

News from the Pews

March 2020



This month is the beginning of Lent. The theme for Lent, as stated in the book of Joel, could be summed up as "Return to the Lord." The point is that we need to return to the Lord, because sin has separated us from Him. And, that is not a good thing.

Lent is not a pleasant time in the church calendar, but is a very important time, nevertheless. We've gone through Advent, which was a time of anticipation of the coming of Jesus. After that ... Christmas, when Jesus actually came. That was followed by Epiphany, which revealed to us that Jesus, who came at Christmas, was in fact God in flesh.

So now that we know who Jesus is, Lent shows us our need of Him. Being separated from God by sin had devastating consequences. God is the only source of life, of love, and of joy. So, sin left us by nature, oriented towards death, hate, and pain. Lent calls us to realize the reality of our sinfulness, and its horrific implications, and thus we see our need to return to the Lord. But the million dollar question you ask is: "How can I return to the Lord?" This is the problem, because on your own, not only can you not, return to the Lord ... you won't want to do so. This shows us the importance of Christ the Savior. You return to the Lord by God's power, on the basis of Christ's death and resurrection. Your sin is a major problem, but Jesus is the answer. After spending 40 days in Lent, being reminded of your sinfulness and its seriousness, you are

told on Holy Week of your salvation – Jesus dying and rising for you.

So, this Lent, pray for the Holy Spirit to lead you into meaningful self-reflection. Pray for the power to see your sin, repent, and believe in the promise of God to save you. Lent is about reality – the reality of your sinfulness, and the reality of God's love for you in Christ Jesus! Have a blessed March. And see you in church!

In Christ,

Rev. Wagner



Principal's Message

We are looking forward to celebrating Lutheran Schools Week, March 2-8. An exciting start to the week will be a *whole school field trip to the Shedd Aquarium*. We will be wearing our Trinity t-shirts on the field trip. For Tuesday, the classes get to choose what color they wear to school that day. Wednesday is 'special dress-up' day, and we'll be attending the afternoon church service together. Just for fun, Thursday is crazy sock day. Third through eighth grades will be packing meals at Feed My Starving Children. Then on Thursday evening, Chris Fascione, a great storyteller, will come to entertain everyone. Friday is the students favorite day of all. It's Pajama Day! And ... breakfast will be served by the teachers. There will be a variety of activities that the students are able to participate in throughout the week in their classrooms as well. Finally, the week's

festivities will wrap up with the students singing in church on Sunday, March 8.

It is open enrollment for, believe it or not, the 2020-2021 school year! We're looking forward to having new and returning students sign-up for next year. If you know of anyone that is looking for a loving school, with a strong education, please refer them to us. Sosana is always ready to give tours to new families.

Summer Camp enrollment is currently going on as well. Summer camp is for students in preschool through fourth grade. The camp is headed up by Miss Rachel and Ms. Kraegel. They always have a wide variety of activities planned for the students. If there are any questions, please contact Sosana in the office.

Blessings,
Julie Messina
Principal
7th & 8th Grade Teacher



Lenten schedule

- March 4— Worship Service at 1pm and at 7pm.
- March 11— Worship Service at 1pm and Devotional Service at 6:30 pm
- March 18— Worship Service at 1pm and Devotional Service at 6:30pm
- March 25— Worship Service at 1pm and Devotional Service at 6:30pm
- April 1— Worship Service at 1pm and at 7pm
- Maundy Thursday, April 9 —Divine Service at 1pm and 7pm
- Good Friday , April 10 — Worship Service at 1pm and 7pm

Easter Sunday, April 12 —Divine Worship Service at 7am
Easter Breakfast— 8:30-9:30am in the gym

Easter Divine Worship Service—10am



Note: Trinity's Soup 'n' Bread meals will again be served each Wednesday during Lent, from 12:00 - 12:30, before the 1:00 PM service and 6:00 - 6:30, before the evening devotional or service thru April 1. The meals will be yummy, homemade soup, a salad bar, and grilled cheese sandwiches. Any proceeds will support the Youth Group summer retreat.

Spoon us. Ladle Thinking

We use spoons for feeding ourselves, but a ladle is utilized to fill bowls for others. During a time of year in which Trinity offers soup 'n' bread suppers prior to Lenten services and devotion, it seems appropriate to illustrate our service to the Lord using these utensils that accompany hot soup.

In today's world, our self-centered culture consistently drives us toward "spoon thinking." That is a way of looking at everything through the lens of oneself. We ask, "How does this affect me?," "Am I getting anything out of this?," or, "Is this really my *thing*?"

Christ encourages a different perspective, something we can view as "ladle thinking." When we pick up a ladle, we are ready to serve others – and we are ready to put their needs ahead of ours.

Choosing to examine things from the viewpoint of a "ladle" rather than that of a "spoon" means adopting a mindset that is counter cultural. When we give up our spoon and pick

up a ladle, we are following the example of Christ by choosing to serve others and place their needs ahead of our own. This kind of generosity doesn't come easily and always moves us beyond our comfort zone.

For some, "ladle thinking" can mean writing a check; for others, it involves inviting someone into their life or taking the time to serve another person. "Ladle -focused" thinking requires faith. It commands us to rely on God and trust in His care. For Christians, the "ladle" can manifest itself in different ways, but it always involves the setting aside of 'self' centered desires to depend on Jesus.

This Wednesday, while you enjoy soup at Trinity, think about how the Lord is leading you to pick up a ladle and follow Him.



March 5 .. ALL

Women and Girls

Invited

Trinity women, girls (and friends) are invited to gather on Thursday, March 5, at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall. The evening will include refreshments, fellowship, and time creating Easter cards and gifts for Trinity's homebound. The Mary Martha Guild is Trinity's women's service organization and also the church's LWML (Lutheran Women in Mission) group. Monthly events and get togethers focus on the joy we share as sisters in Christ.

Upcoming dates to remember:

- Thursday, **March 5**, 6:30 p.m. - making Easter cards and gifts for Trinity's homebound
- Thursday, **April 2**, 6:30 p.m. – Lutheran Women in Mission Bible study and mission project
- Sunday, **April 5** (after Bible class) & Tuesday, **April 7**, 6-9 a.m. – help prepare and deliver a morning surprise for Trinity's school parents
- Saturday, **May 9**, 9 a.m. – Trinity's Prayer Breakfast
- Thursday, **June 4**, 6:30 p.m. – Summer Supper at the home of Judy Cuchetto

If you have questions or if babysitting is needed to enable your attendance at any of Trinity's events for women and girls, contact Arlene Solyom, call 630.620.0599 or text 630.715.7764.



Thank you

... thank you, thank you to all who participated in the *Refresh and Bloom* complimentary spa day experience at Trinity. Extra special thanks to those who lent their unique talents to the day, including:

Virginia Bailey
Linda Johansen
Ashley Solyom
Hannah Solyom
Patti Steben

Trinity's Capital Campaign:



Bringing Light to Our Community

Trinity is entering an exciting phase with a new capital campaign focusing on *Bringing Light to Our Community*. Having been blessed with a generous member loan, a wonderful matching gift opportunity, and potential grant funding, Trinity is pulling out all the stops in order to bring the Gospel light of Christ to Lombard and the surrounding area. Matthew 5:16 tells us to “let your light shine before others” that they may “give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Trinity has been around for 160 years. Much has changed since the original handful of German farm families planted the first cross on this corner. Trinity can easily see that the community has been through many changes. The message of Christ has never changed, but we find that we need to be more intentional in sharing it.

Our campaign focuses on three key goals:

1. **Trinity Lutheran School expansion and promotion.** As our largest evangelism opportunity, we recognize the value of increased focus on our Lutheran school. We have already prepared the school to grow, adding an additional preschool room and updating technology – including the use of smart boards, Chromebooks, and Google classroom. Intentional recruiting events are being presented. We seek to raise \$15,000 to increase social media, targeted print, direct mail, and other marketing

opportunities, plus develop and stock a STEAM (science-technology-engineering-arts-math) lab to integrate into Trinity’s educational curriculum.

2. **Accessible bathrooms in church and school.** Trinity desires to be accessible to people of all abilities, for worship, fellowship, and education. Currently, the main bathrooms in both the church and school buildings are not ADA compliant and present a hardship for people with physical disabilities and mobility issues. In an effort to be more welcoming, and aware of people’s needs, we seek to match a \$30,000 bequest to Trinity that is earmarked as a matching gift for bathroom remodeling or updates and improvements.

3. **A new, modern LED sign at the intersection of Roosevelt and Meyers Rd.** Trinity sits at a very busy intersection, passed by over 100 thousand vehicles daily. Those who don’t turn north onto Westmore-Meyers Road will not be aware that Trinity operates a school for children 3-years-old through 8th grade. For well over a century and a half, Trinity has impacted this corner. Neighborhood streets bear names of Trinity’s founders. Stoplights were installed in the 1960s when Trinity mothers stroller-blockaded the intersection following a student’s traffic death. We seek to raise \$20,000 to build and install a bright LED church monument sign at this high-volume intersection to promote the ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church and School and continue proclaiming Christ to the community.

Additionally, we want YOUR ideas for how we can be *Bringing Light to Our Community*. You will find a suggestion box in the parish hall near the coffee service. You will eventually see our campaign progress chart next to it. You may also email your recommendations and thoughts to BringingLight@TrinityLombard.org.

A capital campaign to raise \$65,000 may sound overwhelming. Let's break it down. If every Sunday we have 75 giving units, either families or individuals, and they each increase their weekly offering according to their ability, it might look like this:

- * 5 givers increase their giving by \$40 each week = \$200 total increase
 - * 10 givers increase their giving by \$20 each week = \$200 total increase
 - * 15 givers increase their giving by \$10 each week = \$150 total increase
 - * 20 givers increase their giving by \$7.50 each week = \$150 total increase
 - * 25 givers increase their giving by \$5 each week = \$125 total increase
- Total weekly increase = \$825 x 52 weeks = \$42,900 – by March 2021
Total weekly increase = \$825 x 26 weeks = \$21,450 – by September 2021

That's \$64,350 raised in eighteen months!

Maybe you might only realistically be able to give \$3 extra each week – or maybe the Lord has blessed you in such a way that you might be able to up your weekly gift by \$100 weekly, or even make a one-time gift of \$5,000. The Lord provides us with His blessings, and we respond to His love as He enables us to do so.

We prayerfully request that you take this opportunity to heart, consider it before the Lord and with the others in your household and act as the Holy Spirit directs.

We will soon be providing specially designated envelopes for your convenience and there will be ways for online givers to dedicate new gifts to this initiative. Over the next few weeks, we will be letting you know more about the various ways you can give to this special purpose. The Board of Stewardship and our congregational leaders are willing to discuss your ideas and address your concerns throughout this process.



March 14

Affirming Life – Reaching Out!

Affirming Life – Reaching Out! A Workshop for Life Affirming Lutherans is on *Saturday, March 14, 2020, 8:30 a.m. to noon, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Tinley Park.* The program, presented by the Northern Illinois District Life Task Force, features Rev. Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life. Rev. Salemink will present “How to Be a Life-Minded Congregation and Community” and give an overview of current pro-life issues. Discover the many ways that you and your congregation can reach out into the community and be pro-life. Connect with pro-life ministries working in the community, including *Caring Network, Bethany Christian Services, and Voice of Care.* Learn about *Swaddling Clothes* and *Breakfast with Baby*, two area Lutheran Church Missouri Synod congregational ministry models affirming life within the community. In all, over 15 life-affirming organizations will share about their work and how to get involved. Trinity Lutheran Church is at 6850 W 159th St, in Tinley Park, Illinois (TLCS.org). A free will offering will be taken. Registration is requested. RSVP to Kris Blackwell, at kbwrk123@gmail.com or 630.234.1491.

Are You Struggling?

Are you struggling with guilt, sorrow, or anger because of an abortion in your past? Do you know that God wants to offer you His forgiveness and healing? He can free you from guilt, hurt and pain. God says, “I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.” (Isaiah 44:22) Jesus offers forgiveness for ALL our sins – He gives

us a Word of Hope that can begin to heal your broken heart. If you or someone you know is hurting because of an abortion, call Word of Hope for a confidential help at 888.217.8679 or email info@word-of-hope.org. "Return to me, for I have redeemed you." Isaiah 44:22

... the whole body, joined and knit together ...



as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

EPHESIANS 4:16, NRSV

March 22: Make Your Commitment

Trinity's Commitment Sunday is on March 22. This is the day that we make our annual giving commitments before the Lord to support the work of His church on earth. We give thanks for God's great blessings and ask you to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to Trinity Lutheran Church as we go about our Savior's will. Your pledges will help plan financing for Trinity's ministry in the year that runs from July 1, 2020, through June 31, 2021. Envelopes containing information and pledge cards have been placed in your member mailbox. There are extras at the back of the sanctuary.

As we recognize that, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above..." (from James 1:17) we will examine the relationship between God's love and our response to His love. Member offering envelopes for the 2020 – 2021 fiscal year Memorial Day and will be for use beginning in July.

Trinity is YOUR church and relies on your prayers and financial support to do the work that God has planned for us to do.

Reasons to Become a Trinity ONLINE GIVER!

Trinity invites you to consider becoming an online giver.

It's easy and convenient...

- You can give on any day. If you are traveling, forget your checkbook or envelope, or simply find that your payment schedule would be better served by giving on a different day, ONLINE GIVING allows you to easily give your gifts to Trinity when it is convenient for YOU.

- No cash or checks required. If you prefer to give your gifts to Trinity via bank draft, debit or credit card, ONLINE GIVING is convenient, and accessing your giving activity online simplifies record keeping and eliminates paperwork.

- You can give from anywhere. Vacationing, snow birding, or homebound, your gifts to Trinity are all set – even when you are away or unable to be present. ONLINE GIVING makes it easy to give, even when being at Trinity isn't possible.

It's safe...

- At your direction, ONLINE GIVING allows a financial transaction to take place between Trinity and your bank, eliminating the need to have checks and cash on property and to physically transport deposits between church and the bank. Trinity's online giving provider complies with rigorous security standards.

It helps Trinity...

- Your ONLINE GIVING of recurring gifts gives Trinity the confidence of knowing that a gift can be expected at a certain time, with no waiting for checks to clear or wondering who the cash is from. This consistency allows Trinity to

better steward your gifts to God's ministry.

· Your ONLINE GIVING minimizes the manpower required by Trinity volunteers (counting teams, treasurer, financial secretary, secretary, office volunteers and ushers) who give selflessly of their valuable time each week to count, record, confirm, and deposit your gifts. (Don't worry, we have plenty of other volunteer tasks for them to do!)

To set up your online giving, you can visit trinitylombard.org and click on the DONATE button. If you require assistance with the process or do not have online or email access, you can contact Trinity's office for help at 630.629.8765 or secretary@trinitylombard.org. You may also be able to set up autopayments through your own bank.

*More ways to be good
stewards of the 'talents' God
provides for us:*

Help Trinity Lutheran School and Get an Illinois Tax Credit

Would you like your gift to Trinity to earn you an Illinois tax credit? Empower Illinois makes that possible. This win-win arrangement allows you to take a 75% 2020 tax credit on your donation to scholarship at Trinity Lutheran School. This is an opportunity to invest in the future of Trinity and open opportunities for more families to afford a Lutheran education. If you would like to learn more about the state tax credit program, visit EmpowerIllinois.org. Contact Trinity's office if you would like assistance in navigation the "how-tos" of making the donation and receiving the tax credit.

Leaving Your Legacy

How can you provide for your heirs and the Lord's work?

The LCMS Foundation offers comprehensive charitable expertise and services to help you plan and direct your passion for giving to family and all ministries for the Lord's work, today, tomorrow and forever.

Each year, the Foundation helps thousands of faithful Christians like you support a variety of Lutheran ministries and churches through:

- Gift Annuities
- Direct Gifts
- Wills
- Family Gift Funds
- Endowments
- Trusts

Contact the LCMS Northern Illinois District's planned giving counselor, Ray Pagels, 847.226.2262, Ray.Pagels@lfn.org. Learn more at LCMSFoundation.org.

Help Benefit Trinity by Directing Your Thrivent Choice Dollars® before March 31

Eligible Thrivent Financial members with available Choice Dollars® have until March 31, 2020, to direct them. Don't miss this easy opportunity to benefit Trinity. Go online to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800.847.4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. If you need someone to walk you through the online process, contact Board of Stewardship chairman Lori Solyom at 630.640.0426 or lorisolyom@gmail.com.



Do You Know Portals?

Have you tried *Portals of Prayer*? This free daily devotional is provided to you by Trinity. Each quarter of the year, you can find pocket-sized and large print versions of this devotion booklet in the church narthex. Copies are located on the small table to the left of the coat room (opposite of where the greeters stand on Sunday mornings).

In addition to devotional thoughts and scriptures for each day, these volumes include an assortment of prayers and a simple family worship format. If you prefer a digital electronic version, *Portals of Prayer* subscriptions are available at www1.cph.org/portals.

Here's more ... After Church...

Your family is invited to join in Bible hour at Trinity. Sunday School and adult Bible class begin after the service on Sunday mornings. High school youth and young adults are welcome to attend adult class or lend a helping hand in Sunday School with children age 3 through 8th grade. God desires that His people spend time in His Word, and this is one opportunity to do so in the Trinity family.

*And ... for those able to
carve out time on
Wednesday mornings,*

Pastor Wagner leads a weekly 9 a.m. Bible class in the parish hall. Coffee and treats (often home baked) are served beginning at 8:45 a.m. All are welcome.



Sunday School: Help Needed

Adult and youth members of Trinity Lutheran Church are invited to prayerfully consider serving with Sunday School. At Sunday School, children from age 3 through 8th grade hear weekly that Jesus loves them. Bible stories and lessons illustrate how God the Father created us, sent His Son Jesus Christ to die for us and rise again, and sends us the Holy Spirit to help us live daily in Christ. Simple snacks are served. Crafts, activities, and mission service projects help student apply the Biblical truths learned. Helping hands are needed in this multi-age setting that meets in Trinity Lutheran School's early childhood wing. Trinity's children's Bible time meets weekly after church, beginning the week after Labor Day and continuing until the week before Memorial Day. Chief requirements include a patient with His little ones! To volunteer, please speak with Pastor Wagner or contact Trinity's office, 630.629.8765 or secretary@trinitylombard.org.

Spring Break Ideas for Families

Trinity Lutheran School is on Spring Break from March 28 through April 5. This is a great time for families to do things together, and it doesn't mean you have to travel or spend a lot of money.

Here are a few ideas suggested by Focus On The Family (focusonthefamily.com) and K-LOVE Fan Awards (klovefanawards.com)

THE ULTIMATE STAYCATION

Who says you have to go to the beach during Spring Break? You can have an amazing time exploring your hometown - look into free or discounted museums, put together a local scavenger hunt, or just get lunch at that neighborhood place you've been wanting to try. The point of a staycation is to treat your usual surroundings as if they were an exotic or otherwise foreign destination. No time off work? Build pillow forts or cook ethnic meals each evening. There's no wrong way to go on a staycation.

VOLUNTEER

Home based activities could include making cards for the homebound, people in nursing homes or troops serving overseas.

FAMILY GAME TOURNAMENT

Plan a game competition for adults and children – anything from board games like Boggle, video participation such as Wii Just Dance, active team games i.e. basketball, or even card games such as Show Me or Go Fish. Hold a different championship each day and the have winners select and prepare dinner.

DESIGNATE SPECIAL DAYS

Select themes for several days and build the day's activities around the special focus.

Try... something productive as well as fun!

- OTHERS DAY: On this day, find ways to help each other, then as a family do something together for others - bake cookies for a friend, do yardwork for a neighbor, or write letters to Grandma.

- CLEANING DAY: Pick one day to work together on large cleaning tasks. Assign age appropriate tasks and total points as rewards. Redeem those points together at an ice cream parlor, bookstore, movie theatre or other "rewarding" destination.

- OUTDOORS DAY: Each family selects a different outdoor activity to participate in together – Maybe you like bicycle riding, nature walk, picnic lunch, or football in the park.

- CHARACTER DAY: Each family member secretly picks a fictional or historical character. For several designated hours, they must dress, speak, and act as that character. At the end of the set time, others must try to guess each family member's chosen character.

All news articles for the following month's newsletter may be submitted by the 20th of the month. Send to vinjud60@yahoo.com

Questions ... call Judy Cuchetto (630)698-2208

Puzzle!

Find and circle these words associated with the Lenten journey to the cross.

colt	denial	kiss	repent
confess	donkey	lots	silver
cross	forsaken	palms	sins
crown	Gethsemane	penance	suffer
crucifixion	Golgotha	Pilate	thorns
death	hosanna	prayer	vigil

E	N	A	M	E	S	H	T	E	G	R	L	W	Y
C	L	E	X	B	M	T	H	B	U	C	W	B	
N	R	I	K	Y	P	A	T	E	T	I	Y	X	Y
A	V	J	G	A	L	B	R	E	Y	A	R	P	B
N	G	N	L	I	S	N	L	A	I	N	E	D	X
E	W	M	P	R	V	R	D	H	B	N	R	D	F
P	S	O	G	O	L	G	O	T	H	A	B	S	C
D	L	N	R	O	C	O	N	F	E	S	S	I	K
O	T	H	T	C	P	E	K	W	U	O	U	N	D
M	N	S	H	N	P	W	E	D	R	H	F	S	K
U	N	F	O	E	T	K	Y	C	S	G	F	O	E
H	E	C	R	E	V	L	I	S	W	Q	E	C	M
H	V	H	N	C	X	S	O	C	C	J	R	L	O
F	Q	E	S	U	D	S	H	C	A	A	Y	M	C
C	R	U	C	I	F	I	X	I	O	N	S	R	V

