

Pews



What does it mean to be a Christian? Well, Christ of course! But what about Christ? Are we free to believe anything we want about Him? Does what we confess about Christ actually matter? Being a Christian is about believing in Christ, but what we believe does matter.

After asking the apostles about what the people were saying about who Jesus was, I often think of Jesus' question to Peter: "What about YOU? Who do YOU say that I am?" Just like today, people had different views on who Jesus is. Today, there are a lot of popular views of Jesus, such as "Jesus is my friend", or "Jesus is my inspiration", or "Jesus is a great teacher", and even "Jesus is a great example to follow".

Now, the truth is that all of these things are true. Jesus is most certainly a friend as the hymn, "What A Friend We Have In Jesus", says about Him. He is a great source of inspiration, He is a wonderful teacher, and He is the best example that there is to follow. However, He is much more than just these things. The problem with seeing Jesus in only those ways is that Jesus the friend, Jesus the inspiration, Jesus the teacher, and Jesus the example will do you absolutely no good whatsoever on Judgment Day. They will be of no help at all. Only Jesus the sin sacrificial Savior, can and does save you. You will be declared innocent on Judgment Day because of Jesus the Savior. Jesus died on the cross to BE the final, all sufficient, complete, and total sacrifice for all of your sins forever and ever.

His Good Friday death was His offering to the Father for you, and Easter is the Father's acceptance of the sacrifice as all sufficient. Christ's rising on Easter gave Him final victory over sin, death, and the devil, and the entire point of Christianity is that His victory is *your* victory, received by faith.

Jesus the Savior is the reason you are going to heaven. His death and resurrection are why Christ is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Jesus is your Savior, and that is what makes you a Christian. Look forward with great joy to hearing the Word of your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Have a blessed February and see you in church!

In Christ,

Rev. Wagner

1

⁶ "For God so loved the world,^[a] that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:16,17



In person services

9 a.m. Sundays

In person &
live-
streamed

7 p.m. Mondays

In person only...

Bible Study Resumes (In person, in Sanctuary) on **Sundays at 10:15 a.m.** We're studying the book of Acts

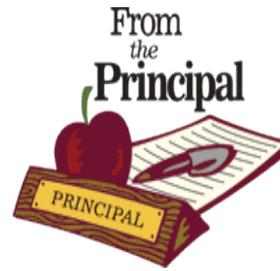
Guidelines still in place for in person worship:
...**Please wear face masks upon entry and exit into church if you are unvaccinated**
...No mask is required while seated on the left side (lectern) of the sanctuary.
...Please leave masks in place if seated on the right (pulpit) side of the sanctuary.
...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](#).

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.



Trinity Lutheran School is a wonderfully busy place to be. As our teachers and staff go about the mission of education and modeling the Christian life to the students in their care, the school year is rolling by quickly. As a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, the school is YOUR mission to Lombard and the surrounding community.

Here are FIVE things you need to know now...

1. **Trinity Lutheran School is accepting enrollment for the coming school year**, which begins on August 17, 2022. Current families are automatically reenrolled but outside registrations and referrals are now being accepted.

Do you know of a family that could benefit from a Christian education for their children aged three through 8th grade? Encourage them to schedule a tour at Trinity. Registration details and forms, contact Trinity's office at 630.627.5601 or secretary@trinitylombard.org.

2. **Trinity Lutheran Summer Camp registration is also open.** Trinity's summer program gives parents peace of mind while engaging students in a combination of learning activities and free play, for a few hours or all day, depending on family needs and preferences. Sign up now with Trinity's office at 630.627.5601 or secretary@trinitylombard.org.

3. **Trinity will recognize this year's Lutheran Schools Week during March 7-11**, marking the theme "In All Things," from Colossians 1:15-20. Trinity is one of more than 1,800 preschools, elementary schools and high schools publicly proclaim God's Word and work among us in schools of The Lutheran

Church—Missouri Synod. Special activities will take place during this fun week of celebrating what it means to be a Lutheran School.

4. **Trinity's academic excellence is measured through regular MAP, or Measure of Academic Progress, testing.** This computerized adaptive testing program helps teachers, parents, and administrators improve learning for all students and make informed decisions for promoting each child's academic growth. Trinity has just completed a round of testing that went well for all student groups.
5. **Trinity Lutheran School is currently undergoing National Lutheran School Accreditation.** As an accredited school, Trinity must regularly revisit its academic, spiritual, professional, relationship, and facilities performance for compliance with national standards for Lutheran schools. Self-study is performed in groups by administration, staff, volunteers, parents, and congregation members to construct action plans that ensure that Trinity reflects and pursues the essential qualities that are expected of Lutheran schools.

As a member of the Trinity family, please remember Trinity Lutheran School in your prayers, and as the Lord allows, in your giving of time, talents, and treasure. Connect with Trinity's office at 630.627.5601 or secretary@trinitylombard.org to learn how you can help or to obtain a Trinity Lutheran School yard sign.

Blessings,
Julie Messina
Principal
7th & 8th Grade Teacher
Trinity Lutheran School, Lombard, IL
jmessina@trinitylombard.org
630.627.5601



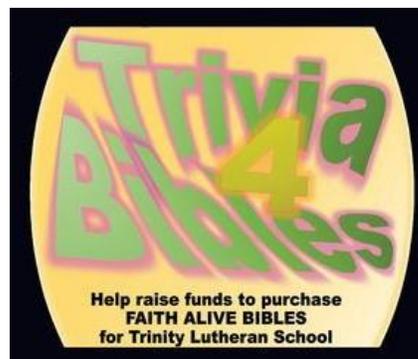
Sunday School

Sunday School
We meet in the parish hall following Sunday's services.

All are welcome. Invite a friend to join you.

Questions? Contact Lori Solyom, Sunday School Superintendent, at 630.640.0426 or lorisolyom@gmail.com.

Trivia4Bibles



Sunday,
February 20
4 p.m. -
6 p.m.

In the Parish
Hall

Trivia4Bibles will be an afternoon of fun at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lombard. Participants will enjoy trivia with prizes, individually packaged meals, 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 \$30 each. Each year these Bibles are gifted to Trinity Lutheran School students as they enter 3rd grade and to new students in grades 3 through 8.



Trinity's women's group, Mary/Martha, extends an invitation to all women to gather together at 6:30 p.m. on **February 10**, in the Parish Hall (this is a change in date from what was published in the bulletin - due to weather concerns.

The light at the end of the tunnel. How do you find it?

We will be doing a Bible study to discover the light together.

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 a time of friendship.

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



"Praying For Our Loved Ones"

Dear friends,

Standing together as one body in Christ Jesus against the huge challenges in today's world, we pray for all of our loved ones to be united with us as part of that body.

And, as we venture farther into the new year, let's aim to focus on Jesus and what He asks

of us; to love our neighbors and share the Good News. May we shine the light of Jesus' salvation on what so many people, including the dear ones on our hearts, need and are searching for.

Let's pray together....

Lord God, teach me today to be a light unto Your path. Open my eyes to what You would have me see today. You give me each day, to be a witness of Your goodness and mercy as I speak to others. Let my mouth and my written words glorify You every day of this life that Your plan gives me here on earth. AMEN

May you be refreshed in His goodness and grace.

Blessings,
Board of Evangelism

LET US PRAY TOGETHER ...

A special prayer service to bring our family members to Jesus, will be held in the sanctuary at Trinity Lutheran Church.....

Saturday, February 12 at 9:30 a.m.

1 Peter 2:25 "For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."





Help for the unborn child as well as the mother of the unborn

child. Care and caring for both is our ultimate goal.

Reflecting on Chicago's March for Life held on January 8



Pastor Harrison marched along with Lori and Rachel Solyom.

President Harrison not only marched, but he was a featured speaker at the evening March for Life Chicago banquet.

Lutherans were well represented among the thousands of life advocates who gathered at the March for Life Chicago on January 8, 2022. Many of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod faithful were decked out with lime green LCMS Life Ministry stocking caps, bright beacons among those gathered on Federal Plaza to hear LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison and other pro-life leaders encourage pursuit of life-affirming action to save the women and children falling victim to Illinois' extreme abortion policies.

President Harrison's opening proclamation sent the crowd wild, as he shouted, "Remember this day well. You were here the year *Roe v. Wade* dies!" Harrison

acknowledged that the state of Illinois has passed the most draconian abortion legislation in the world, laws which have shredded any protection for the unborn.

"This is the moment to be pro-life in Illinois," Harrison declared, "and we're going to do it through prayer."

And in Washington DC on Jan 21

Pro-life Americans across the country recently traveled to Washington DC to attend the 2022 March for Life.



LCMS was well represented again, in DC.



One sign said, "Let God plan parenthood."



to attendees that each life holds value, no matter their ability or size.

“Equality begins at the moment of conception,” said Shaw, who happens to have Down syndrome. “I am proud to be here today to march and show the world that people with disabilities need a chance to live their lives outside the womb.”

Sources: LCMS, Pro-Life Action League, Students for Life of America

The marchers gathered in numbers comparable to years past, leaving people to ask: How many marched for life? The nation’s largest annual pro-life event in Washington, DC, is held on or around the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion nationwide. While the march condemns abortion every year, marchers exhibited a new momentum on January 21, as the Supreme Court considers a direct challenge to *Roe v. Wade*.

Students for Life of America (SFLA) made the estimate of attendance by reviewing footage from their timelapse video capturing the entire 2022 March for Life. Their 150,000 estimate was supported by many other groups.

“The Pro-Life Generation showed up in force to remember the sisters, brothers, friends, classmates, children, and neighbors lost to abortion in our lifetime — millions of priceless, beloved individuals who should be here with us today,” Lauren Enriquez, deputy media strategist for SFLA, reported. “We also showed up to represent the nearly five decades of activism and hard work that have led to this truly historic moment of potentially reversing *Roe*.”

The theme this year, ‘Equality Begins in the Womb’ is exactly represented by Down Syndrome rights activist Katie Shaw, who spoke before the crowd of tens of thousands of pro-life protesters at the annual March for Life in Washington, DC, emphasizing

Lutheran Women in Mission



*Mite boxes support ministries world-wide!
Here are some of the National grants:*

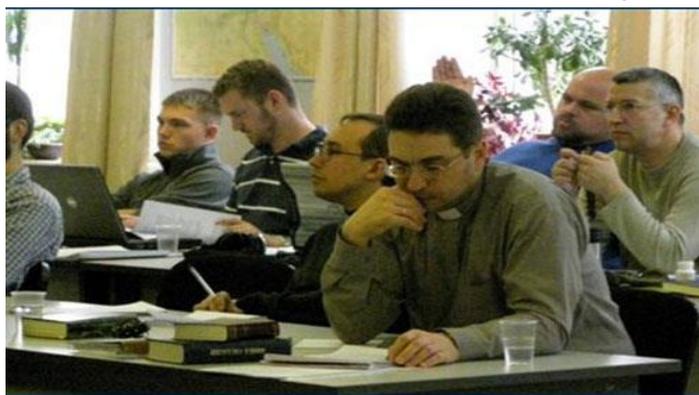
2021–2023 Mission Grants

1. [Deaconess Ministry Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch](#) — Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, \$81,680 **PAID IN FULL**
2. [Healing the Invisible Wounds of War through Horses](#) — Spirit Warrior, Central Maine, \$95,000
3. [Thirst to Learn: Bible Books for Africa’s Children](#) — Lutheran Heritage Foundation, \$100,000: **PARTIAL PAYMENT** of \$15,000
4. [Making the Next Generation of Disciples for Life](#) — LCMS Life Ministry, \$92,000
5. [Helping Hands for Lutheran Deaf Outreach](#) — Lutheran Deaf Outreach, \$50,000: **PARTIAL PAYMENT** of \$15,000
6. [Hope of Christ for Cancer Patients](#) — Phil’s Friends, \$70,000 — **PAID IN FULL**

Each month we will highlight one of the grants approved at the last LWML convention.

February Focus: We put the spotlight on..... LWML Mission Grant #7 for the 2021–2023 biennium, **Training Pastors to Serve the Church in Russia**, \$100,000. This will enable the Siberian Lutheran Mission Society to continue its “Save the Seminary Campaign” to raise funds to endow the seminary’s operations long-term. Check out this ministry at: lwml.org/2021-2023-mission-grant-7.

The Lutheran Church is making a comeback in Siberia and Russia. The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk, Siberia, is training Pastors and Deaconesses to share the Gospel.



We don't often get to see the men in Russia, who are convicted in their heart to confess and follow Jesus. These men desire to become Pastors to lead others to Christ. In today's world, this is extremely important.

Please join LWML in supporting this mission grant. Your mites can be contributed toward the grants at any time.

• Use an LWML Mite box for cash or checks (Mite boxes are located on the back table in church) you can put the whole box in the big mite box and take another box.

Or
Make a check out to Mary Martha and designate it for LWML and put it in the basket for contributions.

NID LWML Convention Grants for 2021-2023

Twenty-five percent of all of the LWML mite contributions made, go to each local District. For our area it is the NID (Northern Illinois District). A separate convention is held in each district, in addition to the National Convention. Each district then votes on the grants submitted for that convention year. One of the grants for the NID 2021-23 convention was for:



LITTLEST AND LEAST OF THESE, DALLAS TX grant of \$42,000

St. Paul Lutheran Church and Christian Academy is located in a poor Dallas community of mostly unchurched families and offers the only Christ-centered preschool, before and after school care, and adult academic and Bible classes. The Academy uses Christian books, music, and Bible stories. There are regular devotional services, and families are encouraged to attend worship. St. Paul is outgrowing their current facility after a single year of operation. Going forward, more space is needed for the preschool, nursery, and after-school educational enrichment. The kitchen serving meals needs to be upgraded to a commercial kitchen. The funds will help with these expenses and will allow the Academy to further expand their mission in the community and bring more to Christ.

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.” Colossians 3:23, 24

Living Out Our Faith

The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, signs, and wonders of Jesus in the world. And this made plain to all that Jesus really is who



He said He was. For “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking enactment of God’s Word.

We are called not just to believe in God in hearts but also to trust in God in word and deed. As James wrote: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22), and again, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works?” (James 2:14). Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only but also in deed and in truth. In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world.

Martin Luther wrote of faith:

Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith.

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God’s grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures. And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

(from Luther’s Preface to the Book of Romans)

So, then, let our faith be active by God’s power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor – in church, in the family, and society – with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.

There are many ways to serve at Trinity. If you need ideas, please reach out to Pastor Wagner or Principal Messina directly or contact the office at 630.629.8765 or secretary@trinitylombard.org.

Board of Stewardship (adapted from LCMS Stewardship Ministry)

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.



- 1 tbs baking powder
- 1/3 cup cold butter
- 1/2 cup chopped cranberries
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 1 Tps grated orange peel
- 1 cup whipping cream

Here's how to make them:

Combine the dry ingredients in a bowl. Cut in butter. Add cranberries, pecans and orange peel with a fork. Stir in 1 cup of whipping cream. Turn into mixture until it all sticks together. Turn out onto a floured board and knead 5 to 6 times. Divide mixture in half. Roll into ball and flatten each ball into 6" circles. Cut each circle into 8 wedges. Place on baking sheet. Brush tops with whipping cream.

Bake at 375 for 13 to 15 minutes.

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

Ernestine's Scones

When Ernestine Dorn was folding bulletins with Vince Cuchetto at the school, she would bring these delicious scones to treat the office staff.



SPREAD:

- 1 - 3 oz pkg cream cheese softened
- 1 tbs powdered sugar
- 1/2 tps vanilla
- 1/4 to 1/3 cup whipping creme

In a bowl, beat cream cheese, powdered sugar, and vanilla until fluffy. Gradually beat in enough whipping cream to achieve spreading consistency.

Scones Ingredients

- 2 cups flour
- 1/4 cup sugar

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>



Thank you for your continued support in restocking the Pantries at St Pius – St Vincent DePaul, York Center and First Bethlehem. We ask for canned goods, staples such as noodles, macaroni, spaghetti, breakfast cereal, granola bars, crackers etc., and you came through as you have done over the years. Reaching out in this tangible way to show the love of Christ is a blessing to many who have been struggling.

St. Pius - St. Vincent De Paul Pantry Hours:

Monday and Friday 9 a.m. - noon

Wednesday 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

2nd and 4th Saturday 9 - 11:30 a.m.

Ron and Dawn Tyler continue as 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’ll know we are Christians by our love.”*

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.

Updates & FYI's

The Lord receives His own!

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”



Oct 31, 1933 – Jan 3, 1922

It is with great sadness that we are sharing the news of the passing of Elizabeth (Betty) Dudgeon. Our loyal and longtime member was called home to our Heavenly Father. A viewing and funeral service was on held on

Jan 9, 2022 from 2-4 pm here at Trinity. Betty was a long time teacher at Ardmore School. She will be remembered fondly for her love of children, which showed out in her teaching. The women of Trinity Lutheran Church's, Mary/Martha group, enjoyed her friendship and input in Bible Studies. She was always willing to contribute to lunches for other members repast celebrations. We were not able to provide food for the family at this time, but we share in their confidence that Betty has indeed won the good race and was received home by her loving Savior into Eternal life and joy.





"I HAVE NOT STOPPED GIVING THANKS FOR YOU, REMEMBERING YOU IN MY PRAYERS."

EPHESIANS 1:16, NIV

Reminder...It's NEVER too late FOR Giving:

There are many ways you can "give back" from God's blessings to benefit the kingdom work of Trinity Lutheran Church and School...

- o **Empower Illinois** – a gift made to Trinity Lutheran School through this Invest in Kids program can earn you a 75% Illinois tax credit
- o **Amazon Smile** – select Trinity as your designated charity and a small percentage of everything you buy comes back to Trinity
- o **Shop with Scrip** – gift cards purchased physically or online return varying percentages to Trinity, while you get the full face value of what you spend
- o Thrivent Choice Dollars earned in 2021 must be directed before the **end of March 2022**
- o Employer matching gifts
- o Tax deductible charitable giving
- o Required Minimum Distributions/ Qualified Charitable Distributions
- o Planned Giving/Legacy Gifts

If you have questions or need assistance in making charitable gifts to Trinity, please reach out to Trinity's office at 630.629.8765 or secretary@trinitylombard.org and the Board of Stewardship can connect you with a variety of helpful giving resources



Thank you for sending warmth to those in need....

Coats, jackets, mittens, gloves, scarves and hats were taken to First Bethlehem to distribute to those in need. The brutally cold temperatures were a little less harsh to deal with, thanks to the love expressed by those donations.

Blessings,
Harlan Schmidt
Urban Linkage



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