

News from the Pews

September 2021



Well, ready or not, school has begun again! Another year of dropping the kids off for school, helping with homework, parent-teacher communications, fundraisers, and all with the COVID social distancing measures that are necessary these days.....I'm getting tired just thinking about it! But, if this is so exhausting, why do we do this?

Of course, we take our kids to school because getting an education is a very important part of growing up. School teaches our children all of the skills needed as an adult. School helps to develop those gifts and talents that God has given each of us. We at Trinity are *truly* blessed to have a great school here!

But what about us adults? Do we need to learn as well? Of course! We adults learn every day just as we did as children. We constantly learn about our jobs, our loved ones, and our world as we continue to grow into well rounded adults serving God as we serve our family, our employer, and our society and country.

But we sometimes forget that schooling and learning involves more than reading, writing, and arithmetic. It involves more than learning adult stuff. We also need to grow in the knowledge and understanding of the Lord and in His Word. It gives our lives the guidance and the purpose that we need. It tells us how to live in a God pleasing and blessed way, and it tells

us how and why we are saved by God's grace in Christ Jesus.

Once again, this is why our church is so important. It reminds me of the story of Mary and Martha from Luke 10. Martha is running herself crazy trying to manage life's demands, but Mary chose the one thing necessary (Luke 10:42) –which was, hearing the Word of God. Getting caught up in life's rat race is very easy, especially with the challenging circumstances in our world today, but at the end of the day, there is only one thing necessary, and that is Jesus – and you find Him in the church in Word and Sacrament.

Jesus is your Savior. Jesus paid the price for all of your sin. Jesus gives you eternal life, and Jesus leads you through the joys and pitfalls of this life. The world would swallow us up without Jesus, but He is here for you in Word and Sacrament. So, this school year, please remember the one thing necessary for families or singles alike – hearing God's Word preached and receiving His body and blood. Have a blessed September and see you in church!

In Christ,

Rev. Wagner

Our purpose in life is to glorify God. All were created for the same purpose.



Northern Illinois District

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Dear Partners in the Gospel and the Lord's Church,

"What's next?" Many of us have found ourselves asking that question in many circumstances, including recent COVID challenges.

But before we despair, disengage, become bitter or lose heart, we are reminded, "He (Christ) is before all things, and by him all things hold together." (Colossians 1:17) We are being held together, and you and I are being held in the blood stained hands of Jesus. We rejoice in His eternal promises. No wonder we are hope-filled and grateful. I sincerely thank you for all the time, effort and wrestling over the last year and now again. Your labor is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

While not always obvious, we ask **"What is in the best interest of the congregation and those who gather?"** Never far away is, **"How does this decision effect not only my personal perspective but also my neighbor whom I love in Christ?"** As hard as it can be, there are times we need to set aside our personal opinions for the sake of others. *We do not set aside the Word of God!*

Governor Pritzker mandated, effective August 30, 2021, that face masks will be mandatory, regardless of one's vaccine status, in all public indoor spaces throughout the state. We have been in direct contact with the Illinois Department of Public Health and have been informed that the mandate does include houses of worship. In all our conversations with the Alliance for Defending Freedom, we have heard that it is their understanding that there is not a religious liberty issue when dealing with mask wearing in public worship or in our Lutheran Schools.



Worshipping together

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 into all buildings according to the governor's announcement, beginning 8/30/21, until further notice.**
- .. Please leave your mask in place
- .. 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](#).

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 am. and Bible studies air each Thursday evening at 6 p.m.



Wearing masks does not limit our opportunity to assemble to hear God's Word and receive His sacraments. It does not prevent us

from carrying out the godly task of teaching children in our schools. Out of consideration and respect for the government as well as for the vulnerable among us, it would seem wise to comply with this mask mandate.

We are regularly praying for good government.

Included in the Governor's orders is a mandate that school workers either be vaccinated or submit to a weekly COVID test to show they are not carrying the virus. As always, we would urge, in Christian love and care for our neighbor, that each of us would respect the health decisions of each person, as they determine whether they will be vaccinated or undergo weekly screenings.

The Northern Illinois District contacted Alliance for Defending Freedom (ADF) with some specific questions given to us by church and school representatives related to the Governor's Executive Orders on August 26, 2021. (The ADF is an organization that strives to ensure religious freedoms continue.)

I'll end with these engaging words: **"Christ be my Leader by night as by day; Safe through the darkness for He is the way. Gladly I follow, my future His care, Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there."** (LSB 861 st. 1) With you, my eyes are on Jesus, Hebrews 12:2,3

Rev. Dr. Allan R. Buss
President
LCMS Northern Illinois District
(excerpts from letter sent to all LCMS churches)



From the
Principal's desk

Trinity Welcomed Back Students

Students were welcomed back to Trinity Lutheran School's 161st academic year which began on August 25. Classrooms were ready, teachers were set, and students arrived in anticipation of the 2021–2022 school year



Big cheers to Trinity Lutheran Church member and 2021 Trinity Lutheran

School graduate Nathan Lichucki, for his caring project as an Eagle Scout. Nathan has spent a lot of time at Edward Hospital in Naperville. He receives regular infusions there to treat his rare disease. Following a treatment on Thursday, Aug. 5, he had another stop to make when he delivered more than 500 items for a teen library in the child life department for pediatric patients. Nathan is a longtime Scout who is working toward achieving the highest rank of

Eagle Scout and has been collecting donations for the teen library as part of an Eagle Scout service project. It's a blessing to know that God has worked thru Nathan to use his talents to serve Him by bringing joy in reading to others.

To learn more about Nathan's project:

<https://www.dailyherald.com/.../naperville-scout-creates...>

Blessings,

Julie Messina

Principal, 7th & 8th Grade Teacher

JMessina@trinitylombard.org

630-627-5601 ext. 205

Trinity held a successful community event



Trinity's first-ever community shredding event, held August 28, was a wonderful outreach. The contracted shred truck from ProShred

shredded 5,400 pounds of documents while on site (that's ALMOST 3 tons!). Trinity volunteers handed out cold bottled water and about 70 welcome bags and a lot of Thrivent t-shirts to those who stopped by with shredding, recycling, and food pantry donations.



The parish hall pews and several tables with bags and boxes were filled up with non-perishable food items and paper goods for the local food pantry. These items will be distributed through the St. Vincent De Paul Society at St. Pius

Catholic Church in Lombard and cash donations to the effort will go to help stock the food pantry at First Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Chicago's near northwest side. Thank you to the 19 volunteers who hydrated up, slapped on some sunscreen, and made it happen! It couldn't have happened without you: Benjamin, Ed, Sandy, Arlene, Robert, Rich, Ron, Julie, Stephanie, Sophia, Jacob, Barb, Burke, Kris, Hannah, Lori, Rachel, Amber, and boy scout Nick (and kudos to Trinity's church leadership boards for representing!). Thank you to Sidney from ProShred, and to Thrivent for subsidizing the community service event with a Thrivent Action Team grant to help us #livegenerously. Thank you also to the Trinity members who donated the cost of the shredding and cases of water, and to those from Trinity and the community who participated and were generous with their food pantry donations. Praise be to God, who then provided a beautiful day for this opportunity to allow Trinity to serve neighbors in a very visible, tangible way.

Sponsored by:

Boards of Stewardship, Evangelism, Education and Elders

Food Pantry benefitted from

Saturday's event The donated food will be available to all needy Trinity members and Villa Park/Lombard residents. If you know of

someone who might benefit from this service, please pass on this information. An individual or family can go to the Food Pantry located at St. Pius X Church, Madison and Meyers Roads any Monday morning from 9:30-11:30 a.m. for pre-packaged food. Drive up on the north side for non-contact service only. Food can be received only twice per month. You will need an I.D. and wear a face mask Please stay in your car and call 630.300.4353 when you arrive in the Madison Street parking lot of St. Pius X if no one is there outside. If you cannot drive there yourself, Call Ron Tyler at 630.696.6183.



Northern Illinois District Lutheran Women in Mission

All Lutheran Women are invited to participate in mission work by collecting "Mites." Learn how you can support great mission work all over the world and in your own back yard thru this simple thoughtful way of giving.



Mary Martha will begin the season with a Salad Supper. All women are personally invited to come and enjoy an evening of friendship.

We look forward to getting together on September 2, at 6:30 p.m. on the walkway outside of the Parish Hall for a delicious Salad Super.

Please bring a salad to pass. To RSVP or for more information, text or call Arlene Solyom at 630.715.7764.

Fall Gathering

**September 25 – 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at
Good Shepherd Church Elgin
.....in person and online featuring
Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries**

An optional meal has been added along with afternoon activities for in-person attendees

Ingathering for the Fall Gathering will be determined by the needs of Redeeming Life Home.

Redeeming Life Ministries was one of the recipients voted on and received a grant of \$100,000.00 at the LWML Convention in Lexington, KY.

Redeeming Life currently operates maternity and transitional homes in Central Florida for single pregnant women who are homeless, abused, and/or at-risk of abortion. This grant

will help Redeeming Life support a called deaconess to serve in a new location in Carpentersville IL. Additionally, the funds will help offset the costs, of operating a safe and stable home (rent, utilities, food) and provide program services for the women to be served. Redeeming Life's goal is for their residents to learn to live independently and offers many opportunities for the women to understand that, in Christ, there is forgiveness, peace, and unconditional love.

Mite Goal for all projects

2020-2022

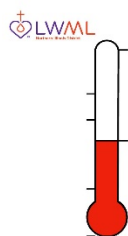
\$ 157,000

Received as of

July 31, 2021

\$80,491.36

\$76,508.64 needed
to reach our goal



Zone 6 Rally

October 30, 2021

Trinity West Chicago

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Arlene Solyom, Trinity's voting delegate at the National Convention this past June, will give a report on the

wonderful convention.

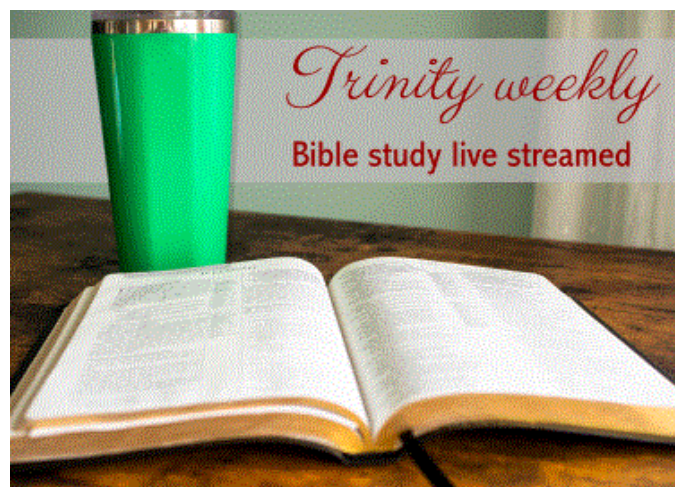
If you would like to attend either the Fall Gathering or the Zone 6 Rally, please text Arlene Solyom at 630.715.7764

The next LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission) National Convention will be June 22-25, 2023, in nearby Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The women of the Northern Illinois District will be helping to host this event, so mark your calendars and plan on being part of this dynamic event! Learn more about the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, both nationally and in the Northern Illinois District, at lwml.org

Trinity's Holiday Craft Show is set for Saturday, November 13, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Featuring a full house of purveyors of handmade, homemade or one-of-a-kind items. Crafters and vendors are welcome to apply to participate. Find an application at <https://tinyurl.com/9sy3rv3c> and the promotional flyer at <https://tinyurl.com/5vd7b9dm>.



Studying God's Word together is important! Pastor offers Online Bible Study, Thursdays at 6 p.m. LIVE on Facebook [@trinitylombard](https://www.facebook.com/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 on the internet using www.TrinityLombard.org

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

As it is written, "Things that no eye has seen, or ear heard, or mind imagined, are the things God has prepared for those who love Him." 1Corinthians 2:9



ONE NATION
UNDER GOD

Not too early to Plan ahead

The LCMS Northern Illinois District
Life Task Force presents

LIFE & LIBERTY

A Look at Family through the Lens of
Faith and Liberty

Featuring
**Dr. Allan Carlson
& Katy Faust**
October 30, 2021

**Love
affirms
Life**
NID Life Task Force



9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Bethany Lutheran Church
1550 Modaff Road - Naperville, IL 60565

Cost \$25
REGISTRATION REQUIRED
kbwrk123@gmail.com

The LCMS Northern Illinois District Life Task Force presents Life & Liberty: A Look at Family through the Lens of Faith and Liberty, Saturday, October 30, 2021, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bethany Lutheran Church, 1550 Modaff Road, in Naperville. Dr. Allan C.

Carlson, historian, author, and renowned Lutheran conservative social thinker, speaks about Life, Family & The Real Meaning of Liberty [It's Not What You Might Think] and Katy Faust, founder of Them Before Us, discusses Children's Rights in the Role of the Family. Cost is \$25 per person and registration is required. Lunch is provided by Thrivent. To register or get details, contact Kris Blackwell at 630.234.1491 or kbwrk123@gmail.com



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

Slow Cooker Baked Ziti

Too hot to cook but you crave some Italian food.

Try this easy recipe.

It goes against everything you ever learned about cooking pasta. Feel free to pick your favorite sauce.



Ingredients:

- Cooking spray
- 1 pound dried ziti pasta
- 48 ounces marinara sauce
- 1 (15-ounce) container whole milk ricotta cheese
- 2 cups shredded low-moisture mozzarella cheese, divided

Directions:

1. Coat a 6-quart or larger slow cooker with cooking spray. Add the ziti, marinara, ricotta, and 1 cup of the mozzarella cheese, and stir well to combine. Sprinkle with the remaining 1 cup of mozzarella.
2. Cover and cook until the pasta is cooked through and the cheese is melted, on the LOW setting for 3 to 4 hours or on the HIGH setting for 1 to 2 hours. Serve immediately.

YIELD Serves 6

PREP TIME 5 minutes

COOK TIME 1 hour to 4 hours

RECIPE NOTES

Storage: Leftovers can be refrigerated in an airtight container for up to 5 days.

Good information

how long does it last?

FRESH PRODUCE:

- | | |
|---|--|
| • 🍏 apples: 4-6 weeks in fridge | • 🌽 corn: 1-3 days in fridge |
| • 🥑 avocados: 4-7 days at room temp | • 🧄 garlic: 3-6 months at room temp |
| • 🍌 bananas: 2-5 days at room temp | • 🍇 grapes: 7-14 days in fridge |
| • 🍓 berries:
blueberries: 1-2 weeks in fridge;
strawberries: 3-7 days in fridge;
raspberries: 2-3 days in fridge | • 🥬 lettuce: 7-10 days in fridge |
| • 🥦 broccoli: 1-2 weeks in fridge | • 🧅 onions: 3-4 months |
| • 🥕 carrots: 3-4 weeks in fridge | • 🍑 peaches: 1-3 days at room temp |
| • 🥒 cucumbers: 1 week in fridge | • 🥔 potatoes: 3-5 weeks in pantry |
| • 🍊 citrus: 3-4 weeks in fridge | • 🍐 pears: 3-5 days in fridge once ripe |
| | • 🍅 tomatoes: 1 week at room temp |
| | • 🍉 watermelon: 7-10 days at room temp |
| | • 🍆 zucchini: 7-10 days in fridge |

For Contemplation

This information is being offered from the editor(Judy Cuchetto), for those who have not seen these reports. If you have been wondering why there is such animosity from young adults toward this country, there is an explanation. Apart from the idea that history repeats itself, the enemy of God has been running rampant and we are being given warnings. There are many reasons that young adults are going away from God. These are

just two of them. #1. This article is from the New York Times paper.

Greg Epstein is the *New York Times*-bestselling author of **Good Without God: What a Billion Nonreligious People Do Believe**. Since 2005, he's served as a **Humanist** Chaplain at Harvard University — an institute that was founded by Puritans, with the intention of educating the aspiring clergy. The school's original motto was "Truth for Christ and the Church."

And now, the university's 40+ chaplains — each representing a different religious community — have unanimously elected Epstein as the new Chief Chaplain.

From the [New York Times](#):

"Maybe in a more conservative university climate there might be a question like 'What the heck are they doing at Harvard, having a humanist be the president of the chaplains?'" said Margit Hammerstrom, the Christian Science chaplain at Harvard. "But in this environment it works. Greg is known for wanting to keep lines of communication open between different faiths."

The dozens of students whom Mr. Epstein mentors have found a source of meaning in the school's organization of humanists, atheists and agnostics, reflecting a broader trend of young people across the United States who increasingly identify as spiritual but religiously nonaffiliated. That trend might be especially salient at Harvard; a [Harvard Crimson survey](#) of the class of 2019 found that those students were two times more likely to identify as atheist or agnostic than 18-year-olds in the general population. * **They are more likely to be anti-American,**

A new study has found that over 60% of born-again Christians in America between the ages of 18 and 39 believe that Jesus isn't the only way to Heaven

— and that Buddha and Muhammad also are valid paths to salvation, the [Christian Post reported](#)

The outlet — citing the [results](#) of Probe Ministries' Religious Views & Practices Survey — also said that for those in that age group, over 30% say they either believe that Jesus sinned just like other people or aren't sure.

#2. In addition, the Christian Post said the study shows a "striking decline" in evangelical religious beliefs and practices over the last decade. The study added that the percentage of self-proclaimed believers who now hold to pluralism has gone up.

More from the outlet:
The study, which interviewed 3,100 Americans ages 18 to 55 in 2020 and looked at various other previous studies, saw a drop in "basic biblical worldview" — God's attributes, the accuracy of the Bible, salvation and Jesus being sinless — from 47% in 2010 to 25% in 2020 among born-again Christians.

The drop in the "expanded biblical worldview" — beliefs about Satan and morals being objective — went from 32% in 2010 to 16% in 2020.

"So, the percentage of Born Again Christians with a biblical worldview (of either type) has been cut in half over the last decade," the study says, according to the Christian Post, adding that it

compared the 18-29 age group from 2010 with the same age group 10 years later, now 30-39. "This result is a startling degradation in worldview beliefs of born-again Christians over just 10 years."

Kerby Anderson, president of Probe Ministries, said that means even born-again Christians "can have a false view of Jesus Christ and embrace a pluralistic worldview" and that "pastors and church leaders just can't assume any longer that the members of their church or Christian organization have a biblical worldview," the outlet reported.

The Christian Post said Anderson attributes the disturbing fall of biblical views — especially among younger Christians — to the media.

He said they are "not paying attention" and are "focused — nearly exclusively, it seems — on their phones, social media and other content they deem more compelling," the outlet said.

Lutherans believe that humans are saved from their sins by God's grace alone (Sola Gratia), through faith alone (Sola Fide), on the basis of Scripture alone (Sola Scriptura). Orthodox Lutheran theology holds that God made the world, including humanity, perfect, holy and sinless. We believe that man sinned by his own free will and that caused a separation from God. Belief that we as humans are sinful and cannot save ourselves from death and damnation leads us to confess our

sins and seek forgiveness and Baptism. This is not of our own, but through the power of the Holy Spirit. There is but one way to eternal life, and that is thru Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for the redemption of our sins and rose again to defeat death and bring us into that saving grace.

There are no other "truths" or as some are teaching, that if your belief in the god of your choice is sincere, that is your salvation.

Lord have mercy on us and forgive us if we stay silent in our witness. Strengthen us to ask direction for that witness, be it thru speaking, or prayer, or action. Of our own, we confess that we are weak. In our confession we ask...forgive us, renew us and lead us. Along with the whole church of God, Lord, Strengthen us.



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.