

January 2023

Dear Friends,

Our society tends to shun authority figures but will submit to authority if necessary. People enjoy their independence, especially when it comes to religion and spirituality. Fewer and fewer people find it necessary to have a spiritual authority figure in their lives and this trend will continue.

In the Christian faith it is understood that pastors are spiritual authorities as that is the reality throughout Scripture. As a pastor myself I am a spiritual authority. It's a hard sell nowadays, but it remains a truism. Christianity is not a DIY religion. It's deeply communal. There is mutual conversation and consolation between Christians that, in Christ, is holy and sacred. Christians need each other to hold each other up. Christians need pastors to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to them and to receive the Sacraments from his hands.

Most of all, Christians need Jesus. Even though we do not see him with our eyes, he uses ambassadors to represent his presence among us. These ambassadors are pastors. As a pastor, I represent Jesus and speak on his behalf, chief of sinners though I be. My voice becomes his voice. My hands become his hands, dispensing forgiveness, life, and salvation in the name of Jesus Christ. This is called...ministry! Heaven and earth meet together in our worship gatherings. It is truly miraculous!

I'm looking forward to ministering to you for this upcoming year, handing out the perpetual and eternal life that is ours in Christ Jesus our Lord! And I pray that you have a very Happy and Blessed New Year!

In Christ,
Pastor Hoag

JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

An update from Church Council President, Gary Purnell:

President's Greeting:

Happy New Year Everyone! I pray your Christmas celebrations were joyous and you are now looking forward to an exciting new year. If all the December events here at Trinity are an indicator as to what God has in store for our congregation, we have much to look forward to. We have so many people to thank for helping plan and carry out our events. Please know how much I appreciate it.

A lively discussion of the reVitality survey results during the Church Council meeting was very positive and encouraging. The Council will be narrowing down which enabling factor(s) will be focused on initially as we progress.

Other highlights discussed during the December Church Council meeting were as follows:

- Potential projects for consideration for next year include evaluating our large boiler to determine service life/possible replacement. Also improving our security with upgrades to exterior lighting and cameras was discussed along with repairing the finish on the Baptismal Font and installing gutter guards to name a few.
- Outreach continues to encourage members to participate in the Each One/Reach One effort.
- Parish Education has planned a one day VBS during the Christmas break.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023 following the late service. Social Ministry is coordinating the pot luck luncheon to be held before the meeting.
- The budget for 2023 will be finalized at next month's Church Council meeting for presentation at the Annual meeting.
- The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Jan 8, 2023, at 7PM.

Stay safe and keep warm!

Gary

Member News!!!



2022 Baptisms:

- Gabriel Wojnarowski Bendoraitis 01/09/22
- Matthew Robert Longmire 02/20/22
- Russell Roy Goebig 04/03/22
- Mary Elizabeth Niemann 05/07/22
- Kanerick Matthew Dobrez 07/02/22
- Alita Sue Hicks 07/03/22
- Landon Paul Ondera 07/10/22
- Everly Jo Youngberg Sunday 08/14/22
- Alessi Anastasios Zarnos Sunday 08/21/22
- Persephone Mae Sheffer Sunday 08/21/22
- Roan Roy Seville's Sunday 11/26/22

2023 Baptisms:

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2022 Weddings:

- Camden R. Meade & Francesca T. Prospero 06/11/22

2023 Weddings:

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A Congregational Potluck will be held preceding the Annual Meeting on Sunday,

January 29. Dinner will begin following the 10:30 service. All the families attending are asked to bring a main dish. In addition to the main dish, last names beginning with A to M should bring a salad, and N to Z a dessert. This is a chance for all members to meet the church council and learn about what is being planned for the new year. Please indicate if you plan to attend on the sign-up sheet on the table by the office.

Child Sitting Services Will Be Provided During the Meeting

Looking for High Schoolers to Help Serve and Child Sit 10am-1:30pm for Service Hours



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

the Band Also Includes Our Very Own Property Manager: Dan Bay!

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

- December 31, Roc City in Rockdale, 6-9pm
- January 21, New Lenox VFW, 7-11pm
- February 18, Fireman Ted's in Joliet, 8pm-Midnight
- April 1, New Lenox VFW, 7-11pm
- May 13, Croatian Cultural Club, Joliet, 7-11pm

all new dates will be posted in the weekly bulletin

Good Samaritan Help Needed for Neighbor with Disability: a neighbor is looking for someone who can shovel around her car, when it snows. She lives in an apartment complex near the Fire Station on Route 30/Maple Street. They plow the lot, but they do not take care of the cars. With her condition, she cannot do the work. You will have to bring your own shovel. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jennifer Kojro-Badziak at tlcsecretary508@gmail.com or 815.485.6973. Thank You!!!

If you would be interested in being a Lay Reader, please talk with Pastor Hoag

A limited number of Trinity's 75th Historic Christmas Ornaments are available for a \$20 donation. Your purchase of the ornament will include a copy of the “History of Trinity Lutheran”. These can be found in the copy room, or one is displayed in the hall social area. These are part of the New Lenox Area Historical Society's Heritage collection honoring New Lenox History. They are beautiful glass ornaments with a painted depiction of our church and 75th markings from 2015. We will also take orders for the earlier Trinity Lutheran Church historic ornament. The earlier ornament and history will need to be ordered. These unique pieces of history would make a great present for family and friends. *(sample ornament displayed in the hall social area).
>ALL Proceeds go to Trinity Lutheran Church.

The New Lenox Historical Area Society has other collectible New Lenox Historic Site (schools, businesses, landmark buildings, etc) Ornaments available by contacting the Historic Society at 815 485-5576

Trinity has several talented individuals in our congregation. The following website www.trinitynewlenox.org is intended to be a referral source for members of Trinity who might need one or more of these services and who would prefer to work with a fellow member of the church. Trinity offers this as a free resource to members. Trinity does not warrant or guarantee the services provided. We simply want to provide you with contact information of other Trinity members whom you might wish to consider for the services they provide. Trinity disclaims any liability for any personal injury, property, or other damages of any nature whatsoever, whether special, indirect, consequential, or compensatory, directly or indirectly, resulting from the publication of, use of, or reliance on, this list or any services provided. If you have a talent or service you'd like to have listed on our site, please contact Jennifer Kojro-Badziak at tlcsecretary508@gmail.com and I will get you added! And be sure to check back often, as we continue to add other member services to this page.



Trinity Pre-School – UPDATED

Registration for 2023-2024 Is Open!

Please Tell Your Friends and Neighbors

There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$65.00 per student. School year beginning September 2023. The tuition per month will be:

-2 Day, 3-Year-Old, Tuesday & Thursday: \$120.00

-3 Day, 4-Year-Old, Monday, Wednesday & Friday: \$150.00

Children must be 3 or 4 by September 1, 2023. For additional information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815.485.6973.

Next Pre-School Board Meeting: February 12th, 2023 10:00am-10:30am



Sunday School News:

Sunday School Resumes: Sunday 01/08/23 @ 9:00 am

Children's Sermon: 3rd Sunday of the Month at the 9:00 am Service

Sunday School Friday Game Nights 5:00pm - 7:00pm (Every 4th Friday of the Month):

-01/27/23

-02/24/23

-03/24/23

-04/28/23

-05/26/23

Sunday School Open Gym Service Project - Friday 01/27/23: Join us for a volunteer opportunity for Pediatric Cancer Organization, Love Smiles. We will be sorting the many books collected from their book drive and packing Bags of Love for pediatric cancer patients. Pizza will be served. Feel free to bring new children's books to add to the collection.

Sunday School is Looking for Volunteers: Teachers and Helpers – High School Age to 101. Please contact Michelle Buell @ mbuell3769@gmail.com or Beth Parker @ elizabethmarie@sbcglobal.net if interested. Thanks!!!



Chancel Guild News!

Chancel Guild members would like to thank the following people for purchasing poinsettias for decorating the Chancel Area:

Biff & Debbie Aiken; Allene Bachmann; Scott, Liz, Max & Emily Benedict; Buchanan Family; Kevin Crosby; Janet DeForest; Lois Dobbs; Bob & Tammy Doerrer; Gregg & Sheri Eichwedel; Jan Falk; Mike & JoAnn Gardner; Nicole Green; Tom & Wendy Kaun; Kevin, Christina, & Gunnar Kipper; Dana Knodel; Jennifer Kojro-Badziak; Paul & Robin Krol; Jeff & Sharon Lorenz; Phil & Sharon MacFarlane; Jennifer Mudrock; Judy Niemann-VanderVeen; Michael & Emily Perkins; Gary & Kay Purnell; Doug & Jan Schlak; Tinker Family; Rex & Jan Toepke; Wheeler Family; Daniel & Susan Willenborg

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 January:

~~December 31~~ / January 1: Denise Buchanan & Jennifer Mudrock
January 7 / January 8: Jennifer Mudrock & Rita Larson
January 14 / January 15: Rita Larson & Jan Schlak
January 21 / January 22: Jan Schlak & Kay Purnell
January 28 / January 29: Kay Purnell & Robin Krol

ALTAR FLOWERS - Fresh flowers are used to adorn the altar as a symbol of life and joy. They are part of the beauty of the creation. Chancel guild very much appreciates the congregation's support and help in keeping fresh flowers on the altar. You can help by sponsoring an available Sunday. A 2023 altar flower Calendar has been posted in the glass case on the wall outside the general office. If you would like to reserve a Sunday for 2023 in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birthday, a wedding anniversary, in celebration of God's Blessings, or for any other occasion, fill out a sponsor order sheet and put it in the chancel guild mailbox along with payment. The sheets are located on a hook attached to the glass case housing the calendar. If you have any questions, please contact Kay Purnell at purnellk5@hotmail.com or (815) 485-9017.

Flowers left in the refrigerator will be disposed of after 1 week.

January Altar Flower Sponsors:

- Jan. 1 Judy Niemann-VanderVeen
In Celebration of the Life of Betty Dunn
- Jan. 8 Bruce Hasch
In Memory of Bruce's wife, Joan Hasch
- Jan. 15 Randy & Debbie Crawford
In Remembrance of Jason Crawford
- Jan. 22 Les & Cheryl Koenig
In Celebration of their Wedding Anniversary
Sharing With
Jan Falk
In Memory of Jan's Husband, Ernie
- Jan. 29 Lois Dobbs & Family
In Memory of Jack Dobbs

Social Ministry Announcements:

Coffee Hours: Beginning in October, coffee hours will be hosted every Sunday after the 9:00 service. Volunteers are needed to help with the additional Sundays. If you can help out, please email Jan Toepke at toepkej@gmail.com.

Coffee Hour Schedule

Jan. 1 No Coffee
Jan. 8 Sharon MacFarlane
Jan. 15 Sandy Peters
Jan. 22 Rita Larson
Jan. 29 Christina Kipper and Liz Benedict
Feb. 5 Sandy Peters
Feb. 12 Rita Larson
Feb. 19 Kay Purnell
Feb. 26 Sharon MacFarlane
March 5 Christina Kipper and Liz Benedict
March 12 Kay Purnell
March 19 Rita Larson
March 26 Sharon MacFarlane

Food and Fellowship:

Next Food and Fellowship will be held on Tuesday, January 3, at 12:00. We will have a pizza lunch. Cost will be determined later. Bring your own drinks. Join us for a fun afternoon! Please sign up on the table outside the office. Please indicate your pizza preference (cheese, sausage, pepperoni, veggie).

Social Ministry: Next Meeting - Monday, January 9 at 7:00. Location T.B.D.

Funeral Baked Goods Donations and Hosting: On the table outside pastor's office there is a volunteer list for congregants willing to help donate baked goods and to also help serve at wakes and funerals here at Trinity. In the past we have provided coffee, water, and baked goods per the request of families who are holding funeral services at Trinity. This simple gesture provides comfort to bereaved families and is a wonderful opportunity to serve the Lord. If you have any questions, please email Jan Toepke at toepkej@gmail.com.

Ushers: Thanks to all the ushers for serving our congregation at weekly worship. Ushers, if you cannot serve on your regular Sunday, please call for a substitute in advance from the substitute list that was previously emailed. There is also an usher schedule, with sub's and regular's contact information, in the Usher Guide found in the Narthex lectern. If you have questions while serving check the Usher Guide or speak with pastor.

If anyone would like to serve by ushering at one of our services, please contact Ed Tatro (815 485 5760) or the Church office. Having substitutes is always a blessing. Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Usher Schedule: As we return to our traditional Lutheran services and communion, we will need at least two ushers per service. Reminder to all ushers, if you cannot serve on your regular Sunday, please call for a substitute from the usher substitute list emailed and/or in the copy in the usher guide at church. If you have questions while serving check the Usher Guide at Church or speak with pastor.

Please plan to arrive 30 minutes before service and follow the procedures noted in the usher's loose-leaf notebook in the narthex. Thanks in advance!

Alternates: Zack Horn 630 664 9224
Robert Stark 708 307 4069
Bob Jackman 815 933-3864

*Communion Services (1st and 3rd Sundays at Late Service, 2nd and 4th Sundays at Early Service)

**Co-Chairs Worship and Spiritual Life

1st Sunday

9:00 AM

-Tom Kaun 815 485 9604 kauntd@gmail.com

-Biff Aiken 815 954 0682 biffdebaiken@gmail.com

10:30 AM

-Brett Carr 815 370 6651 brettdcarr@gmail.com

-Paul Krol 815 575 1315 p.krol@sbcglobal.net

2nd Sunday

9:00 AM

-Edward A. Tatro 815 485 5760 etatro4@aol.com

-Tim King 815 463 0415 tim.king1@comcast.net

10:30 AM

-Tom Buell 815 485 3769 tombuell@sbcglobal.net

-Bob Blecke 815 353 7561 cgm964@comcast.net

3rd Sunday

9:00 AM

-Mike Gardner 815 485 9623 mgardner1453@gmail.com

-Gary Purnell 815 485 9017 gpurnell3@hotmail.com

10:30 AM

-Cameron Hoag 779 279 4223 cam.hoag@gmail.com

-Dana Knodel 708 822 2902 danacowboy1@yahoo.com

4th Sunday

9:00 AM

-Steve Tomany 815 485 3163 tomany@sbcglobal.net

-Randy Varju 815-685-1363 randy.varju@aah.org

10:30 AM

-John Buell 815 726 3601 jan.buell@yahoo.com

-Phil McFarlane 815 806 1219 philmacp40@comcast.net

5th Sunday

9:00AM

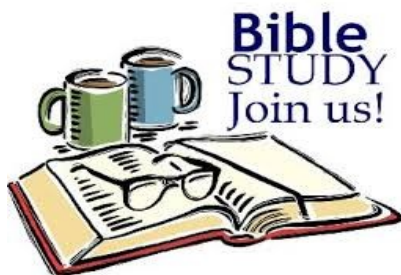
-Rex Toepke 815 485 2638 rtoepke@usa.net

-Jeff Lorenz 815 463 0833 jlorenz2367@gmail.com

10:30AM

-Paul Krol 815 575 1315 p.krol@sbcglobal.net

-Diane Sewing 815-592-3911 dianesewing@hotmail.com



Bible Study News:

-Wednesday at 8:30 a.m.

-Thursday at 7:00 p.m.



RaiseRight Fundraiser (Formerly ShopwithScrip) - This is a gift card fundraiser. They are the same gift cards you can purchase from retailers, including over 300 brand-name grocery stores, department stores, restaurants, gas stations, hotels, home improvement stores, etc. We order the gift cards at a discount, and you pay face value for the gift cards. (For example, you pay \$25 for a \$25 Speedway gift card - the youth group obtains the card at a discount and keeps the difference.) You can purchase gift cards by filling out an order form (located on the table outside Pastor's office) or by placing your order online at www.raiseright.com. If interested in placing orders online, it is simple to do with our church's enrollment code. Contact Angie Minett for the code or with any questions you might have at minett411@yahoo.com or 815-228-4902.

There will not be an order placed for the month of January. We will resume in February. Thank you for your generous support through the holiday season and all year long.

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



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 Tammy Doerrer. If you received a statement in the past, you are on the list to automatically receive one each year.

Church Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
OR

Church Office Hours (No School Days): Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm