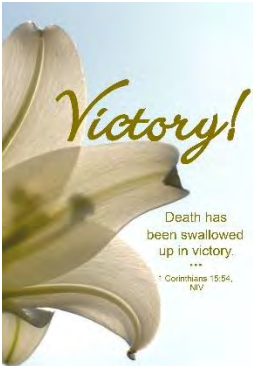


# News

from the

# Pews

March 2024



We are in the season of Lent having received ashes on Ash Wednesday. The theme for Lent, as stated in the book of Joel, could be summed up as “Return to the Lord.” The

point being that we need to return to the Lord, because sin has separated us from Him. And that is not a good thing.

Lent is not a pleasant time in the church calendar, but is a very important time, nevertheless. We’ve gone through Advent, which was a time of anticipation of the coming of Jesus. Then there was Christmas, and we were celebrating the joy of our Savior’s birth. Epiphany followed, in which it was revealed to us that Jesus, who was born in the flesh at Christmas, was in fact God in the flesh.

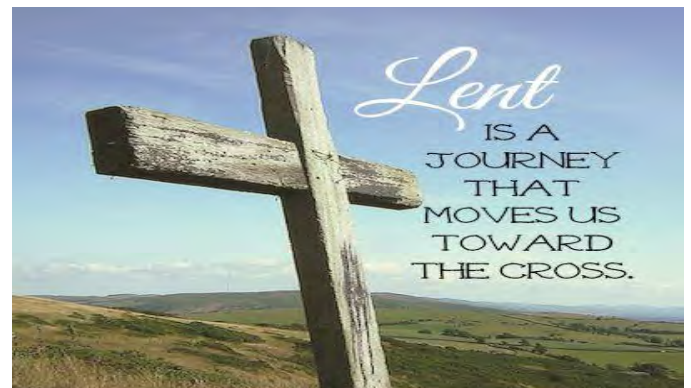
So now that we know who Jesus is, Lent shows us our need of Him. Being separated from God by sin had devastating consequences. God is the only source of life, of love, and of joy. Sin left us by nature oriented towards death, hate, and pain. Lent calls us to the reality of our sinfulness, and its horrific implications, and thus acknowledging our need to return to the Lord.

But the million dollar question is: how can we return to the Lord? This is a problem, because on our own, we are not able to do so.

And because of our sin nature, we don’t want to do so. This shows us the importance of Christ the Savior. You return to the Lord by God’s power through the Holy Spirit, on the basis of Christ’s death and resurrection. Your sin is a major problem, but Jesus is the answer. After spending 40 days in Lent, being reminded of your sinfulness and its seriousness, you are told on Holy Week of the means of your salvation – Jesus dying and rising for you.

So, this season of Lent, we pray for the Holy Spirit to lead us into meaningful self-reflection. We pray for the power to see our sin, repent, and believe in the promise of God to save us. Lent is about reality – the reality of our sinfulness, and the reality of God’s love for us in Christ Jesus! Have a blessed March and see you in church!

In Christ,  
Rev. Wagner





## 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:**  
Class resumes on 3/7, meet at 9:15 a.m. for  
coffee & followed by Bible Class

**LIVE ONLINE WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE  
CLASS, 6 p.m.**

### Lenten services:

**March 6:** Midweek Lent Service

\* 11 a.m. & 5/6 p.m. Dinner/Service

**March 13:** Midweek Lent Service

\* 11 a.m. & 5:30/6 p.m. Dinner/Bible Study

**March 20:** Midweek Lent Service

\* 11 a.m. & 5:30/6 p.m. Dinner/Bible Study

**March 24:** Palm Sunday Services, 9 a.m.

\* (and March 25, 6 p.m.)

**March 28:** Maundy Thursday Services

\* 11 a.m.\* & 7 p.m.

**March 29:** Good Friday Services, 11 a.m. & 7



**March 31:** Easter  
Sunday Services, 7\* &  
10 a.m. with Easter  
Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.  
(no service April 1)

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

**Facebook:** Additionally: keep up with  
Trinity news from church and school on  
Facebook [@TrinityLombard](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard) and  
Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/trinitylutheranlombard/>.

Find the 9a.m. orders of worship, along with  
easy to share video and audio versions of the  
sermons at

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

**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/>.



*Connected: "I  
am and  
vine; you  
are the  
branches."  
John 15*

## We look forward to Lutheran Schools Week March 4-8, 2024

**March 4 - Monday - Connected to Sharing  
D.E.A.R - Drop Everything And Read**

- Students partner to share reading a  
book

**March 5 -Tuesday - Connected to God's  
Creation**

**School Field Trip to Brookfield Zoo**

- Students Wear Spirit Wear
- Bring Sack Lunch - Everything must be  
disposable.
- Exact details will follow.

**March 6 - Wednesday - Connected to  
Jesus Attend Lenten Service at 11:00**

- Dress in Sunday Best

**March 7 - Thursday - Connected to Serving Pajama Day**

- Teachers prepare and serve breakfast to students
- Children make cards for Phil's Friends

**March 8 - Friday - Connected to Family Grandparents' Day**

- 8:30 to 9 a.m. - Grandparents arrive, going to Parish Hall for registration and have morning refreshments
- 9 a.m. - Students and grandparents gather for Chapel in the Sanctuary
- 10 a.m. - Storytime, snacks, and crafts in the gym
- 10:45 - Reconvene to classrooms
- 11:15 - Dismissal - Students may leave with grandparents. Students may also be picked up following our usual after-school procedure.

**March 10 – Sunday – Connected to God**

- Students will sing in the 9 a.m. service

Blessings,

Virginia Terrell  
Interim Principal  
Trinity Lutheran School  
Lombard, IL 60148  
630.627.5601 ext. 205

[tislombard.org](http://tislombard.org)



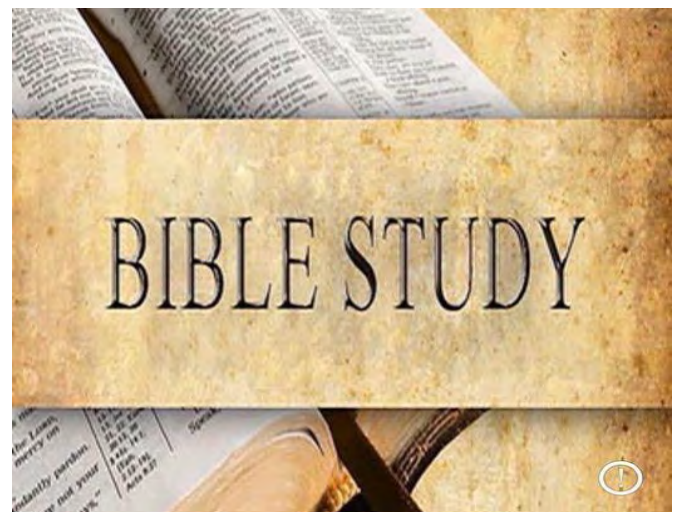
Trinity Families,  
**Join us on Sunday, March 10** for a celebration reception after the 9 a.m. service for Mrs. Arlene Solyom, who is retiring

from teaching in our Preschool. If you are able, please help by bringing some donuts, coffee cake, muffins, fruit, or other snack.

If you wish to be part of the monetary gift for Arlene, please drop off your donation in the office or in the offering plate on Sunday in an envelope marked "Arlene Solyom" **by Thursday, March 7.**

We are looking forward to a joy-filled celebration!

Thank you,  
Trinity Board of Education



*Studying God's Word together is important!*

**Wednesday morning informal Bible Study . IN-PERSON WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS, 9:15 a.m.,** coffee, treats, and fellowship in the parish hall, with study beginning at 9:30 a.m..

**During Lent,**

**WEDNESDAY MIDWEEK LENT SERVICE, 11 a.m. IN-PERSON & LIVESTREAM.**



In 2003 a seven-member short-term mission group from one Northern Illinois Lutheran church presented a week-long Vacation Bible School in Belize. Today, the Belize Mission Society is a year-round ministry...

- ω educating and feeding children
- ω providing home health visits
- ω hosting sports camps
- ω offering tutoring and scholarships
- ω delivering Bible study for all ages.

SAVE THE DATE

SAVE THE DATE

**Belize  
Mission  
Society**



**HEAR:** Cathy Dugar, energetic Executive Director

**LEARN:** about the expanding Belize Mission Programs

**WHERE:** St John Lutheran Church, Lombard

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 13, 2024

**DONATE:** backpacks for elementary school children

**ZONE 6 SPRING RALLY**



For questions or to carpool contact  
Arlene Solyom at 630.715.7764

**Note: At a Zone 6 LWML meeting on Feb 10**

Jan Gerzevske, President of LWML Zone 6,  
appointed **Pastor Steven Wagner** as Zone 6  
Counselor.



## Spiritual Respite Companion Workshop - Trinity Lutheran Church, Lisle

- **April 20, 2024**  
**12:30 - 4:30 p.m.**
- **Spiritual Respite Companion  
Workshop**
- **Trinity Lutheran Church, Lisle**  
**1101 Kimberly Way**  
**Lisle, Illinois 60532**  
**Ticket Price Free**

Dear Friends in Christ,

For the first time ever, we are thrilled to present Spiritual Respite Companion Care Workshops across the NID. We have partnered with 6 Lutheran Churches. One of them is likely to be near you. If you know of a family with someone living with special needs, seeking Christian fellowship, spiritual growth, and a sense of belonging, our workshops are designed to meet those needs.

**Why engage in Spiritual Respite  
Companion Care Training?** In our LCMS  
churches and across the nation, there is a  
growing need for Spiritual Respite Companion  
Care. Consider the life-long members of your  
congregations who, due to illness or life-  
changing conditions, are no longer able to  
actively participate in worship. Despite these

challenges, they still possess a deep desire and need for Christian Fellowship. As we are all called to establish a culture of belonging within the Body of Christ within our congregations, members embracing each other in fellowship lifts the burden of the pastor as shepherd of the flock. Spiritual Respite Companion Care focuses on these needs rather than the needs of medical health care. Other agencies are available to do that work. We seek to lift high the cross of Jesus in practical daily living experiences.

Serving Him

In Ministry By and With People with Disabilities

Dennis Pieper

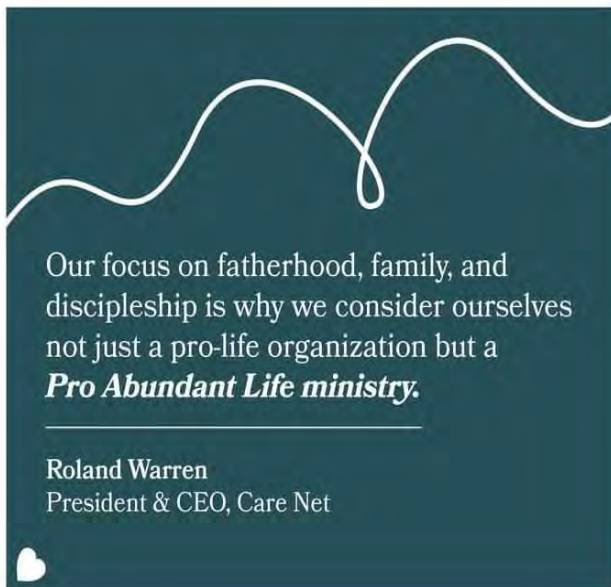
Director of Ministry Facilitators

Voice of Care

P.O. Box 771 Lombard, IL 60148

708.759.4954

dennispieper@[voiceofcare.org](mailto:dennispieper@voiceofcare.org)



Care Net, led by President and CEO Roland Warren, is a ministry focused on the gospel and discipleship.

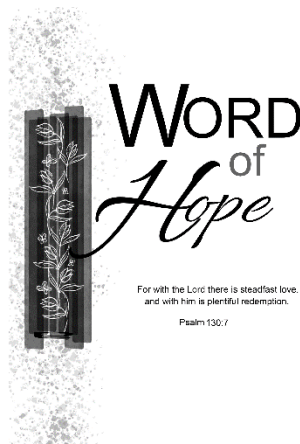
Learn more about how fatherhood, family, and discipleship impact abortion and beyond in this LifeChat: <https://hubs.ly/Q02mctRQ0>

#CareNet #LifeChat #Discipleship

## DO YOU HAVE CHRISTIAN FRIENDS WHO SUPPORT ABORTION Learn How to Talk to Pro-Choice Christians About Life!

We often think we need to convince "the culture" to be pro-life, but there are millions of Christians who profess to be pro-choice, too. More than half of abortions are among women who profess to be Catholic or Protestant. So, what does the Bible really say about life? What do the Great Commandment and Great Commission have to do with abortion?

*Curious about this issue? Go to <https://carenetresources.org/online-learning/> to get free e book online.*



### There is Help!

Did you know that men, as well as women, can struggle with feelings of depression, guilt, grief, anger or regret, as the result of an abortion? If

you are hurting, 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](mailto:info@word-of-hope.org). It's caring and completely confidential.



**LUTHERANS  
FOR LIFE**

*Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors  
to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life*



## 2024 Illinois March for Life in Springfield

April 17, 2024  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The 2024 Illinois March for Life is  
Wednesday, April 17 in Springfield.

Join us for a Matins service prior to the  
march at Trinity Lutheran Church (2nd  
and Monroe, across the street from the  
Capitol) with SID President Tim Schaar  
preaching.

The rally then begins at noon and  
the march at 1 p.m. We look forward  
to seeing you as we witness to the  
sanctity of life.

*It's never too Late!*



With fifty two weeks in a  
year, the pantry would  
never be bare...  
If everyone brought 1  
food item a week it would  
always be ready to share.

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.

To contact Ron or Dawn Tyler or if you have  
questions, please call the church office..

Trinity Lutheran Church and School  
contributes to the local food pantries: St.  
Vincent de Paul, York Center.  
Questions? Contact Trinity's office at  
630.629.8765 or  
[secretary@trinitylombard.org](mailto:secretary@trinitylombard.org).

"Eating is not an optional "habit", it's a  
necessity."



**AMERICAN HEART  
ASSOCIATION  
HEARTSAVER  
CPR & AED**

**Saturday, March 2  
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Space for 10 participants The cost is \$12 per participant and includes the Heartsaver Booklet. There is space for 10 adult participants to learn CPR for adults, Children and Infants, including AED use and how to help choking victims. Completion card if skills are passed.

**AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION  
FAMILY AND FRIENDS CPR  
PARTICIPATION CLASS**

**Saturday, March 2**

1-3 p.m. Space for 15 participants The cost is \$5 for Booklet. Learn the skills needed for Adult, Child and Infant CPR, choking and AED use in a relaxed environment. This is a participation, not a certification class. No certification card is given.

Call Church/School office  
at 630.627.5601 to register

## Maher to read Lee Strobel's 'The Case For Christ'

By [Nicole VanDyke](#), CP Reporter Thursday, February 15, 2024



Comedian Chris Distefano urges Bill Maher to read Lee Strobel's book "The Case For Christ" during an episode of the "Club Random Podcast" released on January 21, 2024.

Comedian Chris Distefano recently urged Bill Maher to reconsider his position on faith, particularly Jesus and Christianity, by reading apologist [Lee Strobel's](#) popular book, *The Case for Christ*.

In the Jan. 21 episode of Maher's "[Club Random Podcast](#)," Distefano discussed his Catholic upbringing and shared how Strobel's bestselling book led him to have a deeper faith in Jesus as an adult.

Distefano hailed the work that Strobel, a former atheist and investigative journalist-turned-Christian apologist, put into researching the life of Jesus on Earth and His claim of being the Messiah.

"I believe in Jesus," Distefano told Maher, a longtime religious skeptic whose 2008 movie "[Religulous](#)" shows his own exploration into world religions. During the back-and-forth about Christianity, Distefano said there was a time when he lacked faith.



*God Will Use  
Whom He  
Chooses, to be  
His Witness*

**Comedian Chris Distefano  
urges religious skeptic Bill**



"I went to Catholic school my whole life. But after reading this book *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel, the factual evidence that He existed, it's kind of overwhelming," he said.

Maier countered, saying that the "factual evidence that Jesus existed has always been underwhelming."

Following Distefano's encouragement that he read *The Case for Christ*, Maier accepted the challenge but asked, "This is based on what, archaeological finds?"

"Archaeological finds, theological finds," Distefano replied.

Following the 2016 release of *The Case for Christ*, a movie of the same name was made about Strobel's investigation into the life of Jesus after his wife's conversion to Christianity and his efforts to prove her wrong. His in-depth research transformed his life, and instead of finding evidence to disprove the existence of Jesus, he became a believer.

- **Sometimes just speaking to a friend or even a family member that you have been praying for ... and mentioning an article or a book that reflects a true message of God is a strong witness.**

*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



## "Waiting to Shine"

### Look for an upcoming "Shine" event in April

The LCMS Northern Illinois District is shining a spotlight on service from April 12-21, 2024. Throughout the district, groups of 2 or more people are asked to give witness to the love of Jesus through acts of service to their neighbors and communities.

Trinity will be honoring our Military men and women through our "Shine" event. Look for more details in the coming weeks.

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All news articles for the next month's newsletter may be submitted **if possible by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month in order to get proofread and approved by Pastor by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.**

Thank you. Send ,via text or email to [vinjud60@yahoo.com](mailto:vinjud60@yahoo.com)

Questions ... call or text - Editor, Judy Cuchetto (630) 698-2208 at any time.