

August 2025

Dear Friends,

Something that isn't mentioned much about Baptism in Christ is that it circumcised us. That sounds strange, doesn't it? Allow me to explain.

Colossians 2:11-14 says, "In him (Christ Jesus) also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, have been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross."

Everything that condemned you—sin, death, the Law, your sinful nature—has been cut off (circumcised) and discarded by your baptism into Christ. It was the removal of the smothering weight and burden of sin by means of forgiveness, which tore it all to pieces. This is the picture Colossians is drawing for you.

Your debt? Canceled.

Your status? Innocent and alive

Eternal life is assured. There are no demands. You were buried and raised with Jesus. There is therefore now no condemnation for you who are in Christ Jesus.

Rejoice, dear Christian! You are a recipient of grace from your Heavenly Father! Take heart!

Pastor Hoag

OUR ONGOING PRAYER LIST:

**Lydia Friedrich, Fred and Midge Meents, Sharon Buell, Karen Grady, Jerry Knodel,
Randy Varju, Carol Wasilewski, Maria Buck, John Marsh, Mark Lord, Barb Lavaggi,
Rudy Bozac, Lil Grabowski, Andy Verchimak, Debbie Stapleton,
Daniel and Susan Willenborg, Randall Agne, Chuck Peters, Tom Kaun,
Karen Dickson, Les Koenig, Jan Prospero, Linda Bleck, Bob Look**

AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER: President's Message

Dear Friends,

- Nothing New to Report
-

I hope everyone is enjoying summer!

Church Council is on hiatus for the summer. Please contact me if any questions or issues arise before our next meeting.

Sincerely,
Dan Wheeler

Plans are being made for the Fall Craft and Vendor Fair which will be held on Saturday, October 18, from 9 to 3. Applications are now being accepted from congregation members and past participants. After August 15, applications will be available to other crafters and vendors. If you would like to participate, please go to the Craft Fair section on the church website. Fill out the information form and submit it. The application and information will be emailed to you. If you know of other people who may be interested, please refer them to the website and have them complete the form. Information will be sent to them after August 15.
If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Hoag or Jan Toepke.

***** Church Nursery Available! *****

Did you know our church now has a nursery available during the 9:00 AM Sunday church service?

This Extends the Entire Year

Children aged 0 to 3 are welcome to come to the nursery downstairs by the Sunday School rooms for all or a portion of the service. Everyone is welcome to come down and see our new classroom and meet the caregivers.

“FAMILY SUNDAY” WILL BE THE 3RD SUNDAY AGAIN THIS SUMMER AND THERE WILL BE A CHILDRENS SERMON. PLEASE JOIN US!

THRIVENT - Meet the original purpose-based company. Our purpose is to empower lives of service and faith. A unique financial services organization.

We're a membership-owned fraternal organization dedicated to serving the unique needs of our clients — guiding them toward financial choices that will help them live the lives they want today and tomorrow.

As a fraternal benefit society, we have a shared purpose, have clients who share a common Christian bond, provide mutual protection in the form of insurance to eligible clients and offer clients opportunities to support their local communities through regional Thrivent Member Networks.

Are you interested in learning more about THRIVENT?

Please contact: Kim Burbank 708-567-9372 or email: kimberly.burbank@thrivent.com

(she is also listed in our May Newsletter)

<https://connect.thrivent.com/kimberly-burbank>

CHURCH ROOM USAGE: as a Member of Trinity Lutheran Church, you can make use of a room in the church if needed. We do require a \$100 deposit to hold the room. The deposit will be returned to you after the room has been inspected by our property committee. If cleanup is needed, we will keep the deposit. For more information contact Jennifer at tlcsecretary508@gmail.com.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LUTHERAN CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

<https://www.lcrlfreedom.org> (see monthly bulletin insert)

OUR CHURCH CHOIR: Michelle Buell, Michelle Hoag, Karma Krzysiak, Robin Krol, Nancy Minnick, Jennifer Mudrock, Jan Toepke and Julie Verchimak for more information contact Jennifer at tlcsecretary508@gmail.com

YOUR 2025 CHURCH COUNCIL:

President:

-Dan Wheeler

Secretary:

-Jennifer Kojro-Badziak

Financial Secretary:

-Jacob M. Sheffer

Treasurer:

-Tim King

Directors of Outreach:

-Michael Gardner & Kim Gappa

Director of Parish Education:

-Michelle Buell & Beth Parker

Director of Social Ministry:

-Vacant

Directors of Spiritual Life:

-Dr. Edward A. Tatro & Diane Sewing

Directors of Property:

-Steve Toman & Vacant

Director of the Board of Youth Ministry (B.O.Y.M.)

-Christina Kipper

Pastor Hoag and members of the Church Council want to remind you that they will never use online methods to solicit money or gift cards out of the blue. If you ever receive a text, email, or social media message asking you to purchase gift cards or to send money, ignore and delete the message and contact Pastor Hoag



Did You Know Pastor Hoag is a Rock Star!!!

Come See the Band "Side Effects!" on the Following Dates and Locations:

- Saturday, August 9-- Gusto's, Crest Hill, 9pm-1am

Church Member Skills: HELP SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS

-Accounting, Tax Preparation, Business Validations – Tamara L. Doerrer
Certified Public Accountant
Email: doerrercpa@gmail.com
Phone: 815.263.8800

-Amway – Nikki Switzer
www.amway.com/myshop/nikkiswitzer
Email: tremere09@gmail.com
Phone: 815.690.3782

-Account Manager with Evertree Insurance – Timothy Gappa
www.evertree.co
Email: tim.gappa@evertree.co
Phone: 815.464.8800

-Beauty/Cosmetics Services with Mary Kay - Joanne Gardner
Mary Kay Senior Sales Director
Office: 815-485-6675
Cell/Text: 815-922-9623
Email: joanne.gardner@comcast.net
Website: www.marykay.com/joannegardner

-Clear View Renovation – Dana Knodel
Interior Remodeling of Bathrooms, Kitchens, Basements (no outside work)
708.822.2902
knodel.dana@yahoo.com

-Financial Advisor with Thrivent - Kimberly Burbank
connect.thrivent.com/kimberly-burbank
Email: kimberly.burbank@thrivent.com
Phone: 708.770.4311
Text: 708.564.3971

-Jans Specialty Cakes – Decorated Cakes, Cookies, Cupcakes - Jan Toepke
Phone: 815.485.2638
Email: toepkej@gmail.com

-Comic Relief, Annoying the Church Secretary, Complaining - Kim Blecke

-Knitting and Crochet - Nikki Switzer
www.amway.com/myshop/nikkiswitzer
Email: tremere09@gmail.com
Phone: 815.690.3782

-Coach for: Lifeonaires - Suzy Kambic
Lifeonaire: An Uncommon Approach to Wealth, Success, and Prosperity
real wealth is about living a life that's in harmony with my faith, family, and community
Lifeonaire provides perspective on life choices
<https://lifeonaire.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Lifeonaire-Vision-Worksheet.pdf>

-Seamstress - Specialize in Bridal/Formal Alterations - Barbara Adochio
Phone: 815-545-5029
416 Root Street New Lenox, IL 60451

-“Side Effects!” (Pastor Hoag’s Band) – to book gigs for events contact: - Dan Bay
Phone: 815-671-9709

LCC Disaster Response Ministry

LCC Disaster Response deploys, coordinates and manages volunteer teams as they respond to disasters throughout the United States and beyond. LCC trains volunteer Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT) through our LCMS congregations in many areas of disaster response.

Approximately 850 active LCC volunteers have been certified in basic LERT training. Many have gone on to certify in additional training such as chainsaw, heavy equipment, debris removal, flood recovery with pumps, mucking homes and how to provide emotion and spiritual care. LERT volunteers can prepare, cook and serve meals to volunteers and affected communities while deployed. For LERT volunteers, disaster response is an essential relief and outreach ministry.

In the chaos of disaster, it's important to stay focused on the task at hand. LCMS Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) training will help you focus on the most important thing to remember as you prepare for or to respond to a disaster in your community or beyond. At the center of our LERT volunteer training is one thing: **MERCY!** Christ's mercy is the basis for everything we say and do. This training event will equip you to be an effective volunteer should a disaster strike your community. After a brief introduction regarding the goals and theological rationale of LCMS Disaster Response, the LERT volunteer training will address the following:

- Christian Care In Times of Disaster
- A Ministry of Presence
- The LERT Program and How It Works with Other Responders
- Introduction to Disaster Response
- LCC/NID Disaster Response & Deployment Protocol
- Service Opportunities after a Disaster & Safety Protocol

LERT training is also now offered to youth, ages 14 – 17, so they can also assist in general disaster response safely and under the guidance of their own youth leadership. LCMS Disaster Response has developed new guidelines for youth participation. A parent must be present and sign form for participation.

If you know someone who would be a good addition to your LERT Team, encourage them to register and attend.

PLEASE REMEMBER: ANY TYPE OF HELP **IS HELPING** – IT COULD BE AS SIMPLE AS PASSING OUT WATER BOTTLES

<https://www.lutheranchurchcharities.org>

BEST WAY TO DONATE: CASH (it is preferred – it's as simple as that) – this can be placed in an envelope and put into the offering plate. The money will be collected in a safe and given to Mark Razny when the proper time arises. He will purchase what is needed for each specific location.

for more information please reach out to: Mark Razny at mrazny@yahoo.com or the Church Secretary at tlcsecretary508@gmail.com

*We're proud to be a **Thrivent Choice**® - enrolled organization.*



Bible Study: ... SEE YOU SEPTEMBER 10th and 11th



2025 we will be reading through the Bible again this year! If you haven't joined us yet, join us for the New Testament! Contact Michelle Buell for details or for help connected with us! (815) 909-6366



Contribution Statements for income tax purposes are available for members using the offering envelopes. If you have not received a statement in previous years and would like to request one, please contact the church secretary or Jacob Sheffer jmsheffer62@gmail.com. If you received a statement in the past, you are on the list to automatically receive one each year.



EACH ONE REACH ONE: We have several shut-ins, or members in need of support or encouragement, here at Trinity. If you are interested in doing your heart and their heart some good by reaching out to them just to say “Hello”, please talk with or email Jennifer (the Church Secretary tlcsecretary508@gmail.com) for a list of names.

TWO Large Print Hymnals are available! These can be found on the table in the Narthex near the bulletins and must always be returned after the service.

Hearing Devices are available for anyone who is hearing impaired.

Please ask Pastor or an Usher for help.

Sewing Kit in the church secretary's office if ever needed – Please Help Yourself.

TRINITY FREE LIBRARY: Need a Book. Take a Book. Bring One Here for Others to Share.

We have several locations within the Church that have books that can be borrowed. We have the library box right outside our parking lot doors - these books are for children and adults. We also have a library in the corner downstairs for children. ENJOY!

“MEALS FOR MEMBERS”: What this is: from time to time, some of our members find themselves in the position of needing a little assistance with meals. Whether it be an illness, welcoming a child, an injury, or so on. What we would ask our members is to help provide a meal and deliver it to the person in need. There is a sign-up sheet on the table for anyone willing to provide a meal when the time arises. You can also contact Suzy Kambic @ kambicsuzy@gmail.com or 815.735.8657 (or you can contact Jennifer at tlcsecretary508@gmail.com if needed.)



BUY RAISERIGHT GIFT CARDS – Do you go to Starbucks, shop at Target or Jewel, etc.? Then, why not purchase a gift card for yourself ahead of time or as a gift! A portion of the proceeds go to our high school youth. It costs you only the face value of the gift card. It's a win, win! There are forms with the full list of participating stores outside of the Pastors office, or you can learn more at www.raiseright.com. Any questions contact Angie at minett411@yahoo.com or 815-228-4902. Thank you so much to all our current and newbie participants, we greatly appreciate your support!

The Next Raiseright Order Deadline Dates:

-AUGUST 3RD

Payment is due when you order. Cards will be ready to pick up the following week.

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting our efforts! Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Gentle Reminder for Everyone: donations to the church can be made to the church directly, or online at -

-Our Website: www.trinitynewlenox.org

-Our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/TrinityNewLenox/>

OUTREACH UPDATES:

-PLEASE CONSIDER VISITING OR SENDING A LETTER/CARD TO OUR SHUT-IN'S. FOR NAMES AND ADDRESSES CONTACT Jennifer at tlcsecretary508@gmail.com

-“COME HOME TO JESUS SUNDAY”: SUNDAY 10/26/25 (more info to follow)

OUTREACH FLYERS: Lutheran Hour Ministries **PROJECT CONNECT** can be found on the shelves outside of the Narthex –

-Some of the following **Project Connect** booklets are available as audio files, in addition to their standard PDF readable formats. <https://www.lhm.org/projectconnect/booklets.asp>

- A MATTER OF TIME (taking control of your life)
- COMEBACKS (how to get back up after life knocks you down)
- CONTENTMENT (five practices for a more content life – no matter who you are)
- EVERYONE IS A GIFT (letting God transform how you see people)
- FORGIVENESS IS A CHOICE
- GRIEF (where sadness and hope meet)
- HOW TO TALK ABOUT YOUR FAITH (an introduction to the spiritual conversation curve)
- JOURNEY THROUGH ADDICTION
- JOURNEY THROUGH ANXIETY
- JOURNEY THROUGH THE RAT RACE
- LOVE THY NEIGHBORHOOD (rediscovering the power of sharing the gospel with our deeds)
- PRAYER (when you don't know what to say)
- REGRETS, REALITY, RESTORATION
- SETTING PRIORITIES (previously titled: “Too Much to Do – Too Little Time”)
- THE BIBLE (what? when? why?)
- WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DIE?
- WHO IS JESUS?
- WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN? (courage during difficult times)
- WHY DID JESUS DIE?
- YOUR PLACE IN GODS PLAN (previously titled: “And the Lord Appointed You”)

Member News!!!



2025 Baptisms:

- Vonn Orn Johnson (January 5th, 2025)
- Owen Miller Ronan (March 1st, 2025)
- Rose Everly Ryan (March 30th, 2025)
- Bridgette Anne Bechtold (June 8th, 2025)
- **Viktor Alexander Varju (July 6th, 2025)**
- **Francesca Lynn Okrzesil (July 20th, 2025)**



2025 Weddings:

- Steven and Maryssa Rock



*****PLEASE SHARE THIS WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY*****

Trinity Preschool News:

REGISTRATION FOR 2025-2026 IS OPEN

Please Tell Your Friends and Neighbors

There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$70.00 per student. The school year begins September 2025. The tuition per month will be:

Preschool classes will only be held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays this year. Students have the option to attend:

-3 Days a Week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

or

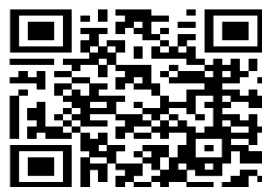
-2 Days a Week on Monday and Wednesday, Monday and Friday, or Wednesday and Friday.

-2 Day, 3-Year-Old - \$125.00

-3 Day, 4-Year-Old - \$160.00

Children must be 3 or 4 by September 1, 2025.

For additional information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815.485.697 or email tlcsecretary508@gmail.com



QR Code



Sunday School News:

We have so many exciting things ahead, and we encourage you to join us!
Bring a friend or family member, too!

This Year Our Focus will be: "Fishers of Men"

as we share the Truth of God to our family, friends, and community!"

The Sunday School is collecting **non-perishable food, and monies, to donate to our New Lenox Food Pantry indefinitely**. This is to help those around us during these challenging times. Please bring canned goods and dry boxed items. To see items most needed by New Lenox Township Food Pantry, please visit their website (www.newlenox.org), or Facebook. A donation box is located downstairs by the Sunday School rooms, and upstairs by the library. They have also mentioned to us that they can do the most to help with financial donations – you can donate directly on their website or add an envelope with a note in our offering basket. Thank You!!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENT CALANDER

SEE YOU SEPTEMBER 7TH

**TLC Youth Group: Enjoy your summer vacation!
Please watch social media for fun summer activities**

**TLC Youth Group is for grades 7th-12th and is a great opportunity to form new friendships and make plans for exciting things to do.
We host monthly dinners on the second Sunday of each month at 5pm.
I would love to see you there, and as always bring a friend!**

TLC Youth Group:

An Instagram page has been created where you can find information and invites for fun activities.

Please follow: [tlcyg_nl](#)



Chancel Guild News!

Attention Ladies of Trinity - Our meetings are at 9 a.m. the first Saturday of January, March, April, May, September, October, November, and December. Ladies of TLC please consider joining our awesome Chancel Guild. For more information, please contact Jennifer Mudrock, Wendy Kaun, Denise Buchanan, or Kay Purnell.

Chancel Schedule for August:

August 2-3 – Kay Purnell
August 9-10 – Jan Schlak and Lois Dobbs
August 16-17 – Jennifer Mudrock
August 23-24 – Jennifer Mudrock and Denise Buchanan
August 30-31 – Jennifer Mudrock

Altar Flowers - Fresh flowers are placed on the altar to remind us of the "Garden of Eden" and "Jesus' Garden Tomb." They are part of the beauty of the Creation. Chancel Guild very much appreciates the congregation's support helping them keep fresh flowers on the altar, **The posted 2025 Altar Flower Sponsor Calendar is complete. We have lined up sponsors all the way through December. Such good news!** Chancel Guild extends its gratitude to all its weekend sponsors. A 2026 calendar will be posted towards the end of October. If you have any questions, email Kay Purnell at purnellk51@hotmail.com or call her at (815) 485-9017.

August Altar Flower Sponsors:

Aug. 2/3	Mike & Joanne Gardner In Honor of Their 49th Wedding Anniversary (Aug. 7)
Aug. 9/10	Rex & Jan Toepke In Honor of Their 52nd Wedding Anniversary
Aug. 16/17	Jennifer Kojro-Badziak In Memory of Jennifer's Mother's Passing
Aug. 23/24	Carol Oldendorf In Memory of Carol's Husband, Ken, and in Memory of Their Granddaughter, Danielle McDonald
Aug. 30/31	Dan & Dawn Wojnarowski In Memory of Dawn's Brother, Martin Geschke



Social Ministry Announcements:

Plans are being made for the Fall Craft and Vendor Fair which will be held on Saturday, October 18, from 9 to 3.

Applications are now being accepted from congregation members and past participants. After August 15, applications will be available to other crafters and vendors. If you would like to participate, please go to the Craft Fair section on the church website. Fill out the information form and submit it. The application and information will be emailed to you. If you know of other people who may be interested, please refer them to the website and have them complete the form. Information will be sent to them after August 15.

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Hoag or Jan Toepke.

The Social Ministry is collecting yarn for Vitas Healthcare in Tinley Park. They have knitters/crocheters who make blankets for hospice patients.

If you have yarn that could benefit this group, please place it in the box under the table outside the office.

Coffee Hours: Coffee Hours are hosted every Sunday after the 9:00 service. Additional Coffee Hour Hosts are always needed. If you would like to help, please contact Jennifer in the Office at tlcsecretary508@gmail.com or Jan Toepke at toepkej@gmail.com.

Coffee Hour Schedule: (coffee hours will continue during the summer following the 9:00 service)

August

3 - Sandy Peters
10 - Sharon Lorenz
17 - Kay Purnell
24 - Sandy Peters
31 - Christina Kipper and Liz Benedict

September

7 - Nicole Black
14 - Sharon Lorenz
21 - Kay Purnell
28 - Sandy Peters

Thank you to all of our Coffee Hosts who have been doing a wonderful job of providing coffee and sweets for the fellowship following the 9:00 services.

We are looking for one or two additional people who can fill in when we have a vacant Sunday (usually when there are 5 Sundays in the month) or if someone who is scheduled needs to cancel. Please contact the church office if you are able to help out.

Social Ministry Meeting: will be **Monday, September 8th @ 7:00pm**. If you have been looking for a way to become more involved with your church family, consider joining us!

Food and Fellowship: will be **Tuesday, September 9th @ 12:00pm**. Please join us for lunch and an afternoon activity. All adults are welcome! Bring a friend if you like! If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet by the office.

IMPORTANT KITCHEN INFORMATION: To alleviate the accumulation of food and drinks in the kitchen refrigerator/freezer, instructions will be posted. Following an event, if there is leftover food and there is not an event where it could be used in the immediate future, please take it with you. If you would like it used at a future event, please contact the people hosting so they are aware it is there. Labels will be available to date and identify who items belong to. Thank you for your help in this matter!

Trinity Lutheran Church

Usher Sunday Summer Schedule 2025

1 st Sunday	9:AM	Virgil Switzer Biff Aiken	331 588 4264 815 954-0682 biffdebaiken@gmail.com
2 nd Sunday	*9:AM	Edward A. Tatro** Tim King	815 485 5760 etatro4@aol.com 815 463 0415 tim.king1@comcast.net
3 rd Sunday	9:AM	Mike Gardner Gary Purnell	815 485 9623 mgardner1453@gmail.com 815 485 9017 gpurnell3@hotmail.com
4 th Sunday.	*9: AM	Steve Tomany Randy Varju	815 485 3163 sltomany@gmail.com 815.685.1363 randy.varju@aah.org
5 th Sunday	9:AM	Scott Benedict Jeff Lorenz	815 953 8105 maxem02@yahoo.com 815 463 0833 jlorenz2367@gmail.com

Alternates:

Zack Horn 630 664 9224 zachary.horn@gmail.com
Dan Wheeler 708 932 1054 wheeler.dan454@gmail.com
Craig Black 815 278 0330 cbnb33@sbcglobal.net
Jacob Sheffer 815 263 8968 jm.sheffer62@gmail.com
Rex Toepke 815 485 2638 rtoepke@usa.net

*Communion.

Members who have an interest in serving the Lord and our congregation as an usher, helping to assist with the sanctity of our services, should contact Ed Tatro or Diane Sewing. {noted above**}

Church Office Hours: SUMMER HOURS See Bulletin (call or email if you should need anything)