

News from the Pews

November 2020



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

But, as often is 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 what is now 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 *thanks giving* on God as the giver of all we have. When we give thanks, to whom do we give thanks? Acknowledging that God the Father is 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 do not 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 versus what we deserve by nature, we then 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, being thankful for what you have. But a reminder, to all ... please make sure that in giving thanks, we each see God as that source from whom we receive all that is given to us. Please remember to make time to worship Him as part of your Thanksgiving festivities. Have a Happy and blessed Thanksgiving, and have a great November, see you in church!

Blessings In Christ,

Rev. Wagner

In person services



SUNDAY/MONDAY worship schedule: Sunday 9:00 a.m. as well as 10:30 a.m. are still be in place, and Monday 7:00 p.m.

Reminder we ask that you please call the office at 630-629-8765 and leave a voicemail as to your

preferred day, if this is your first time returning to in person services. or you may email Pastor with your preference at pastorwagner@trinitylombard.org .



Thanksgiving Eve at 7pm

Thanksgiving Day at 10 am

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). A downloadable order of worship is attached, and is also available at: <https://tinyurl.com/ya5c8gev>.



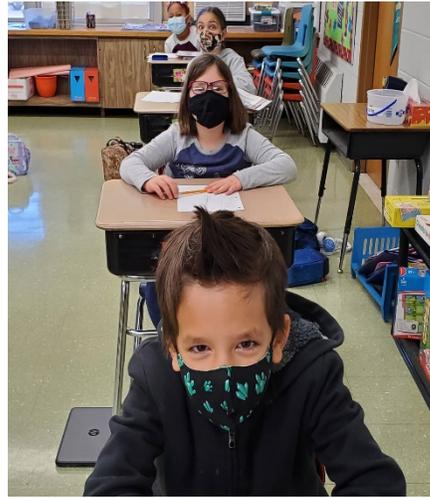
From the
Principal's desk

Our classrooms are set up with safety in mind.



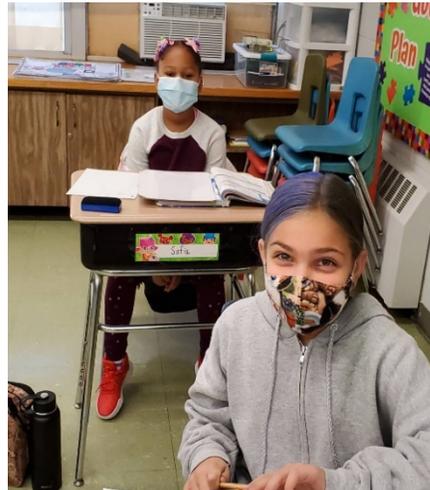
All classrooms are arranged so that the students are socially distanced.

Desks are spaced for maximum safety. We have 'Smart Boards' in classrooms. The students have their own Chrome books.

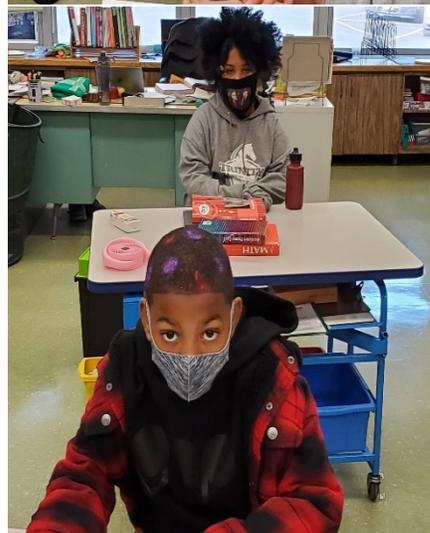


The joy of learning is in getting together at school each day. The children have thrived with the in person classes.

Students had finished out the closing of the school year online. But they remain excited in getting back to the classroom. God is good.



We try to include fun days to allow the students to enjoy laughter. This was crazy hair day. We had many multicolor hairdo's.





We have other fun days as well.

Pajama Day, Silly Hat Day among a few.

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

Blessings,
Julie Messina
Principal

7th & 8th Grade Teacher
Trinity Lutheran School, Lombard, IL
JMessina@trinitylombard.org
630-627-5601 ext. 205

WEDNESDAY MORNING CHAPEL AT TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL



Trinity Lutheran School chapel led by Principal Julie Bramos Messina, with missionary Joe Boway. He focused on telling others about

Jesus, because, as the Gospel of John 8:32 says, "you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Joe, the founder of Liberian Children's Ministry, started Lutheran schools in Liberia to provide for the educational, and the spiritual needs of the children and their

families. Thanks to Mr. Boway for the reminder that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6). Thank you to Naomi for operating the camera, and 7th and 8th grade for preparing the sanctuary.



Trinity's 5th and 6th grade students helped load school supplies destined for Liberia into the vehicles that will get them as far as Fort Wayne,

Indiana, with missionary Joe Boway. If you would like to send an additional gift to Liberian Children's Ministry to help support Lutheran schools in Liberia, you may still do so, by visiting <http://www.nl4u.org/give/>



Each Trinity Lutheran School chapel service is livestreamed online at Trinity's Facebook page, [@TrinityLombard](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard). If you miss the live broadcast, chapel service links are posted on [Trinity's website on the school chapel page \(trinitylombard.org/chapel\)](http://trinitylombard.org/chapel) and also at trinitylombard.org/sermons.



In the summer we want it cooler. In the winter we want it warmer. Sometimes God gives us a little extra so we can learn to appreciate each season in our life as it comes. It's called contentment.

Just sayin'



Studying God's Word together is

important! Now on Wednesdays!

Pastor offers Bible Study, at 6 pm on Wednesdays LIVE on Facebook

[@trinitylombard](https://www.facebook.com/trinitylombard). Pastor Wagner has great studies each week that hit the mark. Each one is unique so you can join in at any time. He welcomes any of your Bible related questions.



ADDED VALUE

Trinity continues to make in-person church available with social distancing practices as well as online via livestream video. Each week, Pastor Wagner shares God's Word with us through his preaching, and we are spiritually fed by Scriptures in every service.

Did you know that you can get "added value" every week? Each church service blesses us with three Bible readings: usually one from the

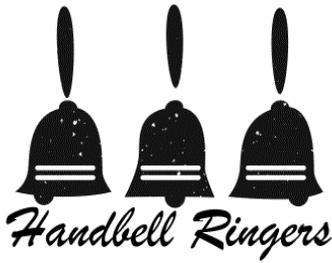
Old Testament, another from the New Testament Epistles, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ – from Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. And each week, Pastor will focus on one of these readings in his sermon, as he shares what God has put on his heart to convict, uplift, inspire, and remind us of what God has done for us and for the world.

The reality is that God's Word is overflowing with so much of importance to His people, that Pastor Wagner can often only scratch the surface – sharing one great truth from one Biblical reading.

Yet...you CAN get more! There is added value to be found each Wednesday evening as Pastor Wagner leads an online Bible study. In this dedicated hour, Pastor leads participants through a more in depth look at two of the lessons from the upcoming Sunday. Those joining in live can ask questions. This prequel to the readings for the weekend's service help to amplify and enrich the sermon message, lending additional layers of understanding to see how God's Word reenforces and interprets itself, without a need for external influences.

All are welcome to enjoy this "added value" option, Wednesday nights at 6 p.m. (Central) LIVE with participation at Facebook [@TrinityLombard](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard). You can also watch live on Trinity's website at [TrinityLombard.org](https://www.TrinityLombard.org). you can also view it on the internet by using www.TrinityLombard.org .

And, you can email questions by noon on Wednesdays, Secretary@TrinityLombard.org Find archived Bible studies, sermons, at <https://www.trinitylombard.org/sermons> Sunday morning study has not yet resumed. When it does resume the online classes will continue. Thank you Pastor!



Reminder!!

HANDBELL RINGERS SOUGHT

There is still a need for additional

handbell ringers for our choir. This is an activity that would require practice sessions that would be held on a weekly basis. 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



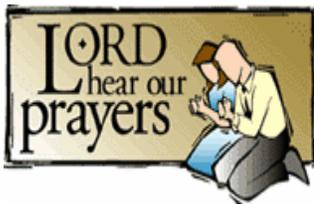
ONE NATION UNDER GOD



Building Connections & Relationships - New & Exciting Personal Prayer Initiative

As most of you know, Trinity's current method to pray for other members is either via the Prayers Partners bulletin or announcements made during our services. These are prayer requests that we encourage the entire church to be praying for. However, have you ever felt uncomfortable sharing your request with all of the members? Perhaps your need for prayer was so intimate and personal that you were scared, ashamed, or just plain intimidated by the fact that everyone would know? Well, that's where our new personal prayer initiative comes in.

Over the course of the next several weeks and months, we will be asking you to join us on this new and exciting journey here at Trinity. The Board of Evangelism will be used as the conduit to connect you, one on one, with another member so you can pray with and for each other, keeping these topics between just the two of you. Woman to woman. Man to man. Names will be chosen at random so you may be a seasoned Lutheran and get matched up with a Millennial, or an Elder and be matched up with a high school student. The methodology you use to do this will be completely up to you. Some may prefer to talk on the phone, while others may enjoy texting. Perhaps a socially distanced face to face



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.

It is not joy that makes us GRATEFUL, it is gratitude that makes us JOYFUL

coffee or brunch may be the way you want to go. The key is to build this personal relationship through prayer and connection. If you would like to become involved, please email your name and phone number ONLY to prayerconnection@trinitylombard.org OR call the church office with the same information. We will be connecting you with a fellow member in the weeks to come. Please watch your email, Trinity's Facebook page as well as weekly announcements for further updates. Please pray for much fruit to come from this outreach.

Shine On,

Lisa Ottley
Chairman, Board of Evangelism



**You're invited to
Mary Martha
November 5th,
7:15 pm.**

Women coming together in Christ's name as sisters. Thursday, November 5th, all are invited to meet together for fellowship and a bible study out of the LWML Quarterly. We will meet in the home of Judy Cuchetto, 118 S. Ardmore Ave, Villa Park. There is always lots of laughter and good desserts. This is a very casual group.

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.

Last month 9 women met to pray for our nation. Please continue to pray and know that God is in charge.



LIFE & LIBERTY 2020

The Northern Illinois District Life Task Force recently hosted

Life & Liberty: Faith, Family, and Freedom featuring Focus on the Family's Tim Goeglein. Tim, a lifetime Lutheran Church Missouri Synod member, was former special assistant to President George W. Bush, and is the author of *The Man in the Middle: Faith and Politics in the George W. Bush Era* and *American Restoration*. Enjoy his excellent presentation (at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Elgin, IL) here: <https://youtu.be/rtjIDXHQ6eA>.

Trinity's Sunday School Online



Update ...once again, until Adult Bible Class begins in person on Sunday mornings, Children's Sunday School will continue online.

During this time, families are encouraged to visit Trinity's online Sunday School portal: <https://www.trinitylombard.org/sunday-school-activities>. Regularly updated, the page includes story time, coloring, crafts, devotions, projects, and more. Some items are downloadable to print. If you do not have the ability to print, please email and request the desired Sunday School activities via mail, at secretary@trinitylombard.org. Please include your mailing address.

Adults or youth who would like to volunteer with Sunday School when in-person Sunday morning class resumes are invited to contact Trinity's office at 630.627.5601 or secretary@trinitylombard.org.

Blessings in the Name of Our Risen Savior
Jesus Christ,
Lori Solyom

CARING IS SHARING FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Trinity members have been helping to feed the hungry. In partnership with two nearby Catholic Parishes, St. Pius and Sacred Heart, we have been supplying the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry, which provides food for people in need of it throughout the local area. In addition to food contributed by the congregation, Trinity school families brought non-perishable items of a different color each day for over a week, resulting in a sizeable increase. Trinity's youth also participated in a socially distanced version of the annual trick or treat for food pantry items. Toiletries were also collected, some of which will be distributed to veterans at Hines VA Hospital in Maywood. A portion of the collected food will be sent for distribution in the city of Chicago from the food party of our sister church, First Bethlehem. Thanks to all who contributed!

If you, or someone you know in the area, is in need of food, call 630.300.4350. Leave a message with your name, phone number, address, and the number of people in household. You will receive a call back to arrange a date and time for a local Knights of Columbus volunteer to deliver groceries.



Thanks to Trinity members Dawn and Ron Tyler for being the movers and shakers behind Trinity's participation in this community service.



BEING THANKFUL IN THE MIDST OF COVID-19!

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Are we thankful for COVID-19? That's hard to imagine, but can we be thankful in the midst of it? Even though it's not a circumstance we desired or even imagined, it is what we are dealing with at present.

The words of the Apostle Paul were not issued lightly. This man suffered torment and prison, eventually dying for his faith in the one true God – the Living Christ.

So, what things might we readily give thanks for in these difficult and uncertain times? Consider this short list:

1. **God is sovereign.** He is still God. And He is in charge. Romans 8:28 assures us, *"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose."*
2. **God is with us.** He is working in our lives. Our loving Father is using these sufferings to continually infuse us with

HOPE through His Holy Spirit. Romans 5:3-5 explains, “...we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

3. **God is perfecting us.** In the book of James, we are invited to consider it joy when we are tested. It is how God perfects and completes us – teaching us to trust in Him more wholly. James 1:2-4 reads, “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”
4. **God's Church is alive.** Rejoice in the ways that God has drawn His church far beyond the pews to reach out in new ways. Whether we were ready or not, Trinity and churches around the world found ways to be creative and resourceful in sharing the Gospel and continuing in God's Word, proving to the world what we have always known...that the church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a place...the church is its PEOPLE!
5. **God will accomplish His will.** We can be thankful to see God at work, closely at hand, in our lives and the lives of others. In words attributed to 19th century preacher Charles Spurgeon, “God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart.” Paul certainly believed that, as demonstrated in Acts 16, when Paul and Silas were jailed for proclaiming salvation through Christ. They prayed and sang hymns to God, who sent a

great earthquake, freeing them and bringing about the conversions of their Philippian jailer. God works in the midst of crisis to accomplish His will. We can trust He will do so even during a global pandemic.

Submitted by:
Lori Solyom



Congregation Chair

Dear fellow members of Trinity,

I would like to thank all of you for your support of Trinity during the period of a global pandemic. I send a thank you also to the congregational leadership for both the school and the church. Much has changed in the way we do things, but we still do the things that are important to how we lead our lives.

We have had to change what we wear and where we stand when we are in public places. And though not everyone is in agreement on what is “right”, we can all agree that we need to consider the thoughts and feelings of those around us.

To that end I would like to thank Pastor Wagner and the Elders for putting forth a policy for worship, and more importantly enforcing that policy, that is designed to protect the health of our congregation during worship. This policy includes members and Pastor to wear a mask while in the church and during the service, except while speaking in the front of the church when not near other members, social distancing in the sanctuary, a change in

the way communion is served, monitoring the temperature of parishioners as they enter the church, and social distancing during and after services.

The school principal and teachers have implemented many of the same, and more, practices in the school. If you don't like wearing your mask, imagine wearing your mask while trying to get 10-15 children to keep theirs on too.

The members of the board of Trustees deserve a round of thanks as well. Keeping a church and school facilities like Trinity's running in normal times requires a huge time commitment and effort. Adding to that providing the additional maintenance that is needed during this pandemic has required more of their valuable volunteer time.

The board of stewardship, treasurer, and finance committees have also had to adapt and change the way church finances are looked at. Thanks to the work of this dedicated group of people Trinity was able to apply for, attain, and use money from the government PPP loan. Which, with the guidance of this group, Trinity had use of interest free. This allowed Trinity to maintain its payroll and other expenses – health in property insurance, etc. - in a timely manner.

Thanks to all these actions the pandemic has not been spread through our church and school and we have been able to maintain live church services and school. Please thank our Pastor, Principal, staff, and board members for protecting our congregation and school children to the best of their abilities

This pandemic has brought about some changes at Trinity that have broadened our outreach. Thanks to a great group of volunteers Trinity now live-stream worship services and bible classes over the internet

which can be viewed around the world either live or can be viewed at a later time. Not only are our services viewed by many across the country, but with a Canadian view to our bible study, we have reached international status! These streaming services can be viewed by going to Trinity's own web-site, Trinity's Facebook page, or Trinity's YouTube page. Thanks to other staff and volunteers Trinity also reaches out through other social media platforms as well.

A big thank you needs to be given to YOU, the Trinity congregation. Without your continued support none of this would be possible. You are making possible the Great Commission of the resurrected Jesus Christ asked of (commanded of) us - "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Mathew 28:16-20.

Lastly, a prayer of thanks to God for loving His creation so much that He provides and makes known the source of salvation for us all.

Sincerely,

Kris Johansen
Congregation Chairman
Trinity Lutheran Church - Lombard

#GIVINGTUESDAY

Tuesday, December 1, 2020, 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, especially those made during this challenging time. WAYS TO 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

Blessings, Lori Solyom
Board of Stewardship Chair



CARING NETWORK CELEBRATION was held virtually at Trinity on October 22



Trinity served as one of multiple remote host sites for the socially distanced Caring Network Annual Banquet “Reinvented”.

Dr. David Jeremiah spoke on Psalm 139:13-16

- 13 For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
- 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
- 15 My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of

the earth.

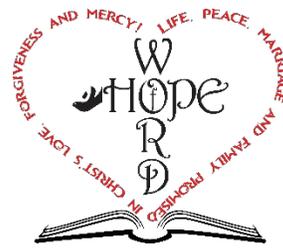
16 Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

CARING NETWORK IS COMMITTED TO:

- Welcoming women with unconditional love and without judgement
- Help women choose life over abortion through practical assistance
- Display integrity and earn trust in every interaction and service
- Support and present adoption as a viable choice
- Never discriminate on any basis in providing services to the community

You can still enjoy the banquet virtually, including encouraging words from Dr. David Jeremiah of Turning Point Ministries.

<https://youtu.be/irhu663igk4> or learn more <https://www.facebook.com/caringnetwork/>



Are You Struggling? You never thought it would be you that needed help. God has not forgotten you “I will never desert you, nor will I ever

forsake you.” Hebrews 13:5c

THERE IS always HOPE...

With holidays coming up, if your heart is aching because of a decision that was made and you’re struggling with feelings of depression, guilt, grief, anger or regret about an abortion in the past? Word of Hope can help. The enemy of God wants you to stay in that pain. The Word of Hope offers confidential counseling, support resources and referrals, for dealing with the

after-effects of an abortion, to allow God's grace to heal you. 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.



**BRINGING LIGHT:
TRINITY'S CAPITAL
CAMPAIGN**

The launch and promotion of Trinity's Capital Campaign, *Bringing Light to Our*

Community, is currently on hold, like many programs during these times when meeting together is restricted. Our three-tiered initiative, focusing on 1. Trinity Lutheran School expansion and promotion, 2. Accessible bathrooms in church and school, and 3. A new, modern LED sign at the intersection of Roosevelt and Meyers Rd., was halted before it could get underway. In the meantime – the campaign is quietly and steadily receiving donations. We have currently collected about 8% of our \$65,000 dollar goal. An official launch will be rescheduled after the New Year, but in the meantime, you are welcome to designate gifts to the campaign. Your suggestions and comments are welcome at BringingLight@TrinityLombard.org.

Lori Solyom
Chairman, Board of Stewardship



This year Trinity's Youth Group will again be selling wreaths and other Christmas greenery.

The 2020 youth group wreath order form and pictures are in the Parish Hall by the wreath display. There are also photos of the products in the Parish Hall.

Please turn in your order to the wreath box in the Parish Hall or bring it to the church office. Make checks payable to: Trinity Youth Group. Orders are due by Monday, November 9. (Earlier is better!)

The best part (aside from supporting our youth): Wreaths are delivered to your door the Friday after Thanksgiving! No need to go out and buy a wreath or natural garland just to have to vacuum your trunk.

All funds raised will be used to offset costs associated with next summer's retreat. Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, let me know.

Scott Gronwold
High School Youth Ministry



*ANYONE CAN HELP
collect Box Tops and
Labels for Education:*

These coupons appear on many products we all use in our homes: General Mills cereals, Boise computer paper, Campbell soup cans, Zip Lock bags and so much more. There are

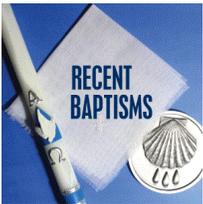
receptacles in the Parish Hall (on the wall of labeled totes) and in the school entryway for you to deposit them. Or you can collect a bunch and mail them to Trinity Lutheran School 1165 S Westmore-Meyers Rd, Lombard, IL 60148. This is a beneficial way to earn extra dollars for our school. If we all do a little we can accomplish a whole lot. Thank you for always supporting our school.



TRINITY'S 2020 HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW POSTPONED

Trinity's 41st Annual Holiday Craft Show, hosted by Mary/Martha, will **not** take place on the second Saturday in November this year as originally planned but will be postponed until November 13, 2021. It takes many hands to put on this event and it's never too early to sign up to help with the 2021 Holiday Craft Show. Call or email Trinity's office to sign up (630.629.8765 or secretary@trinitylombard.org).

Updates & FYI's



Bless those that have been baptized and guide them to follow in Your ways.

Benjamin Ryan Melzer, born on 8/11/2020 – son of Ryan and Dana (Steben) Melzer. Baptized on 10/4/2020.

Michael Patrick Englund, born on 1/15/2020 – son of Sean Englund and Amy Schacht. Baptized on 10/18/2020.

News about Trinity family members.....

Bob Gehrt is in hospice. He no longer is able to take calls. Lord we lift him up to Your throne, we trust Your timing Lord.

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

Steve Klein & Marjorie Klein- joyous update news is *very encouraging*. Steve is at home and goes to OP therapy and Marjorie is receiving home therapy and doing remarkably well. Praise God for their continued physical improvement. Thank God for keeping them safe while they recover and for each of their sisters who have come along side of them.

IT'S A GREAT TIME TO BE THE CHURCH!

Why watch reruns on television or binge movies on Netflix when you can spend time with the Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, former host of The Lutheran Hour and President Emeritus of Concordia Seminary St. Louis? In a webinar presented for Lutherans in the Northern Illinois District, Dr. Meyer shares why "It's a Great Time to be the Church." Watch it at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Ws0OV8GjMk&feature=youtu>

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.