) of your family member(s) and turn it into the BOE.

The first responsibility of the Board of Evangelism is to: Encourage Prayer in church and home for sincere evangelistic concern toward all people inside and outside of the church. [quoting Trinity's Constitution]

The plan is to hold a *Concert of Prayer* for the Salvation for our loved ones at a future date.

PS. The focus is to pray for the salvation of our families, but if a friend or neighbor's name sneaks in, I don't think the Lord Jesus will mind.”

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Blessings,
Board of Evangelism



#GIVINGTUESDAY

Tuesday, November 30, 2021, is a special day - #GivingTuesday.

This is day that offers a charitable and

philanthropic response to the modern materialism of Black Friday and Cyber Monday. #GivingTuesday, designated annually as the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving, is a day when all are encouraged to “give for good.”

Understanding that the ultimate good in this world - and the next – comes through Christ alone, this is a wonderful time to give an extra gift to support kingdom ministry. You are invited to prayerfully consider a special gift to Trinity on this #GivingTuesday. Your church and school are deeply appreciative of your gifts and offerings.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A SPECIAL GIFT TO TRINITY ON #GIVINGTUESDAY, YOU CAN GIVE:

1. online at <https://tinyurl.com/vbb68ns> - or click the green donate button at www.TrinityLombard.org
2. Mail a check payable to Trinity Lutheran Church to: Trinity Lutheran Church, 1165 S Westmore-Meyers Rd., Lombard, IL 60148.



TRINITY'S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IS FINALLY UNDERWAY

After a 19-month Covid related delay, Trinity has finally officially launched a Capital Campaign,

“Bringing Light to Our Community.” 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. Trinity has already raised \$25,000 of this goal. As you contemplate your part in this campaign, you can keep track of progress on the thermometer chart in the parish hall. You will find specially designated envelopes for donating to “Bringing Light” in a basket below the thermometer and on the Stewardship information table in the parish hall. To make a gift to the campaign online, go to Trinity’s giving portal and select “Designated Gift” and label it as “Bringing Light.” Submit your suggestions to BringingLight@trinitylombard.org or drop into the star shaped basket on the Stewardship information table.

Board of Stewardship
Lori E. Solyom, Chair
630.640.0426
lorisolyom@gmail.com



Many of our prayers involve asking God to change something in our lives. We ask for healing, rescue from pain, for a better life, and for stable situations. We often ask God to change our circumstances, and there is a biblical model for this happening.

Throughout Scripture, we see stories of God’s [redemption](#) in seemingly impossible circumstances. This miraculous intervention occurs as Daniel walks out of the lions’ den unharmed, as Moses walks out of the Red Sea on dry land, as David walks out of battle with Goliath, and as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego walk out of the fiery furnace unburned.

“If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty’s hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” - [Daniel 3:17-18](#)

*The miracle is that they safely walked out.
Yet the faith story is that they ever
walked in.*

Adapted from “Crosswalk”

Food and Compassion

The need is **DESPERATE!** 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 depleted and they need our help. Trinity has always answered the call to feed the needy in His name and we ask once again, that you make an extra effort 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”.*



As the weather turns colder and the holidays approach, some of our neighbors are hungry. This

Advent, Trinity’s Advent offerings from midweek services and those gifts designated as Advent offerings will go to help provide fresh food options over the holiday season for those who rely on the food pantries that Trinity’s church and school help to supply. This is in addition to non-perishable items.

IDEAS FOR ADVENT GIVING.....

Week #1	Week #2
Box of cereal	Canned tuna
Peanut butter	Dessert mix
Jar of jelly	Applesauce
Macaroni & cheese	Sweet potatoes
Canned fruit	Cranberry sauce
Canned tomatoes	Baked beans
Box of stuffing mix	Box of crackers
Week #3	Week #4
Package of rice	Oatmeal
Pasta	Alfredo sauce
Pasta sauce	Bag egg noodles
Chicken noodle soup	Tomato soup
Canned corn	Mixed vegetables
Canned carrots	Can green beans
Box Rice a Roni	Pancake mix
*Everything on this lists can be purchased at Aldi or Dollar Tree. If you purchased <u>everything</u> at Dollar Tree, it would cost \$28 for the whole month of giving.	



Gym shoes Trinity is collecting gym shoes for a recycling program. Let’s keep the shoes out of the landfills! Shoes must

have mates, tie them together in pairs. Drop them off in the box labeled “Gym Shoes” in the bin near the office or in the Parish Hall. Remember...gym shoes only! Any size, infant to adult will do.



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.

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.



Recipes
Passed Down

3 - Envelope POT ROAST

*Too yummy for words.
Submitted by Lisa
Zientara*

Ingredients:

- 1 Pot roast, 3-4 Pounds
- 1 Envelope Au jus mix
- 1 Envelope Italian Dressing
- 1 Envelope Onion Soup Mix
- 1 Jar Salsa
- Add 1 Salsa jar full of water



Put pot roast in crockpot. Mix all ingredients together and pour over pot roast. Cook on high for 4 hours or medium for 8 hours. Serve on Hawaiian rolls or croissants.

Makes a wonderfully, tasty dish that’s good for Saturday night movies or for company.

Lisa also included a dessert for the feast:



Easy-Peasy Pumpkin Cake Bars

- 4 eggs well beaten
- 1 #2 can pumpkin
- 1 ½ C. sugar
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. ginger
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- ½ tsp. ground cloves
- 1 box yellow cake mix
- ½ C. butter melted
- 1 C. pecans

Mix eggs, pumpkin and spices in a bowl. Pour into a 13 X9 pan. Sprinkle dry cake mix on top of pumpkin. Drizzle melted butter over all cake mix. Spread out chopped pecans over the entire top. Bake at 325 for 1 hour and 20 minutes loosely covered with foil for the first 40 minutes and then remove foil for the last 40 minutes. Top with whip cream if desired.



Healthy Turkey Tradition

Every Thanksgiving or “Friendsgiving” celebration is steeped in traditions. This

year, consider contributing a “healthy turkey” to this time of giving thanks to God. Set a small dish of your favorite veggie dip at one end of a large serving platter. Fan cut vegetables out like feathers towards the other edges of the platter. Cut baby carrots to resemble beak and claws, a red pepper half for the turkey head, and trim with black olive wedges for eyes.

Submitted by Lori Solyom

For Contemplation

Thanksgiving is not just for a day. In today's culture, there is controversy over the celebration of a day that has been recognized in the secular world as well as by Christians as a day of giving thanks. The 1619 arrival of 38 English settlers at [Berkeley Hundred](#) in Charles City County, Virginia, concluded with a religious celebration as dictated by the group's charter from the [London Company](#), which required "*that the day of our ships arrival at the place assigned ... in the land of Virginia shall be yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of thanksgiving to [Almighty God](#).*"

The 1621 Plymouth feast and **thanksgiving** was prompted by a good harvest. The Pilgrims celebrated this with Native Americans, who had helped them get through the previous winter by giving them food in that time of scarcity.

IDEA for THANKSGIVING every day. Once a day for the next month, at your time of choosing, have each family member including children (or you) say out loud, something that they or you, are thankful for. It can be something big or something small.

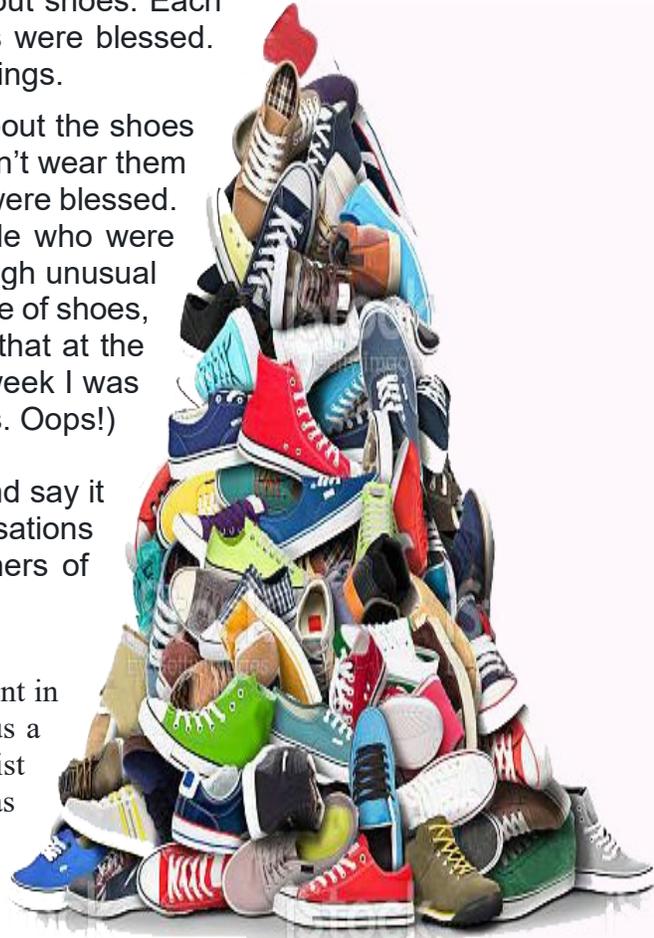
For instance, there was a time when Vince worked for a company that repaired commercial garbage compactors. During that time our five children were all young and of school age. He was sent to remove a compactor from a closed Venture store. They had disposed of their shoe inventory into the compactor not realizing the electricity was not connected, and it could not be compacted. There sat 300 pairs of brand-new shoes. Hallelujah!! We called our friends with 8 kids and another family of 5 kids that all went camping together with us. They all came and picked out shoes. Each family called all of their other friends and all of the families were blessed. Every time I think of that, I give thanks again for God's blessings.

At the time I told some of the employees where I worked about the shoes and their response was, "You were lucky, but my kids wouldn't wear them if they came out of the garbage!". My response was that we were blessed. That started a weeks long conversation with several people who were encouraged to look at how God had provided for them through unusual and different situations. Because there was still an abundance of shoes, they were taken to Chicago Uptown Ministries food pantry that at the time was sponsored by the Lutheran Church. (Later in the week I was asked privately by one person if they could look at the shoes. Oops!)

As we acknowledge God's goodness in all circumstances and say it out loud, it becomes second nature in our everyday conversations to thank God for His blessings and gives a witness to others of God's mercy.

Note: I know that we are all thankful! This is just an encouragement in these challenging times to express our thanks out loud. It gives us a boost in spirit and can give others a lift as well. You might keep a list of all the things that are mentioned each day and use that as encouragement during rough times.

Submitted by Judy Cuchetto



Updates & FMI's

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."

Jaxon Lee Byrd was born on February 10, 2021. He is the son of Ryan Thomas Byrd and Shelby Oppegaard. Jason's sponsors are Amber and Eric Nowak, and Elise and Miranda Contreras. Jason was baptized on October 3, 2021.

Kelsey Michelle Yahoudy, was born March 24, 2021. She is daughter of Michael Yahoudy and Katie Seccomb Yahoudy. Michelle was Baptized on October 10, 2021. Her Godparents are Lindsey Moscatello and Peter Ransom.

Harrison Caldwell, was born on March 7, 2015. He is the son of Anthony Caldwell and Nichole Hart Caldwell. Harrison's sponsors are Matthew Radtke, Eternity Hart and Jessica Ocampo. He was baptized on October 24, 2021.

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>.

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.

GIVE THANKS

**Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son**



All news articles for the next month's newsletter may be submitted by the 20th of the month. Send to vinjud60@yahoo.com Articles of interest are welcome, as well as suggestions.

Questions? Call or text Judy Cuchetto, 630.698.2208, at any time.