

# News

from the

# Pews

January 2024



So, how was your Christmas? For me, it seemed 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 season was joyous and exciting. But, then it can often seem as if January brings with it a bit of a letdown.

But why is that? It really is part of the same old story in this world we live in. It has its shares of ups and downs. The worldly celebrations can be like a roller coaster. At the start they build us up and then they quickly end. Nothing is constant with the world. Things are always changing, and change can be hard. We like stability and structure, but stability and structure are very difficult 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 it can only be found in Christ. God and His Word never changes. His love for us, as children of God is always constant. And more importantly, His forgiveness of our sins is constant and never changes. Our sin causes us heartache in more ways than we can count. But God's constant, unconditional

love for you and me is always there, always healing, always comforting, always strengthening – always.

That is the theme we will be seeing in this month's 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 we celebrate in the church, is a revealing of Christ and who He is – namely God in flesh who came for us. 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 and for me!

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

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*" Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you." Isaiah 60: 1*



## 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.



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

**Sunday Morning Bible Class** will meet in the Sanctuary after Coffee & only on January 7 this month. On January 28 there will be a Voters Assembly.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**, IN-PERSON, resumes in the parish hall on January 7 following post service fellowship

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:** The in-person Wednesday class will not meet on January 17 or 24, but will resume on January 31, at 9:30 a.m. Come at 9:15 a.m. for coffee and treats.

**LIVE ONLINE WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS**, 6 p.m. The popular Scripture Night in America will feature "Best of..." reprise broadcasts January 10, 17, and 24.

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

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

Find orders of worship to accompany livestream services, full service videos, Bible study videos, along with easy to share video and audio versions of 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/>.

## What Is Trinity's Stated Purpose

Trinity Lutheran School, in Lombard, Illinois, is a Lutheran school established for the purpose of teaching both heart and minds of children. We strive to work with our students and families as God's creation, blessings sent to us to instruct, nurture, and enjoy. Trinity provides a safe, nurturing, and orderly Lutheran school environment, where children are encouraged to fully succeed. We teach Christ and Him crucified for the forgiveness of sins, mercifully giving life and salvation to sinners. Our teaching, activities, and decisions are grounded at the foot of the cross, where we gain strength and wisdom. Trinity's curriculum and instruction are based in Scripture, as taught in the Lutheran Confessions and Luther's Small Catechism. Forming attitudes and behaviors is a Law/ Gospel approach... teaching God's holy will in the Ten Commandments to recognize sin, as we look to His grace for forgiveness and a fresh start. Our Lutheran teaching and approach to children and families are woven into the curriculum, taught and modeled by the faculty, staff, and pastor. Music to the heart and mind is daily praying Luther's Morning Prayer and Luther's Evening Prayer with the children.

## Looking Ahead:

**Monday, January 8** – Classes Resume after Christmas Vacation

**Friday, January 12** – End of Second Quarter

**Monday, January 15** – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday – NO SCHOOL

**Monday, January 22 – Tuesday, January 30**  
– MAP Testing

Blessings,

Virginia (Ginny) Terrell, Principal  
5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher  
[principal@tislombard.org](mailto:principal@tislombard.org)



## JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

### Top Five Reasons to Bring Your Child to Sunday School

5. How many places can you drop your child off for a safe, FREE time of supervised learning and activity?
4. Mrs. Solyom has to have SOMETHING to do on a Sunday morning!
3. It will be more convenient for you to attend adult Bible class during Trinity's Bible Hour.
2. Your child will have fun learning Bible stories, as we explore how God made us, how Jesus saved us, and how God has a plan for our lives.

And the number one reason to bring your child to Sunday School at Trinity Lutheran Church each week...

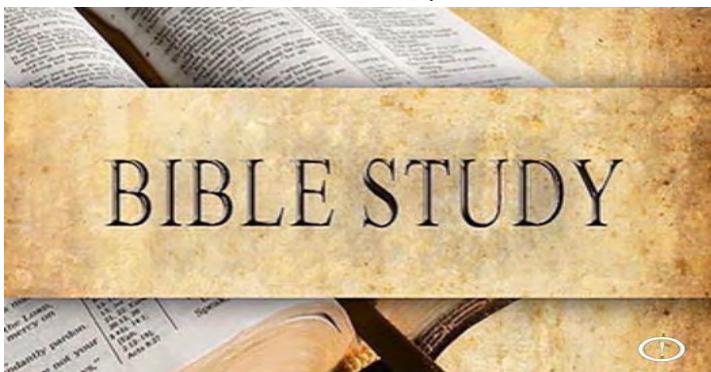
1. You will begin to instill in your child the lifelong habit of spending time in the precious Word of God.

Sunday School meets following post-church fellowship on Sunday mornings, concurrent with Adult Bible Class, and dismisses around 11:15 a.m. Children are welcome to stay until Bible class dismisses.



AS WE SAY GOODBYE TO 2023  
AND WELCOME TO 2024,  
LET'S JOIN OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER  
FOR OUR BELOVED CHILDREN AND  
THEIR FAMILIES. MAY THIS NEW YEAR  
BRING ABUNDANT BLESSINGS, HEALTH  
AND JOY TO EACH ONE OF THEM.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



### Studying God's Word together is important!

**Sundays:** Acts, the Holy Spirit guides the Apostles as they begin to evangelize the world.

**Wednesdays AM:** Genesis, a saga of God's infinite patience with His Chosen People.

**Wednesdays PM:** Insight into the themes connecting Old Testament and Gospel readings for the upcoming Sunday.



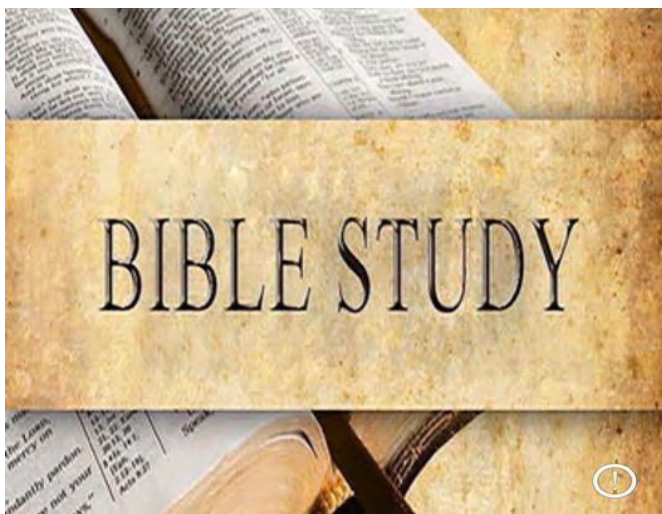
Mary/Martha extends an invitation to all women to gather together to engage in either a bible study, a project or simply fellowship.

**Souper Bowl Supper  
January 4, at 6:30 p.m.**

in the Parish Hall. 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.

Any questions may be directed to Judy Cuchetto 630.698.2208. Call or text.

**NEXT GATHERING: February 1 at 6:30 p.m. in Trinity's Parish Hall.**



**It's NOT too early!  
Trinity Back-to-School from  
Christmas Break**

**Sunday, January 7, 4-6 p.m.**

Parish Hall

**FREE Paying for College Workshop  
with Pizza Dinner**

Dinner for all is followed by supervised playtime for children in the gym, while adults get the help and resources to keep planning for college stress-free.

**Presenter:** Joel Eggerding, CFP® & Thrivent Financial Advisor

*This **FREE** opportunity is co-presented by Trinity's Board of Stewardship and Trinity's PwtL (Parenting with the Lord).*



• **Trivia4Bibles with Pizza Dinner  
Sunday, January 28, 4 – 7 p.m.**

Parish Hall

**Trivia4Bibles** will be an afternoon of fun at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lombard.

Participants will enjoy trivia with prizes, pizza, salad, snacks, and beverages, and **make a free-will offering to help purchase quality child-friendly Faith Alive Bibles** from Concordia Publishing House which currently cost \$33 each. Each year these Bibles are gifted to Trinity Lutheran School students as they enter 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, new students entering above 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and Sunday School students, grades 3 and above who attend schools other than Trinity. *This FUN-RAISING fundraiser is presented by Trinity's Board of Stewardship.*



along with

**LUTHERANS  
FOR LIFE**

**CARE**  **NET**

## January is Sanctity of Human Life Month

Take time to celebrate life this month.

**LIFE SUNDAY 2024 is January 21, 2024**, and this year the theme is **Just As ... I AM**, based on **Ephesians 2:10: *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.***

Here are some things to consider in the spirit of Sanctity of Human Life Month:

Join **Lutherans for Life** for interactive online activities during *Life Week, January 14-20, 2024* – zoom gatherings, challenges, competitions, fun and purposeful, with targeted opportunities for adults, youth, and families. Get the details at <https://lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2024/>

**The National March for Life in Washington, DC, will be on Friday, January 19, 2024**

(<http://marchforlife.org>), with related events beginning the evening of January 17, and the *Illinois March for Life* will take place on *Wednesday, April 17, 2024*, at the State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois, with a rally at noon and march at 1 p.m. (Central). Details at <https://marchforlife.org/illinois/>.

Listen to **Friends for Life**, a KFUE radio podcast from LCMS Life Ministry. You'll hear encouraging words about life and learn how to speak about the intrinsic value of that life when it feels like the world is trying to drown us out. Enjoy guests who address the theological, the practical, the heartbreaking, and inspiring, as Friends for Life invites you to explore life issues in a way that honors our heavenly Father's value of human life, serves our neighbor, and connects us to others who are doing the same. Listen at <https://www.kfuo.org/category/friends-for-life>.

Pray for and support our new Lutheran maternity home in northern Illinois.

**Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries** will open a new home in East Dundee, Illinois, soon. Learn more at <https://www.rlom.org/expansion>. Redeeming Life's Julia Heinz, Director of Mission Advancement, is the scheduled guest speaker at Trinity Lutheran School's Wednesday morning chapel service on January 17 at 8:30 a.m.

Also pray for and support our local Christian pregnancy help ministry, **Caring Network of Illinois**. Caring Network operates seven women's pregnancy centers in DuPage and Will Counties, and has launched community-led, locally funded clinics in Aurora and the Austin neighborhood of Chicago. Learn more

about this Christ-centered ministry that Trinity has been involved with for decades, at <https://www.caringnetwork.com/>.

# Save the Date



LOVE & HONOR ONE ANOTHER  
ROMANS 12:10

## Young Women & YOUNG WOMEN AT HEART

Friday through Sunday  
January 19 to 21, 2024  
at



32653 E Five Points Rd  
Kingston, IL 60145

Featuring:

**Abby Goehring**  
as Humorous Interrupter  
You know Abby as  
Jan Struck's counterpart!



### Young Women and Young-Women-at-Heart Winter Retreat

All women are invited to a Lutheran Women in Mission retreat at Walcamp, in Kingston, Illinois, for a two-night Women's Retreat to refresh and rejoice in the Lord after the rush of the holidays has ended. You can arrive at Walcamp as early as 3 p.m. on Friday, January 19, and activities start with a light supper at 6 p.m. and continue until noon Sunday, January 21. noon. Attending on Saturday only is an

*Retreat*

Cost: \$40  
includes lodging,  
suppers,  
breakfasts  
& lunch)

Saturday ONLY  
cost: \$30

option. The featured speaker is Abby Goehring (known as a Humorous Interrupter from the LWML Convention). Register by Saturday, January 13, online at <https://lwmlnid.org/event/lwml-nid-young-women-and-young-at-heart-winter-retreat/> or contact Arlene Solyom, 630.715.7764. Cost is \$40 for the weekend or \$30 for Saturday only.

#### Looking ahead:

September 21, 2024 @ 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
[Lutheran Women's Missionary League Northern Illinois District Convention](https://www.lwml.org/illinois-district-convention)

Trinity Lutheran Church, Tinley Park, IL 6850 W 159th St, Tinley Park.



# WORD of Hope

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,  
and with him is plentiful redemption.

Psalm 130:7

#### Need Hope?

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.



## Simple Burgers

Recipes Passed Down

Who doesn't love a simple meal after a busy schedule.



### Ingredients:

- 1 large egg
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 pound ground beef
- ½ cup fine dry bread crumbs

### Directions

Can be cooked on an inside griddle or an outside griddle on a grill.

Whisk together egg, salt, and pepper in a medium bowl.

Add ground beef and bread crumbs and mix with your hands or a fork until well blended.

Form into four 3/4-inch-thick patties.

Place patties on the preheated grill. Cover and cook 6 to 8 minutes per side, or to desired doneness. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read at least 160 degrees F (70 degrees C).

Serve hot and enjoy!



## Updates...

*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."

### **BAPTISM on December 31, 2023:**

**Maxwell Jamison Goss**, born July 22, 2023, the son of Nathan Goss and Laura Dickson. His sponsors are Kevin and Katie Goss. His grandparents are Ed and Sandi Goss.



Please keep this child lifted up as he grows in his relationship with Jesus.



## *Fresh Start Idea!*

With 52 weeks in a year, the pantry would never be bare... If everyone brought one 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.**

Thank you to Ron and Dawn Tyler for being faithful servants of the Food pantry.

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."



## *Celebrating the Epiphany in the Bible*

The Gospel reading on the Epiphany, which tells the story of the three wise men arriving in Bethlehem to find Jesus, comes from Matthew, Chapter 2:

*When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews?"*

*We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel."*

*Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage."*



*After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their*



*treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

*And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.*

If you grew up in a household that kept its Christmas tree up until January 6th, you're probably familiar with Epiphany.

*"Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand" (Proverbs 19:21; 20:24)*

*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



The good things would be the blessings from God.



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.