

News from the Pews

December 2021



It's that time again! It's the Christmas season and is a very special time of the year for us all. We as creatures of habit are so easily pulled into a routine, and this time of the year can be as overwhelming as any. So, since we are about to experience a very distracting time of the year, I wanted to give us a couple of things to think about this Christmas season.

- 1) Don't forget the reason for the season. What defines this time of year for you? It is very, very easy to have the best of intentions to maintain a Christ focused approach, but it's hard to resist the other distractions. This year can be defined by shopping, or party preparations, or the anticipation of travel, or the anticipation of the arrival of loved ones, or decorating, or scheduling which social gatherings we will be attending, and it can go on and on. It is a VERY busy time of year. And to be sure, none of this is wrong at all. These things are blessings to us that God wants us to enjoy. The problem comes when we allow these things to replace God as number one on our priority list. The reason for all of this craziness is one simple but exciting message – the Creator and Savior of the world is coming in the flesh!! Jesus is coming, and that has profound implications on

our life. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will see to it that the Advent/Christmas message is kept at the forefront of our minds and hearts during all of the holiday chaos.

- 2) Remember that the Christmas season is not joyful for everyone. Are you making plans to spend time with loved ones? What a blessing!! But the reality is that not everyone is happy this time of year. In fact, many are hurting, and this time of year only exacerbates the pain. Many may not have enough money to pay bills, much less buy all those Christmas gifts. Some may long to spend Christmas with a loved one who is no longer around. Those grieving a death, or a broken relationship can often be very down this time of year. They are grieving and lonely. So, please remember those around you. Try not to get so busy and distracted that we aren't taking time to reach out to those who are hurting. A simple phone call or visit this time of year can be very powerful to those in need. Remember them. Pray for them. Pray WITH them. Reach out to them, but more importantly – don't get too busy to love them.

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas season and see you in church!

In Christ,
Rev. Wagner

*“For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall
be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty
God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6*



Church services:

9 a.m. Sundays

In person & livestreamed

7 p.m. Mondays

In person

(no service December 27)

1 p.m. Wednesdays in

Advent (December 1, 8, 15)

In person

Christmas services:

Friday, December 24

3 p.m. (in person & livestreamed)

10 p.m. (in person & livestreamed at 10 p.m.)

Saturday, December 25

10 a.m. (in person)

Sunday, December 26

9 a.m. (in person & livestreamed)

Bible Study times:

Sundays, 10:15 a.m. in sanctuary

(in person)

(no class December 26 or January 2)

Wednesdays, 9:15 a.m. in sanctuary

(in person) (no class December 22 or 29)

Wednesdays, 6 p.m.

(livestreamed) (no class December 29)

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.

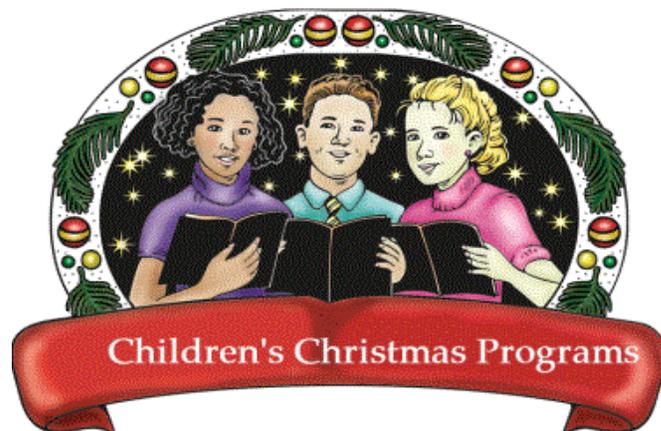
Miss church?

If you missed joining Trinity online or in person 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.

Livestreamed Services and Bible classes air live on Facebook @TrinityLombard

(<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard/>)

and can also be viewed live on Trinity's website <https://www.trinitylombard.org/>.



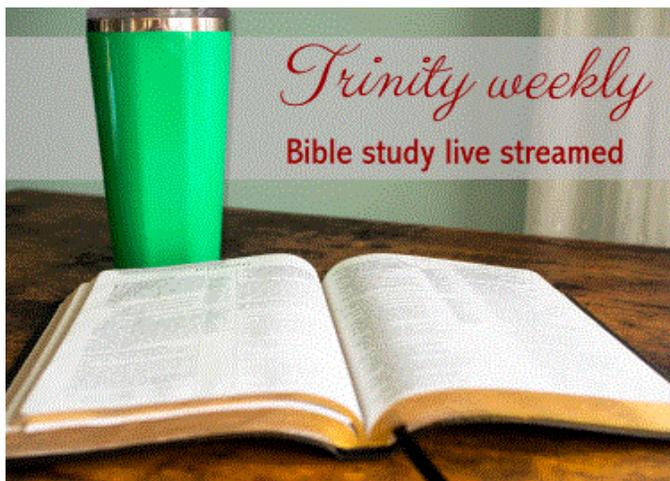
Trinity Lutheran School Children's Christmas Programs

Tuesday, December 14:

Preschool and Kindergarten Christmas program, 6:30 p.m. (live streamed)

Thursday, December 16:

1st through 8th grade Christmas program, 6:30 p.m. (live streamed)



SAVE THE DATE – Sanctity of Life Sunday, January 16, 2022

The Sanctity of Human Life is something we celebrate every day. Sunday, January 16, churches throughout the United States celebrate God's gift of life, commemorate the lives lost to abortion, and commit to protecting human life at every stage.

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday in 2022 is the 49th anniversary of the Roe v Wade supreme court decision - more than **60 million** lives have been lost thru abortions have taken place since 1973.

Studying God's Word together is important! Pastor offers **Online Bible Study, Wednesdays 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

Sunday School Christmas

December 12, during the Sunday school and Bible class hour, Trinity's Sunday school students will lead a Christmas celebration for adults and children in the parish hall following church.

December 19, Sunday School will have a children's Happy Birthday Jesus party in the parish hall following church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL NOT MEET ON DECEMBER 26 or JANUARY 2 and will resume meeting following church on January 9.



Caring Network

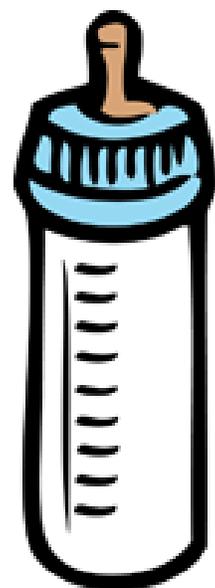


Changing Hearts and Saving Lives Since 1981.

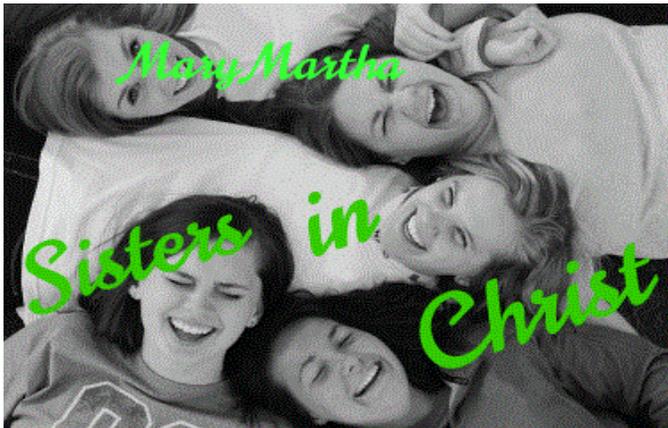
Caring Network offers truth, hope and material goods to

women in need and brings hope to those who have abortion in their past. Caring Network asks for your continued support.

Coins for Caring Network's Annual Baby Bottle Drive takes place in January 2022.



Thank You for Your Prayers and Support!



Mary Martha Kicks Off Christmas Season with Festivities at Member Home

Lisa Zientara welcome Trinity's women into her Streamwood home for a Christmas celebration on December 4.

The beautiful tree pictured is just one of her lovely Christmas decorations – at last count she had over 200 snowmen! In addition to enjoying food, fun and games, the women created Christmas cards for the homebound.



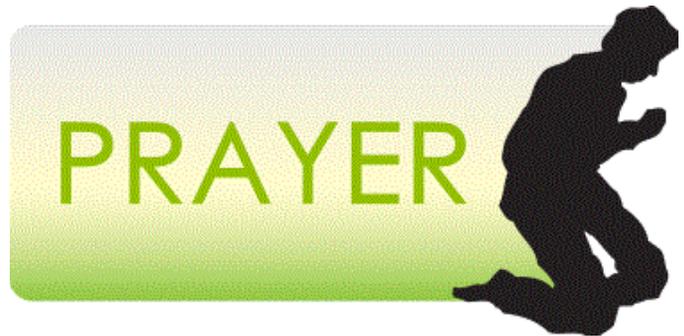
In January, all Trinity women and girls are invited to enjoy Mary Martha Guild's annual Souper Bowl Supper, on January 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall. Please bring a side dish to share.

All women of Trinity are a part of the Mary Martha Guild and the 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, text or call Arlene Solyom at 630.715.7764

Lutheran Women in Mission



Mite boxes support ministries world-wide!



“Praying For Our Loved Ones”

Our loved ones are very important to us. But sometimes in the context of a larger family there might be those who may not be living with the blessing of knowing Jesus as their Savior. The Board of Evangelism has begun an initiative to pray for our family members who do not know the love of Jesus or need to renew their faith. We know that none come to Jesus on their own. “You did not choose me, but I chose you...” (John 15:16) and therefore, all YOU need to do is write the first name (even the name “anonymous”) of your family member(s) and turn it into the Board of Evangelism.

There will be a *Concert of Prayer* for the Salvation for our loved ones, asking the Holy Spirit to draw them to the Lord. The focus is to pray for the salvation of our loved ones or the renewing of their faith, but as was said before, “if a friend or neighbor’s name slips in, that’s good, too.”

Blessings,
Board of Evangelism



TRINITY'S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Trinity's Bringing Light to Our Community capital campaign has now raised over \$32,000 of our original \$65,000 goal.

Thank you to all who have continued to give faithfully, and to those who have increased their giving, as well as those to whom the Lord has enabled to give special gifts of varying sizes to the campaign.

Board of Stewardship
Lori E. Solyom, Chair

Year End Giving:

As we purchase or make and wrap gifts for one another - in celebration of the Greatest Gift of All, JESUS, take a moment to consider some of the 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

“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

Love affirms Life
NID Life Task Force

nidlcms.org/life-task-force



Join over 10,000 pro-life individuals from throughout the Midwest for

Including:
convention
youth rally
workshops
LCMS gathering
banquet

MARCH FOR LIFE
CHICAGO
Saturday, January 8, 2022

PLEASE NOTE:
There is no NID bus transportation to the March For Life Chicago 2022 - consider taking advantage of the Hilton's special rates to spend the March weekend where it happens!

March & Rally, 1 to 3 p.m. — Downtown Chicago Loop

featuring LCMS President **Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison**

DETAILS: nidlcms.org/life-task-force

This year, the LCMS is a premiere sponsor of the March for Life Chicago. LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison is one of the featured speakers, both at the afternoon March for Life Chicago rally AND the evening banquet. As part of a full day of activities downtown on January 8, 2022, there is a huge LCMS event in the afternoon, and the various life ministries of the NID & the LCMS will be featured at four separate convention booths among the dozens featured. Also new this year, workshops. We invite you to come for the conference and stay all the way until the end of the banquet! There are hotel rooms so you could make it a family affair or a youth retreat. There are special sections for college age and youth! Don't forget to register NOW for the FREE conference so you can get the wristband necessary to participate in the conference.

1. REQUIRED:

Register at MarchForLifeChicago.org

2. IMPORTANT:

Let the NID know you are participating, contact Kris Blackwell at 630.234.1391 or kbwrk123@gmail.com

3. ENCOURAGE:

Engage with the LCMS for this event at: http://www.lcms-onm.org/need/detail/?need_id=627330

IDEA FOR ADVENT FOOD COLLECTION...

Week #1

- Box of cereal
- Peanut butter
- Jar of jelly
- Macaroni & cheese
- Canned fruit
- Canned tomatoes
- Box of stuffing mix

Week #3

- Package of rice
- Pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Chicken noodle soup
- Canned corn
- Canned carrots
- Box Rice a Roni

Week #2

- Canned tuna
- Dessert mix
- Applesauce
- Sweet potatoes
- Cranberry sauce
- Baked beans
- Box of crackers

Week #4

- Oatmeal
- Alfredo sauce
- Bag egg noodles
- Tomato soup
- Mixed vegetables
- Can green beans
- Pancake mix

***Everything on these lists can be purchased at Aldi's or Dollar Tree. If you purchased everything at Dollar Tree, it would cost \$28.00 for the whole month of giving.**

A REMINDER



that as the weather turns colder and we begin the holiday season, some of our neighbors are hungry. This Advent, Trinity's Advent offerings from midweek services and those gifts designated

as Advent offerings will go to help provide fresh food options over the holiday season for those who rely on the food pantries that Trinity's church and school help to supply. This is in addition to non-perishable items.

You can drop off food items at any time. Please mark them for Food Pantry and put them in the Parish Hall. Ron Tyler faithfully brings food donations to St Pious Food Pantry and Harlen Schmidt sees to it that they get to First Bethlehem, our linkage church in Chicago.



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 630.6292197, 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 Vegetable Chili

The hardest part of making this chili, is putting all of the ingredients in the Slow Cooker. A good meal to come home to after shopping. Submitted by:

Judy Cuchetto

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 - 19 oz can black bean soup
- 1 - 15 oz can kidney beans
- 1 - 15 oz can garbanzo beans
- 1- 16 oz can baked beans
- 1- 14.5 oz can diced tomatoes
- 1- 15 oz can whole kernel corn
- 1 medium red onion chopped

- 1 medium bell pepper chopped
 - 2 stalks celery chopped
 - 2 cloves garlic (optional)
 - 1 Tbs chili powder, or to taste
 - 1 Tbs dried parsley
 - 1 Tbs dried oregano
 - 1 Tbs dried basil
- Rinse and drain kidney beans, garbanzo beans. Drain corn. (Choose diced tomatoes with seasoning and puree to add to favor.) Put altogether in slow cooker. Cook on low for delayed dinner or lunch. Put on high for 2 hour quicker meal. You may add browned ground beef or turkey if you prefer.

Grace Moments

Top ten reasons to go to church

by Pastor David Scharf

Why do you want to go to church? As a parish pastor, every year I would have a “Help the Pastor Write His Sermon” week in eighth-grade religion class. Matthew 21:16 reads, “**From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise.**” And that’s precisely what happened time and again through this activity.

One year, as a part of the project, I had the class give their own “top ten reasons to go to church.” Look at what they wrote: #10—To sing praises to the Lord; #9—To hear God’s Word; #8—To strengthen our faith; #7—When we go to church, it helps others grow in faith; #6—To

learn about what God has done for us; #5—to hear the law and see our sins; #4—To see Jesus’ love in the gospel; #3—So that we learn new things about the Bible; #2—To join with fellow Christians in worship; #1—Church is awesome!

Wow! If that’s what goes on every week in worship, it’s going to be a great week! Who could need more reason than that?

“We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children” (Psalm 78:4,6).

Submitted by Sandy Goss

Updates & FYIs

Welcome to the Lord’s family...

Luke 18:15-16 “Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. 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.”

Lucas Jeffrey Melzer, born on Sept 12, 2021, the son of Ryan and Dana (Steben), was baptized on November 28, 2021. His sponsors are Tracie (Steben) Walas and Anthony Walas.

To God be the glory!

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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.”

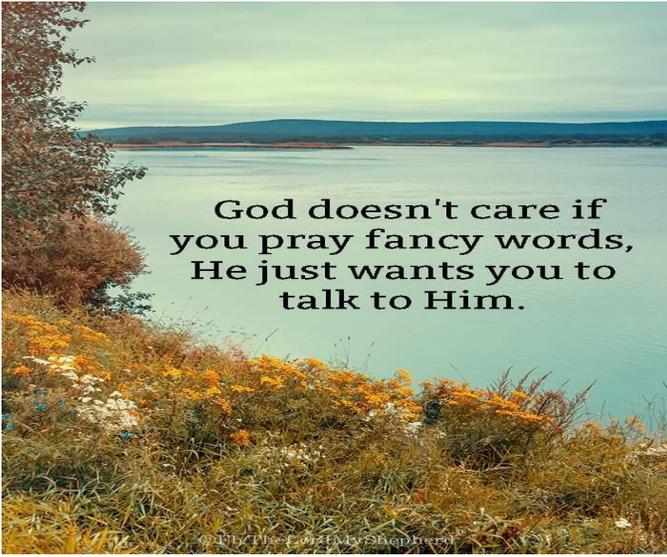
Don Robertson: Don had brain surgery on Thanksgiving Day. It is with great sadness that we are sharing the news of the passing of Donald. Our loyal and longtime member was called home to our Heavenly Father on November 29. A funeral service was held on December 3, at Trinity. Memorials can be sent to Trinity Lutheran Church and School.

Midwest Center for Hope & Healing: Christian Counseling - a few steps away

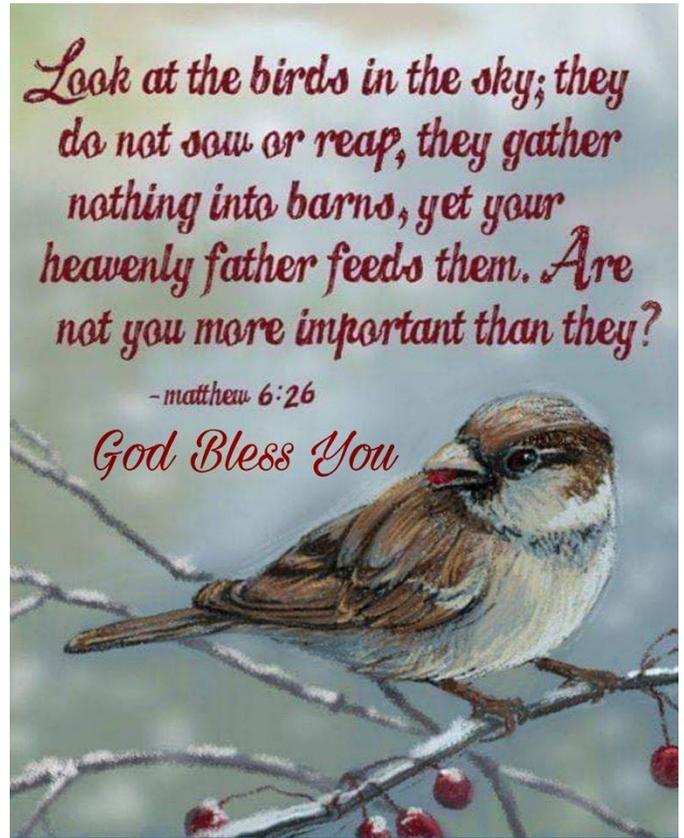
Would you or your family benefit from Christian counseling? Whether you struggle with stress and anxiety, are trying to overcome depression or substance abuse, or think you might need support while coping with the loss of a loved one, or if you are dealing with financial strains, infidelity or communication 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 mchhcounseling.com.

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.



God doesn't care if
you pray fancy words,
He just wants you to
talk to Him.



*Look at the birds in the sky; they
do not sow or reap, they gather
nothing into barns, yet your
heavenly father feeds them. Are
not you more important than they?*

-matthew 6:26

God Bless You

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.

*For unto you is born this day
in the city of
David
a Savior,
who is
Christ the Lord*



Luke 2:11