

August 2017

Dear Friends of Trinity,

This summer I've been preaching on the Book of Romans through the eyes of Martin Luther. I hope it's been an interesting and informative series for you so far. Romans is a very challenging book, but also a book of immense comfort as we continue in this life and our struggle against sin, death, and the devil. We struggle, however, solely in the grace of God through Jesus Christ. As Christ continues to work in us through Word and Sacrament, we are "more than conquerors through Him who loved us", (Romans 8:37) as we are assured that nothing in all of creation will separate us from the love of God that was demonstrated through Christ. The power and the strength is God's alone, but that strength is given to us as a gift to lead lives that are God-pleasing. "Without faith it is impossible to please God." (Hebrews 11:6)

The Christian life is much more than just being nice and not hurting anyone. It is also a life of doing good for others. Jesus lived "doing good" for the least among the people, and called his people to do likewise. It springs so naturally from faith that Christ's people don't even realize they're doing it. It's "second nature", as it were.

But doing good does not put us right with God. Only Jesus does that. Through faith in Jesus, all the good that we do is already done before we even do it, because the good of Jesus is credited to us. Such good news! It's this fact that compels us to doing good in the world.

We do good in all spheres of our lives and through the vocations in which we live (you have multiple vocations, by the way). The life of a Christian integrates all of life and doesn't compartmentalize life into "Christian" and "non-Christian". We are Christians in everything that we do, and are redeemed to be responsible keepers of our brothers and sisters. To God alone be all glory and honor!

In Christ,
Pastor Hoag



August 2017 Newsletter

Hope you are enjoying your summer. Students will be heading back to school soon. Our church organizations are still on summer breaks, but will start again in September.

Our summer church service schedule will continue through Sunday, September 3rd, with the Saturday contemporary services at 5:00 p.m., and the Sunday traditional worship services at 9:00 a.m. Communion will be served on the 2nd and 4th weekends.



Our fall/winter schedule will resume on Sunday, September 10, 2017

Saturday contemporary service – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday traditional service – 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School and Bible Class – 9:15 a.m.



Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 10th at 9:15 a.m.

If your child enjoyed VBS please bring them to Sunday School. We have classes for preschool – high school. Many of the VBS staff members are also involved in our Sunday School.



Updates from Jeff McDonald, Council President: We had a special guest at our service on Sunday, July 23rd. Pastor James Huenink recently became the Circuit Visitor for the English District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod after our own Pastor Hoag served a term in this role. Pastor Huenink has been at Concordia Lutheran Church in Berwyn for about five years and is making the rounds to all 11 churches that make up the southern circuit in the Midwest Region. Members of our church council sat with Pastor Heunink following the service to meet him and to discuss some of the issues facing today's church.

A recurrent theme at our council meetings and at council meetings all around the district is the topic of membership. Churches all around the country are struggling with declining numbers, and while our own Trinity is not immune to this trend, our numbers actually hold up nicely - particularly on a comparative basis. In fact, I am happy to relay that we have seen a small uptick in attendance this year at Trinity.

One of the most effective ways to get people in the door at church is to simply invite them. If you have a friend or neighbor without a church home, why not encourage them to come to Trinity one weekend? Sometimes all a person needs is a gentle nudge in the right direction. We are all ambassadors in this regard, and current members of the church who attend regularly can be the most effective people to help boost membership even further.

While we to have comparatively good attendance figures, we have experienced the same overall declining trend in recent years that is impacting others.

How about a mid-year resolution? Between now and the end of the year, make a point of inviting at least one person you know to come and experience worship at Trinity. We have nothing to lose in this process and we might be surprised at the result. If you're reading this right now, there is a good chance you're one of the regular members at Trinity who is helping us to buck the trend of declining numbers. We are all called to share the gospel - here is an opportunity to do that and show that one congregation of worshippers can reverse a trend all on their own. I'd love to hear about your efforts here, so please give this a shot and let me know how the reception was.

It was nice to get Pastor Heunink's perspective on attending Trinity. He first observed how enjoyable it is to just sit in a pew and participate in the service (something Pastors don't get to do very often!). But his other observation was that we seem to have a nice cross-section of people filling our pews with lively conversations following the service. His overall impression is that Trinity is made up of a healthy, vibrant group of members. To me, this is tall praise and I wanted to share that impression with all of you, as you're the reason for it. Now let's share what we love about Trinity with others.



MEMBER UPDATES FOR JULY 2017

Baptisms:

Quinn Katherine Schuch, daughter of Brian and Colleen Schuch, born April 17, 2017, baptized July 2, 2017

Elliot James Milbourn, son of Michael and Amy Milbourn, born August 21, 2016, baptized July 9, 2017.

Avanna Rae Macaluso, daughter of Anthony and Jennifer Macaluso, born November 23, 2016, baptized July 9, 2017.

Michael John Riley, son of Adam and Anna Riley, born May 18, 2016 and baptized July 15, 2017.

Hudson Jelley, son of Jonathan and Ashlee Jelley, born September 29, 2016 and baptized July 30, 2017.

Deaths:

Linda Taylor, deceased July 8, 2017.



Our youth attended a workshop here at Trinity last October to put together fabric kits for Lutheran World Relief. They put together 9 kits which consisted of six yards of fabric and two spools of thread. We recently were notified that these kits were sent out by Lutheran World Relief to Tanzania.

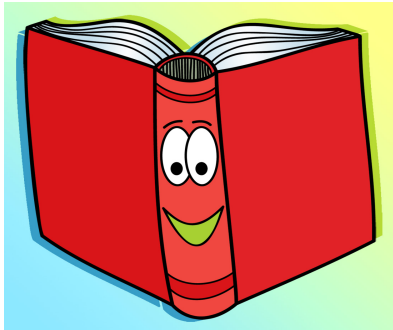
A heart felt Thank You to the youth and their leader who were involved with this project.



SCRIP GIFT CARDS. The Youth will continue with *the Scrip Fundraiser Program using the proceeds for the "Capital Improvement" projects at church this year.*

Note: During the summer months, we will have only once a month Scrip orders placed on the first Monday of each month. Upcoming deadline dates is August 7.

Please direct any questions you may have to Angie Minett at minett411@yahoo.com or [\(815\)467-2537](tel:8154672537). **The next order deadline date is August 7th. Between now and August 7th, you may place your order/payment in the gold envelope which is hanging on the end of the desk in the church office.**



Books for Kids

The mission project for our VBS this summer was Sharing God's Mighty Word through Concordia Gospel Outreach. Sharing God's Mighty Word is an outreach project that sends Bible-based literature around the U.S. The project focuses on reaching inner-city kids, Hispanic kids, Native American kids, and kids who are in crisis. This project teaches our own children that God values all people regardless of race, ethnicity, or social status; that God reaches out especially to those who are suffering; that He doesn't forget them; that He loves them; and that we can be missionaries in our own communities.

Below is an example of how the funds will be used:

\$10 provides 4 Arch Books (early childhood Bible stories)

\$25 provides 10 teen devotionals

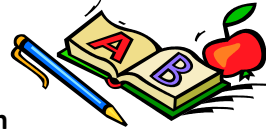
\$100 provides 30 Spanish coloring books

The total amount collected from VBS students and the Trinity Congregation was a total of \$1,731.00.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this mission project!!



Preschool News and Information



2017-2018 Trinity Pre-School begins on Tuesday, September 5th.

Spots still available for both 3 and 4 yr olds - please tell your friends and neighbors!

There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$60.00 per student. For the 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. Pre-School begins on Tuesday, September 5th

Preschool is looking for donations of empty white plastic frosting containers. A box will be placed under the table in the hallway for these donations.



I ♥
MEETINGS

Our organizations will be back in full swing in September. All ladies are invited and encouraged to attend one of our groups.

Chancel Guild will meet on Monday, September 11th at 6:30 p.m.

Social Ministry will meet on Monday, September 11th at 7:00 p.m.

Women's League will meet on Tuesday, September 26th at 12:30 p.m.



Confirmation Classes will be held each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

Confirmation Orientation/First Day of Class is Wednesday, August 23rd. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Pastor Hoag or call the church office at 815.485.6973. Confirmation classes are for all seventh and eighth grade students.

Visit us on the web at www.trinitynewlenox.org



Wednesday morning Adult Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, September 6th at 8:30 a.m. in the library. It is a very interesting group and everyone is welcome to join.

Thursday night Adult Bible Study will begin on September 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the library. Come and join us.



Choir will resume in September. Watch upcoming bulletins for date and time. Choir is open to men and women. Everyone is welcome.



Chancel:

We invite all women of Trinity to come visit our meeting and find out what we are about. We are a devoted, fun group of ladies who enjoy giving a little time to our church in a meaningful way.

The next meeting is September 11th at 6:30 pm; hostesses are Allene Bachmann and Kay Purnell.



Altar Flowers - The 2017 flower chart is posted on the wall across from the church office. The weekend slots are now all filled. Chancel Guild Members would like to thank those of you who have signed up to sponsor a weekend. 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. If you would still like to sponsor a weekend, we do have some sponsors who are willing to double up and share the flowers and the cost. The shared cost would be \$9.00 for one of the two arrangements. Please call Kay Purnell at [\(815\) 485-9017](tel:8154859017) or email her at purnellk51@hotmail.com. You may pick up your flowers after the last service of the weekend.



Women's League

The next meeting is September 26th at 12:30 p.m. The group will be finishing the blankets for MorningStar and filling bags for chemo patients. Donations can be made for the items needed to fill the bags. Please see the board set up in the church. Hostesses are Ginny DeCarlo, Ruth Hucher and Rita Larson.

Social Ministry ----- Coffee Fellowship



Thank you to everyone who has continued to service coffee every month. We have had a few new hosts over the past few months. A special “thanks” to you. **We are still looking for a coffee “host” or “hostess” for the 4th Sunday for the months of August through November.** If you enjoy the coffee hour why not take a turn at being a host! **Without your help, coffee will not be served on the 4th Sunday.** A sign-up sheet is on the hallway table. Please stop and sign up for the month, or months, that you would be able to serve. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 815.485.6973.



St. Matthew's. We are continuing to support St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Chicago by collecting donations of non-perishable food items (see list of requested food items on the poster next to the collection box), as well as household goods. Please place the food items in the collection box by the parking lot door. The household items should be placed in the storage closet area at the far East end of the church basement. Please place items neatly so they do not block the aisle to the boiler room.



Thanks to everyone who signed up last month as a reader, greeter or a volunteer for the MorningStar serving. Your help is greatly appreciated.



Greeters and Readers:

Have you ever gone somewhere where you didn't know anyone? Imagine you are looking for a new church home and one of the churches on your list is Trinity. You show up on Sunday morning and no one speaks to you except the Pastor. Will you be coming back? Take a turn at greeting at one of our services and the result might be very surprising.

VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP SHEETS. Please take a turn to be a Reader or a Greeter at our worship service. Sign-up sheets for the month of August are on the hallway table for Readers and Greeters Stop and sign up!



MorningStar Mission. The August sign-up sheet is on the hallway table. Servings will be August 7th and August 21st at 3:45 p.m.



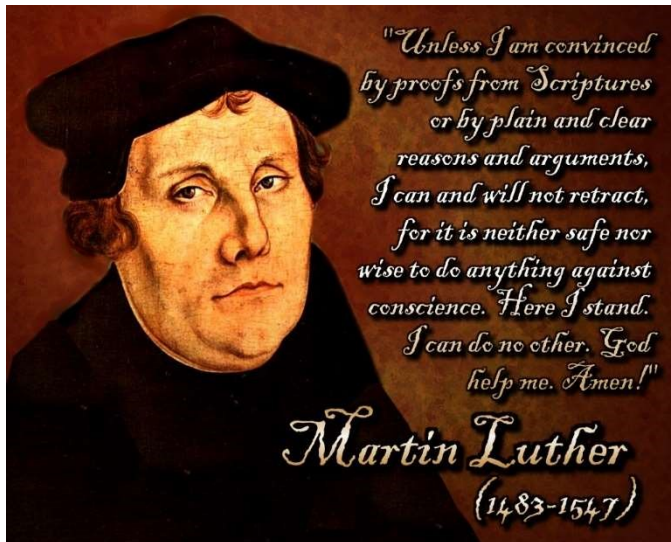
Healing Hearts Survivors of Suicide Support Group Meetings; Third Monday of each month from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Location: New Lenox Village Hall, 20 Veterans Parkway, New Lenox.

The next meeting will be held on August 21, 2017. The Guest Speaker will be Catherine Rook, Community Mental Health Outreach & Education Trainer Sertoma Centre, Inc. The topic will be: Journaling to Enhance Self-Care Interactive Workshop. This will include learn and practice creative journaling techniques that are useful as tools for enhancing self-care.



Gardeners: If you have vegetables that you would like to share, bring them to church and place them on the card table outside the gym. Members please take what you can use. This will continue throughout the growing season.

SAVE THE DATE:



Martin Luther: The Idea That Changed the World

ABOUT THE FILM

500 years ago, Martin Luther triggered a seismic upheaval that rocked the western world—with an impact that continues to reverberate to this day. This entertaining new film follows the great adventure story of Luther's life, packed with political intrigue, kidnappings, secret hideouts, and life-or-death showdowns. At the same time, it's a story about the most important questions of life, including "Who am I?" "What is my purpose" and "How do I get right with God?"

It's a must-see for any lifelong Lutheran, and a chance to share the message of our Lutheran heritage with others. And the only place you can see the film is at the AMC Showplace New Lenox 14 & IMAX on the night of our church's special event on Wednesday, September 20, at 6:30pm. This screening is the perfect outreach opportunity—a chance to invite friends and neighbors to an entertaining event in our community.

Filed in historic locations across Europe, this movie brings Luther's story to life with exquisite attention to detail. It's a way to strengthen our faith by revisiting the birth of Protestant Reformation, and a chance to share that experience with others.

IMPORTANT: Tickets are on sale now and must be purchased in advance. Tickets can be purchased at a special web site set up for the screening:

<http://luthermovie.link/newlenox> (Tickets are \$12 + \$1 service fee, \$13 total)

OR

See Pastor Hoag if you would like to purchase tickets. Make checks out to Trinity Lutheran Church for \$13 and write Luther in the memo.

Visit us on the web at www.trinitynewlenox.org

Sharefest New Lenox. August & September Dates

ShareFest is an annual event in New Lenox involving over 103 organizations. During this time, they unite as Proud Americans to meet the needs in the community. This is open to the community. For more info please call 815.727.1614 or visit www.sharefestnewlenox.com.

August 2nd - Frankfort Township Building 9 am – 11 am set up with books

August 5th "Love Monee" 12-2 pm.

August 7-11th Will County Back to School Clothing Drive

August 9th Romeoville Library

August 12th Sort and packing event

August 19th Evergreen Terrace 11 am – 2 pm in Joliet

September 9th – Recyclepalooza, at Spencer School Campus, 1711 s. Spencer rd. from 8:00 am – 3:00 p.m.:

Electronics, carpet padding (in 45 lengths), wood, scrap metal, Styrofoam, flags, usable latex paint; Donations of books, clothes, home good, food, pet supplies, items for the troops

September 13th – Job Fair at Frankfort Township 1-4 pm.

Volunteers are needed. For more information or to register to volunteer, please call 815.717.2614, or visit at www.sharefestnewlenox.com or www.sharefestwillcounty.com



Upcoming Community Events – Prairie Fest in Homer Glen. This will be the 10th Anniversary of this event sponsored by Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church of Homer Glen. The event will run August 11 – 13, 2017. More information can be found at byzantinecatholic.com.



If you do not presently receive our monthly newsletter electronically, but would like to be added to our email list, please email tlcsecretary508@gmail.com or call the office at 815.485.6973

Church office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9AM to 1PM.

Visit us on the web at www.trinitynewlenox.org

