

April 2017

Dear Friends of Trinity,

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

God had to raise Jesus from the dead because of his perfect obedience and his atoning death that purchased the forgiveness of the sins of the world. But Jesus is the first of many to follow. When he reappears on the Last Day, all who are in him will be raised from death to immortal life. In the interim, God is working through Jesus by means of the Holy Spirit renewing the lives of his saints (us) and all of creation, slowly but surely rooting out the ravages of sin and decay. These will remain among us, and we will still bear the grief and the weight of these things. But we do so with confidence in our God, who has given us a lively hope in the raising of Jesus from the dead. One day, sin, death, decay, and grief will all vanish in an instant!

This does not mean that our lives now should be easy. Just by experience we know life has its share of tragedy and sadness. We face death each day. We walk in danger all the way. We still break God's commandments even though we know they are good and wise. Things can still go terribly wrong out of nowhere. We make feeble attempts to spare ourselves from the hard edges of life and then become deflated when they press upon us.

But God is still working. What he accomplished through Jesus Christ is something that you and I couldn't have possibly done. But God graces us with the life of Jesus through the living Word of God proclaimed to us and through the Sacraments given to us. And someday this life that we receive by the grace of God will be revealed through us. We place our hope and confidence in our risen Lord Jesus!

I wish all of you a very Happy and Blessed Easter!
Pastor Hoag

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Lenten Series 2017 Continues

In commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, we will have a special sermon series during the Lenten Midweek Services.

Have Mercy on Me, O God: Martin Luther on Psalm 51 is the title of the series. Psalm 51 is the great lament Psalm of King David when he was confronted by the prophet Nathan about his adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of Bathsheba's husband, Uriah the Hittite. Luther wrote at length about the Psalm three times during his life and gleans so much meaning and significance about the nature of repentance, the knowledge of man, and the knowledge of God. Each week we will explore portions of Psalm 51 and hear Luther's great insights for our own Lenten journey of penitence and being embraced by the great mercy of God through Jesus Christ.

Midweek 6: April 5: Sacrifices by the Mercy of God (Psalm 51:16-19)

EASTER WEEK SCHEDULE:

- April 9** Palm Sunday Service – 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM
April 13 Maundy Thursday Communion Service – 7:30 PM
April 14 Cross Walk – 10:00 AM Starting at St. Jude's
Good Friday Tenebrae Service – 7:30 PM
April 15 11th Annual Easter Egg Hunt – 10:00 AM
Easter Vigil – 5:00PM
April 16 Sunrise Service – 7:00 AM
Easter Breakfast – 8:30 AM (signup sheets are on the table in the hallway for attendees and workers)
Easter Service – 10:30 AM



Soup and sandwich suppers are held at 6:30 p.m., just prior to each Lenten service. Thank you to the organizations who prepared, or will be preparing the meal the following weeks. The proceeds from the free-will offering baskets on the table will be given to the Youth Group. The Youth will also be assisting each organization with the serving and cleaning up each week.

April 5 – Women's League

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TRINITY'S 11th ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT!!

Please join in the fun and bring your kids, grandkids and young relatives, along with a camera, baskets and smiles to TRINITY'S 11TH ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT! Fifth Graders and younger, please join us again on Saturday, April 15, 2017 starting at 10:00 a.m. for a lot of fun in a short period of time! Lineup will start 5 minutes before 10:00 a.m. The Easter Bunny will once again make an appearance for the little ones in the gym!

TO THE TRINITY CONGREGATION

In the past, I have had many members of our congregation ask me about donations for the East Egg Hunt. Yes, absolutely you can donate if you'd like! I am happy to accept wrapped candy, plastic Easter eggs or small items such as stickers, small toys, bouncy balls, crafty stampers, clings or anything small enough to fit inside a plastic Easter Egg. Donations can be dropped off in the marked box in the church office anytime now up to Wednesday, April 12, 2017. Thank you again for your generosity and support!

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

As part of a Service Project for Confirmation Class and to make Trinity's 11th Annual Easter Egg Hunt a success, we are asking the families of all Confirmands to please donate at least one of the following: bag of individually wrapped candy; toys, wrist bands, or other small items that fit inside an egg. Please leave your donation in the box which is located in the Church Office anytime between now and Wednesday, April 12, 2017. Thank you. Please, no candy containing nuts due to allergies.

Confirmation Class Students - do you need Service Hours? Helpers are needed to hide the eggs downstairs. Meet me, Doris Bay around 9:30 a.m. the day of the Hunt in the Gym and I'll show you where to go. PLEASE SEE THE SIGN UP SHEET ON THE DESK OUTSIDE THE GYM! THANKS!

2017 Healing Hearts – Survivors of suicide support group meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 10, 2017 from 7-8:30 pm at the New Lenox Police Department. Guest Speaker will be Lisa Arp.

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Updates from Council President, Jeff McDonald.

Our office remodel project is underway and special thanks to Jeff Lorenz for starting this project for us. The former youth room has begun to take shape as Pastor Hoag's new office. This will give us better utilization of our space when all of it is done, and we have sufficient funds to see this project through at this point.

Our next, and biggest, project for this year is our stained glass window project. To recap, we need to have the windows removed and re-seated in their frames to correct sagging that has occurred over the years. In addition to several of the windows no longer opening and closing properly from sagging toward the bottom of the frame, the windows would eventually break if we don't address this issue. While the cost of this preventive maintenance is projected to exceed \$40,000, the cost to replace our windows would be considerably more money. Therefore, we really hope to see this project through to completion yet this year. As of this writing, we have had approximately \$16,000 in donations toward this project! That is a fantastic start but we have a ways to go yet before we'll be at a point of getting current bids on the job and having it completed. If you're inclined and able to help with this project, you will be helping to preserve the beautiful stained glass windows we enjoy at Trinity for many years to come.

Further, and in the spirit of giving, we recently had Leslie Lopez and three others from LCFS speak to the congregation about the Regenerations program that they sponsor. Regenerations is a charity that our Social Ministry Committee selected to support this year and hearing first-hand from Leslie and others about the amazing work this organization does was very rewarding. We will be collecting donations through Easter Sunday for this organization. If you'd like to contribute to our collective donation to them, you can write "Regenerations" on the subject line of a check made out to Trinity and we'll be sure to include that with our donation. Just please be sure to have that donation in no later than Easter Sunday. If you have an interest in fostering children through this program, they have a strong need for families to do that as well.

I hope to see you at our annual Easter Sunday breakfast. We are planning to photograph members in the sanctuary that morning as a way to get current pictures of our members with their families on Easter Sunday. If you're interested in having your picture taken, watch for details of this on Easter Sunday morning. We will work around the breakfast and will capture as many people as we can in these pictures, which will be posted on our Facebook page.

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CONFIRMATION CLASSE will resume on April 19 at 6:00 p.m.

Confirmation — Sunday, May 7st at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

The following young adults will be received into membership through Confirmation: Elyse Ray Black, Shawn Paul Cullen, Chloe Noel Erwin, Paige Victoria Hull, Nicholas Adam Krzysiak, Ryan Joseph McDonald, Sydra Seville and Grace Strache. We wish them God's blessings and congratulations on the completion of their studies. Please welcome them into our fellowship and keep them in your prayers.

To the Parents of the Second Year Confirmation Class:

Your child will be confirmed at the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, May 7, 2017.

The class will wear white robes and red carnations. Boys will be provided with a black clip-on bow tie for the occasion. Boys should wear a white dress shirt with a collar.

The robes will need to be pressed by the parents and brought back on Confirmation Day, and the class will put them on at church before the service. They will leave the robes at the church following the service. If you wish to take personal snapshots, please plan to do it at church. (**REMINDER - NO PHOTOS MAY BE TAKEN DURING THE SERVICE.**)

Individual photographs will be taken after the service. A Professional photographer **will not** be available this year.

We also need your check made out to Trinity Church for robe rental. The cost for the robe rental is \$23.95 per person. The rental fee should be paid on or before the robes are picked up. Checks should be left in the office in the envelope on the counter in the office. The envelope will be marked Confirmation Fees. Thank you for your cooperation.

ALL CLASS MEMBERS ARE TO BE AT THE CHURCH NO LATER THAN 9:15 A.M. ON CONFIRMATION DAY.

If you have any questions, please, phone me or Judi Donovan at the church office, 485-6973.

Member Updates

Baptisms:

Adam David Ryan, March 26, 2017

Alexander Matthew Zemaitis, March 25, 2017

Deceased:

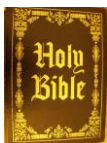
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Mary McElroy, February 27, 2017
Judy Wilmsen, March 27, 2017



Fannie May Candy Bar Sale!

Rita Larson is continuing to sell candy bars with the proceeds going to the Chancel Guild. The cost is \$1.00 each and are available after church services or in the church office. Please deposit your money in the envelope inside the candy bar box.



Bible Classes – everyone is invited, and welcome to attend.

Wednesday Morning – meets from 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. in the library.

Sunday Morning – meets at 9:15 a.m. in the library.



Scrip Fundraiser - If you are in need of gift cards for Easter, there is still time to order. A list of the many retailers/restaurants that participate in this program can be found on the table below the youth bulletin board. Remember, there is no additional cost to you. By participating, you are earning funds for our church. Our next order deadline will be Monday, April 3, at noon. Cards will be ready for pick up at church the following Sunday, April 9. Any questions can be directed to Angie Minett at minett411@yahoo.com or (815)467-2537 or Gary Purnell at (815)485-9017. You can also check out shopwithscrip.com to learn more.



Trinity Pre-School – Registration for Fall Pre-School is now open. Please tell your friends and neighbors. There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$60.00 per student. School year beginning September 2017 the tuition per month will be \$105 for two day students and \$130 for three day students. Children must be 3 by September 1, 2017. For further information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815.485.6973.

Visit us on the web at www.trinitynewlenox.org

Pre-School Board Meeting is scheduled for April 23rd at 9:15 a.m.



Thank you to all the coffee hosts who take turns each Sunday following the 8:00 a.m. church service. Thanks also to the "new" volunteers who have signed up to a turn on the 4th Sunday of the month. **We still have a couple open dates for the 4th Sunday of the month. Please take a turn a sign up for one of those Sundays. A sign-up sheet is on the hallway table.**



The April Sign-Up sheets for Readers, Greeters and MorningStar Mission are on the hallway table! Your help is appreciated.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Our next meeting will be Monday, April 10th at 7:00 p.m. at Jeanine Welsh's home. All ladies of Trinity are invited to join our committee. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact the church office at 815.485.6973.



St. Matthew's Outreach:

We are continuing with our collection of clothing and household goods as well as food for St. Matthew's. Food items should be placed in the container at the top of the steps by the parking lot door. Clothing and household goods should be placed in the room at the East end of the church basement. Thank you Chuck and Sandy Peters for transporting items to St. Matthew's the past few weeks.

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SAVE THE DATE! CHURCH PICNIC, SUNDAY, JUNE 5TH

The Social Ministry Committee is working on plans for a summer picnic here at Trinity. **We will have food and games for all ages.**



MorningStar Mission: The next serving dates for April 3rd and 17th. Thanks to all the volunteers who help each week. If you are interested in helping, the sign up sheet is on the hallway table.



Chancel Guild: The next meeting will be **Monday, April 4th at 6:30 p.m.** We will be cleaning for Easter. All ladies of Trinity are invited to visit. Hostesses are Sally Jackson and Jan Falk.



Chancel Guild recently repaired/replaced the frayed hymn/Bible markers. *Please remind your children to not braid or fray them.*



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CHOIR Rehearsals will be held each Wednesday in April, at 7:00 p.m.
New voices are always welcome.



Women's League The next meeting will be **Tuesday, April 25th at 12:30 p.m.** Hostesses are Jan Falk, May Schrank and Midge Meents.



ALTAR FLOWERS: Flowers are placed on our altar every Sunday to enhance and beautify our altar area in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birthday, wedding anniversary or in celebration of God's blessings. Check the chart and see if a date is open that you would like to donate flowers. If the date(s) you would like are already taken, you may be able to share a Sunday with someone else. The flower order forms are attached to the cabinet in the hallway outside the church office. If you would like to give altar flowers, complete the form and place it in the Chancel Guild mailbox in the church office. If you have any questions, please call Kay Purnell at 815.485.9017 or email her at purnellk51@hotmail.com The cost of the flowers is \$9.00 for one vase or \$18.00 for both vases. The flowers may be picked up after the Sunday service.



Save the Date!!

Vacation Bible School will be June 26-30, 9:30-Noon. Our theme is Mighty Fortress and we invite children age 3 up through 5th grade to join us. Cost is \$5 per child. Register online at www.trinitynewlenox.org, using the password "trinity". Church members and preschool students have priority to register until May 1 when registration opens to the public. Last year we were full in the preschool class and had to close registration, so be sure to sign up soon!

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INFORMATION REQUESTED – CHANGES OR UPDATES

When you move, change phone numbers, email addresses etc., please let the church know. You may call 815.485.6973 or email Judi, the church secretary at tlcsecretary508@gmail.com. You may also complete and turn in the “Record Update Information” sheet, which are on the table outside the church office and on the hallway table.

Church office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday – 9:00 AM till 1:00 PM

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