

December 2012

Dear Friends of Trinity,

As I write this it is the Tuesday following Thanksgiving. We reflected and said a hearty "Thank You!" to our God who sustains us by providing us all that we need to sustain our earthly lives. From His abundant hand comes love and care. He gives and provides like a faucet that cannot be shut off. His gifts are endless!

We are now in the highly anticipatory season of Advent. We wait for the appearing of Jesus, the God-man, the Word made flesh who lives with his people.

I heard about a survey on the radio the other day. The results of the survey were astounding: 45% of those surveyed were in favor of skipping Christmas. And it wasn't because they didn't like Christmas. It was the preparation for Christmas that was cited as the main reason. Cleaning, cooking, baking, decorating, sending Christmas cards, shopping, crowds, maxed-out credit cards—it's becoming unbearable for some people. It's turned into a chore rather than a celebration. Some are left holding their head in the hands and wondering, "Do we have to do this?" Good question.

I know that many are concerned about the over-commercialization of a holy time, and it's a legitimate concern. My personal concern is that Christmas has become superficial. Our modern celebration lacks depth, and because of that many people just want to get it done and over with. It's lost its meaning and focus.

Advent can play a critical role in reversing this. It provides a time of further reflection and anticipation for something greater than what can be bought at a store. As a matter of fact, that something greater is the price paid to purchase you from sin and death. Jesus is that price and that gift! You have been bought because of God's great love for you, and it is the ultimate gift that can never spoil or fade away.

Have a very Merry and Blessed Christmas!

In Christ,

Pastor Hoag

# ***December 2012***

## ***WORSHIP SERVICES FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT***

### **DECEMBER 1**

**6:00 PM The Lord's Table**

### **DECEMBER 2**

**8:00 am Matins**

**9:15 am Sunday School/Bible Study**

**10:30 am Worship with communion**

### **DECEMBER 8**

**6:00 pm Light and Shadows**

### **DECEMBER 9**

**8:00 am Worship with communion**

**9:15 am Sunday School/Bible Study**

**10:30 am Matins**

### **DECEMBER 15**

**6:00 pm Peaceful Night**

### **DECEMBER 16**

**8:00 am Worship**

**9:15 am Sunday School/Bible Study**

**10:30 am Sunday School Program**

### **DECEMBER 22 – No Service**

### **DECEMBER 23**

**9:00 Lessons and Carols**

### **DECEMBER 24**

**5:00 Contemporary Christmas Eve Service**

**7:00 pm Candlelight Service**

**11:00 pm Candlelight Service**

### **DECEMBER 25**

**10:00 am Worship**

## **SOCIAL MINISTRY**

### Morning Star Mission

Thanks to the many caring people who have taken "stars" to shop for Morning Star's patrons' Christmas gifts. Please remember... if you wish to be reimbursed for your purchases of \$40-45 (1/2 of list) or \$80-90 (whole list), you must submit all purchase receipts for our records. Thanks again for your help. Donations will be accepted through **12/18**.

### Christmas Party

There's still time to sign up for the annual Christmas celebration on **December 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Pizza, salads, desserts and drinks are on the menu, with Dino Jump, games with prizes for the kids, caroling for adults to follow. Be certain to sign up if you plan to attend. Pizza will be served promptly at 5:45, so please arrive on time.

The Social Ministry Christmas Party will be held on Monday, **December 10<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 pm. Don't forget your "lovely" white elephant.

Virgil Switzer: Please read the latest letters from Virgil at the office door bulletin board; they express how much he appreciates our cards, prayers, and love. Also please take a moment to sign his card on the table outside the office.

Butter Braids:

For those who ordered them, pick-up will be from 3-5:30 pm on Tuesday, **12/4**.

From all of Social Ministry to Trinity Congregation: Thanks for your prayers, donations, encouragement and lasting support for our many outreach endeavors this past year. Our best wishes and prayers for a most blessed holiday season.

## **CHANCEL GUILD**

**1/2** – Ann Romadka & Debbie Nick

**3 - Clean the Church**

**9/10** – Debbie Nick & Rita Larson

**15/16** – Rita Larson & Allene Bachmann

**23** Allene Bachmann & Doris Bay

**24** - 7:00 pm – Denise Buchanan & Jan Prospero

**24** - 11:00 pm – Judi Donovan & Robin Krol

**25** – Lois Dobbs & Sharon MacFarlane

**29/30** Ann Romadka & Robin Krol

Our next meeting is Monday, **December 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 6:30 p.m. Hostesses will be Kay Purnell, and Wendy Kaun. We will be cleaning and decorating the church for the Christmas season. The more the merrier!! All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us.

The ladies from Women's League made and donated all the desserts for our fall luncheon. Now it is our turn to help them. If at all possible, please bake some cookies for their cookie sale to be held on Saturday, **December 1<sup>st</sup>**.

If you have any questions please call Doris Klemm at (815) 485-3739.

## **POINSETTIAS FOR THE ALTAR**

**What a sight with the altar covered in poinsettias! Would you like to place a poinsettia or two on the altar for Christmas? Each plant is only \$11.50 and can be picked up after the Christmas Day Service. You can order by completing the PINK forms on the table by the gym, calling the church office or Denise Buchanan at (815)485-2729.**

# WOMEN'S LEAGUE

ANNUAL COOKIE WALK is Saturday **Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>** at 8:30 a.m. Cookies will be \$8.00/pound. We will be setting up Friday, **Nov 30<sup>th</sup>** at 8:30 am. We welcome any donations of Christmas cookies, homemade candy and other bakery goods from members of our congregation. Bakery can be dropped off Friday until 6:00 pm or Saturday am. There are trays available in the gym for you to use in transporting your cookies to the sale.

We also have a table for crafts and gently used items. They may be dropped off any time in the gym or brought in Friday, **Nov 30<sup>th</sup>**.

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Where has the year gone? It's time to let you know about our annual Christmas luncheon! The date is Tuesday, **December 11<sup>th</sup>** at 12:30 in the church basement. Inglenook will cater the meal. The price will be \$10. If you have any questions, please call Pat at 815 485 6441. Please join us! Reservations are due by **12/9**.

## MORNING STAR SERVINGS

If you have some extra time, we need volunteers. The dates are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month usually, (**12/3 & 12/17**). If you can't make it by 3:45, you can come between 4-4:30. If you have any questions, please call Judy at 815 462 1374. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the hall. 4-5 people are needed each night.

## COME ONE CALL ALL!!

### YOUTH OF THE CONGREGATION

Youth - Junior High and High School youth will be setting up the church Christmas tree on Sunday, **Dec. 2** at 3:00 p.m. Afterwards, we'll have pizza and lead the games for the younger children at the church Christmas party. If you can help, please talk to Pastor or Michelle Hoag so we can get a count for the pizza.

#### MEANWHILE....

6<sup>th</sup> grade and younger... Please join us on Sunday, **December 2** in the New Lenox Commons area to help us decorate our tree! There will be Santa and Mrs. Claus, a couple of their reindeer (not sure who they are bringing), a candy cane hunt, and more. We will be decorating the tree at about 3 pm, but feel free to come earlier for all the other fun events!

Sunday School Christmas Program will be Sunday, **Dec. 16** at the 10:30 a.m. church service.

Children should come at the regular 9:15 am time to prepare. The practice will be Saturday, **Dec. 15**, at 10 a.m. (**NOTE THE TIME CHANGE FROM YEARS PAST!**) We will practice and serve the children a pizza lunch on Saturday.

## CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Members who have not received offering envelopes in the past and would like to request them for the year 2013, please, write a request with your name, address, and telephone number and give it to Kim, Church Secretary, or place in Janice Prospero's church mailbox. If you would like to stop receiving envelopes, please also fill out a form and indicate as such. Request sheets are on the table in the hallway. You may, also, contact Janice at (815) 485-3558. There are BLUE forms on the hallway table to request envelopes.

Members using offering envelopes may pick up their 2013 envelope boxes in the hallway outside the office starting **12/9**. Envelopes not picked up by **12/31** will be mailed in January. We really appreciate it when you pick up your envelopes and save us the expense of mailing them!

## SALEM STOCKING STUFFERS

When you entered the building from the parking lot, you may have noticed the beautifully decorated box near the gym. Women's League has once again stepped up to coordinate this collection. Listed below are some of the items that would benefit residents of Salem's Assisted Living.

Crossword books	Hats	Socks
Alarm clocks	Markers	Perfumes
Blankets	Tissues	Powder
Calendars	Wallets	Checkers
Pen/pencil sets	Watches	Movies
Electronic Games	Tags	Bibles
Note Cards	Frames	Ribbons
Slippers w/soles	Bows	
Scarves/mittens	Hosiery	

**(Portable-Paper) CRAFTING GROUP:** is looking into the idea of a multi-day crop like other places do. Interested? Here's the weekend: **2/8-10/2013**. Contact Kim Alfano @ [kimhuntingtonalfano@comcast.net](mailto:kimhuntingtonalfano@comcast.net) for more information.

## TRINITY PRESCHOOL

Preschool registration for the 2013/2014 school year for congregational members will be during the month of December. **Members only have priority registration during December.** There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$60. Cost for Preschool will be \$100/month for 2 days a week and \$125/month for 3 days a week. During January, families with children already in our preschool will be able to register, open registration begins in February. Children must be three or four years old on/before September 1, 2013 to be enrolled. If you have questions, please call Jeanine Welsh at (815)485-6973.

# TRINITY PRAYER CHAIN

Trinity Lutheran has a Prayer Chain that is available to anyone for prayer support by fellow members. These prayers may be for personal, congregational, community, governmental, and all other needs. All requests are kept confidential. Please call Ginny DeCarlo (815) 485-2001 to request a prayer. The Bible says, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." James 5:16b.

If you are interested in being part of the Prayer Chain, or would like more information please give Ginny a call. You can also call the office at (815) 485-6973. We would be happy to provide you with all the information. Please consider being part of this worthwhile endeavor. You can make a difference.

## REMEMBERING OUR SHUT –INS

**EVELYN CLANCY**  
123 S. Cherry Hill Road  
Joliet, IL 60433

**BOBBIE JACKMAN**  
24015 S. 80<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Frankfort, IL 60423

**MARILYN JOHNSON**  
c/o Encore  
1023 S. Cedar Rd  
New Lenox, IL 60451

**MILLIE STEINBRENNER**  
c/o Sunrise Senior Living  
95 Carlton Ave  
Glen Ellyn, IL

**BILL WHITE**  
635 Davis Ave  
Joliet, IL 60433

**LUCY HARTLEY**  
2011 E. Washington Street  
Joliet, IL 60433-1531

**RUTH JANNER**  
Lakewood Nursing & Rehab Center  
1112 N. Eastern Ave.  
Plainfield, IL 60544

**MARY McELROY**  
4 Kildare  
Joliet, IL 60433

**VIRGIL SWITZER**  
Inmate M28114  
Western IL Correctional Center  
2500 Route 99 South  
Mt. Sterling, IL 62353

**ARDEL ROSENWINKEL**  
1023 S. Cedar  
New Lenox, IL 60451

## MUGS FOR MORNINGSTAR

Please join other members of Trinity in supporting a great cause this holiday season. Please help us to reach our goal of 100 coffee mugs and \$2,000 in donations from our congregation to this mission. We are asking members to donate their extra coffee mugs filled with change ("Mugs for Morningstar") as well as to consider donating money using one of the envelopes on the giving tree. We have from now until **December 30** to collect these mugs, so start saving your loose change. Full mugs or envelopes can be turned in to the church office. (This is last year's announcement; last year we donated over 200 mugs and almost \$700 in change alone – let's see if we can exceed that this year! We checked, and yes, MorningStar used ALL those mugs and needs more.)

## Giving the gift of Life

In this holy season when we celebrate the wondrous gift that God gave us in the form of a baby; won't you take the time to give a gift – perhaps to save the life of a baby? Please donate blood and save 3 lives. Our final blood drive of the year will be Tuesday, **12/18** from 3-7. Questions or to schedule an appointment: contact Deb at 815 462 0687.

**Today's Light Bible Study** books are in the office.

**Ever miss a Sunday?** And wonder what was in the bulletin? ALL bulletins (and inserts) are kept in a file. If you ever would like a copy, please let the office know, and we'd be glad to make you a copy. If you're fast, (within the next week) they may still be available electronically.

## Thanks to YOU(TH)!

In case you didn't get a chance to see it, we have an awesome new banner. Special thanks to the 7th and 8th grade Sunday School students for the lovely new Thanksgiving banner that is hanging in the church.

### Additions, corrections to the church directory

Berkey, Carol 809 S. Cooper, New Lenox 815 485 6013

Brolick, John & Susan – phone 815 462 3445

Clark, Jan 2680 Schooner, New Lenox 815 485 4413

Donovan, Judi – phone 815 534 5853

Fandll, Adolf & Kathy – phone 815 726 4030

Franke, Dan & Diane 2605 E. Washington St. Joliet, 60433 815 723 8258

Gerk family 717 Southgate Rd. New Lenox,

Harbin, James & Valerie 1219 Vine St, New Lenox 815 483 6986

Hilger, Lori 19502 115<sup>th</sup> Ave Unit A, Mokena 815 474 7359

Hucher, Ruth 1666 Grand Prairie, New Lenox 815 717 8279

Johnson, Marilyn c/o Encore 1023 S/ Cedar Rd. New Lenox

Knodel, Dana, Kelsey & Kyle phone 708 822 2902

Myers family 1149 N. Cooper Rd. New Lenox

Niemann, Justin 809 Manor Ct, Joliet 60436 815 557 3979

Peters, Chuck & Sandy 212 Canterbury Rd. New Lenox 815 485 7021

Raffanti, Arleen 215 E. 4<sup>th</sup> New Lenox

Sass Family 12424 Gunner Ct, Homer Glen, 60491

Spain family 558 Doxbury New Lenox

Steinbrenner, Millie c/o Sunrise Senior Living 95 Carlton Ct Glen Ellyn 60137

Strache family 700 W. Michigan Rd New Lenox

Switzer, Virgil Inmate #M28114 Western IL Correctional Center 2500 Route 99 South Mt. Sterling, IL 62353

Sullivan, Helen – phone 815 534 5853

Wheeler, Dan & Sandy, Tessam Alex 1901 Grand Prairie Dr New Lenox 815 462 1971

White, William & Linda 635 Davis Ave, Joliet, 60433



## **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Gavin Evans	1
Haleigh Ziebell	1
Emily Purnell	2
Raymond Koehler, Jr.	3
Sharon MacFarlane	4
Ali Wasowicz	4
Diane White	4
Wyatt Grady	5
Holly Hunley	6
William Jackson	6
Carol Oldendorf	7
Carrie Ann Welsh	7
Kenneth Oldendorf	10
Brett Carr	13
Debbie Fahey	14
Jake Cook	15
Natalie Briese	16
Robin Krol	16
Riley Fahey	17
Melissa Studer	17
Zachary Burke	18
Bill Walter	18
Jake Carrier	19
Caden O'Connor	19
Kelli Simon	19
Colleen Dampf	20
Brenden Kosel	20
Brock Krohe	20
Mick Lerner	20
Rebecca Johnson	21
Layla Johnson	22
Sheldon Klemm	23
Evelyn Clancy	24
Ronald Molenaar	25
Mark Lord	26

Raymond Miletich	26
Trent Berkey	27
Sharon Molenaar	27
Jeff Lorenz	28
Loretta Renwick	28
Hallie Remm	29
Mary Leahy	29
Elissa Delcorio	30
Matthew Minger	30
Jacob Standard	30
Grace Minett	31
Robert Stark	31

## **DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

Keith and Heather Kumlin	11
Bob and Debbi Hodo	24