

January 2024

Dear Friends,

Let us know nothing among ourselves but Jesus Christ crucified. That is the center of our faith, the axle of the wheel, the very point through which we are reconciled to God.

I've said this before— do not place your faith in your faith. Do not look inward for assurance of the love of God. Do not look anywhere else for salvation except to Jesus Christ crucified.

Are you full of doubts? Look to Christ crucified, for with him is assurance.

Are you trapped in a sin? Look to Christ crucified, for with him is plenteous redemption.

Are you afraid of death and dying? Look to Christ crucified, for you have died already with him.

Are you fearful of God's judgment and wrath? Look to Christ crucified, for Jesus placed himself under God's wrath and took it away from you.

Are you overwhelmed with guilt? Look to Christ crucified, for he became your sin that you become the righteousness of God.

Are you unsure of God's love for you? Look to Christ crucified, for no greater love can be seen.

Are you unclear of where Christ crucified can be seen? Look no further than your church, for Christ is seen in Holy Communion and heard in the proclamation of forgiveness for his sake.

All is done in the cross!

Pastor Hoag

“Revitality” Was a Successful Workshop!!! The Church Council had four meetings. Our focus for this project was: “Engaging Non-Churched People in Our Community”. We have the ball rolling BUT now we need the congregation’s help. Our first outreach project is: Single Parent Family WITH Children. We have many ideas geared towards leading this demographic into our church. We will be talking with all of you in more detail, very soon. Please Remember - We Are Open to Ideas AND The Sky is the Limit!!!”

RE:VITALITY: “Every One His Witness” - MEETINGS FOR THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION

Additional Information Will Be Discussed During Our Annual Church Meeting in February

JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

President's Notes:

December was a busy month for us at Trinity with many church activities and events leading up to our special Christmas services celebrating the Birth of Christ. We started the month with a successful Cookie Walk and ended with a fun Christmas VBS Night with the Sunday School. The Church Council would like to thank **all of you** who helped make these events and the ones in between possible.

For those of you who happen to watch *ABC Nightly News* with David Muir, you may have noticed he always ends his broadcast with a positive message. I think our year, 2023, has ended on a positive note. We are seeing new faces in the congregation and our members are pulling together to make our congregation stronger. I'm looking forward to 2024 and all that is possible in our congregation.

Highlights discussed during the December Church Council meeting are as follows:

- General Fund Donations year to date through November are \$16,300 less than the same period in 2022.
- Tim King presented a proposal from B.T.S. to replace telephone and internet service with VOIP providing a savings of over \$200.00/month and new phone equipment. The council approved a motion to switch to the new provider. Nice job Tim!
- Property reported meeting with our janitorial service to review cleaning issues. Property directors performed a walk around inspection during a rain to look for any leaks. Plans for upgrading exterior lighting are still under consideration.
- Youth and Parish Education are planning the Sunday School Christmas Program on Sunday December 17th. Sunday School has added 13 new students since September! A one day VBS during Christmas is scheduled for the evening of December 27th.
- Parish Education is inviting members to participate in "The Bible Recap" initiative.
- Council elections results were discussed. Gary Purnell has volunteered to remain as President for 1 more year. The Director of Outreach position is still open.
- The Annual meeting is scheduled for February 4th. Social Ministry will coordinate the Potluck luncheon.
- Over \$1,900 was raised from the Cookie Walk. Use of the funds has yet to be determined.
- The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 14, 2023, at 7PM.

Wishing you a Happy New Year!
Gary

Member News!!!



2023 Baptisms:

- Beckett Jeffrey White 05/18/23
- Mattie Nicole Casagrande 07/30/23
- Archie Michael Studer 10/08/23
- Ada Jane O'Sullivan 10/29/23
- Elize Marie Blecke 12/09/23
- Madison Alexandria Longmire 12/10/23

2024 Baptisms:

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2023 Weddings:

- Sean David Russell and Paige Amber Batinich 11/03/23
- James De Young and Alena Batinich 12/21/23

2024 Weddings:

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the **ANNUAL Trinity Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting** is:

Sunday 02/04/24

(immediately following the 10:30am Service)

a **POTLUCK** will be held before the Annual Meeting.

a Sign-Up Sheet will be available in January.

THE CONGRGATIONS HELP IS DESPERATLY NEEDED

The Church Council is Asking for Everyone's Help Cleaning Our Church on:
Saturday March 9, 2024 beginning at 9:00AM

It is up to us the congregation - this is all our church, and we all need to help.

We Will Need Help on the Following:

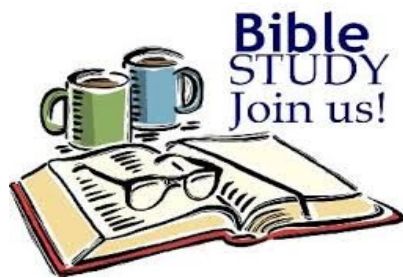
- All Floors that are Vinyl or Cement Need to be Washed.
- Both Kitchens Scrubbed.
- All Carpeted Areas Vacuumed.
- All Wood Surfaces Dusted. (example the library needs to dusted).
- Pews Vacuumed.
- Radiators Cleaned.
- Remove High Cobwebs.
- Doors/Windows Cleaned Inside and Outside.

a Sign-Up Sheet Will Be on the Table in the Hallway in January

REVISED Blood Drive: Will be held on **Tuesday January 9th** in our church parking lot, between the hours of 3 pm until 7 pm.

The Chancel Guild would like to thank the following people for purchasing poinsettias to help decorate the Chancel Area:

Allene Bachmann; Scott, Liz, Max, Emily Benedict & Cory Winchell; Denise Buchanan; Garry & Sherry Cooper; Dominic & Glenda Cotrano; Janet DeForest; Lois Dobbs; Pat Fuerst & Family; Tom & Wendy Kaun; Kevin, Christina & Gunnar Kipper; Dana Knodel; Jennifer Kojro-Badziak; Paul & Robin Krol; Karma Krzysiak; Jeff & Sharon Lorenz; Phil & Sharon MacFarlane; Jennifer Mudrock; Judy Niemann-VanderVeen; The Ondera Family; The Perkins Family; Gary & Kay Purnell; Doug & Jan Schlak; The Tinkers; Rex & Jan Toepke; The Wheeler Family.



Bible Study:

Wednesday 8:30am

Thursday 7:00pm



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 @ tammydoerrer@gmail.com . If you received a statement in the past, you are on the list to automatically receive one each year.



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!

**Take note of the additional order dates for the month of
-Sunday January 7th**

Each of those dates will have a pickup time the following Sunday.

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



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

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

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

- January 6-- Croatian Club, Joliet, 7-11pm
- February 3-- Quarry Ballroom, Thornton, 7-11pm
- February 17-- VFW, New Lenox, 7-11pm
- March 23-- Gustos, Crest Hill, 9pm-1am
- March 30-- VFW, New Lenox, 7-11pm

all new dates will be posted in the weekly bulletin.



Trinity Preschool News:

Trinity Preschool

REGISTRATION FOR 2024-2025 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 2024. The tuition per month will be:

-2 Day, 3-Year-Old, Tuesday & Thursday: \$125.00

-3 Day, 4-Year-Old, Monday, Wednesday & Friday: \$160.00

Children must be 3 or 4 by September 1, 2024.

For additional information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815.485.6973.

Next Preschool Board Meetings:

-Tuesday January 30, 2024

-March 2024 T.B.D.

-May 2024 T.B.D.



Sunday School News:

The Sunday School staff has been busy making plans for wonderful new family and outreach activities! Stay tuned for details about these events! We are also adopting new curriculum updates as we work on continuous improvement in our mission to educate our young people on the Truth that our God shares with us through the Bible! 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 to "Be the Light" as we share the Truth of God to our family, friends, and community!"

Children's Sermon: Every Third Sunday of the Month

The Sunday School will be 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 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!!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENT CALANDER

January

- **Jan 19th, 5-7 pm - Family Fun Night**
Glow Activities- "Be the Light!"
- **January 21st, 9:00 am - Pastries and Praise Sunday**
Sunday School Open House-9:45 visit Sunday School Rooms
Followed by pastries/coffee hour

February

- **February 16th, 5-7 pm - Valentine's Day Party**

March

- **March 24th, 10:30 am - Palm Sunday/Participate in Church & Easter Egg Hunt & coffee hour at 11:30 am**

April

- **Saturday, April 20th 10am-12pm - Pets in the Park**
Family Fun Event - Pet Blessing/Comfort Dogs

May

- **Sunday, May 12th, 9:00 am - Mothers' Day Tea & Donuts for Dads**



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 January:

January 6-7: Denise Buchanan / Sharon MacFarlane

January 13-14: Sharon MacFarlane / Doris Bay

January 20-21: Doris Bay / Debbie Crawford

January 27-28: Debbie Crawford / Rita Larson

ALTAR FLOWERS - Chancel Guild Members would like to thank those of you who sponsored a weekend this last year. We appreciate your support in helping us keep fresh flowers on the altar. **A new 2024 Altar Flower Calendar has been posted.** You will find it in the glass case hanging on the wall across the general office. If you would like to reserve a Sunday in **2024** in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birthday or wedding anniversary, in Thanksgiving of God's Blessings, or for any other special occasion, please fill out a sponsor order form and put it in the Chancel Guild Mailbox. The forms are located on a hook attached to the case housing the calendar. If you have any questions, please contact Kay Purnell at purnellk51@hotmail.com or (815) 485-9017.

January Altar Flower Sponsors:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Jan. 6/7 | Judy Niemann-VanderVeen
In Memory of Betty & Don Dunn |
| Jan. 13/14 | Bruce Hasch
In Memory of Bruce's Wife, Joan |
| Jan. 20/21 | Lois Dobbs
In Memory of Jack Dobbs
Sharing with:
Jan Falk
In Memory of Jan's Husband, Ernie |
| Jan. 27/28 | The Buchanan Family
In Thanksgiving for all Their Blessings |

Social Ministry Announcements:

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:

Jan. 7- Rita Larson and Denise Buchanan
14- Liz Benedict and Christina Kipper
21- Sharon MacFarlane
28- Sandy Peters
Feb. 4- Rita Larson and Denise Buchanan
11- Kay Purnell
18- Sharon MacFarlane
25- Sandy Peters
March 3- Rita Larson and Denise Buchanan
10- Liz Benedict and Christina Kipper
17- Kay Purnell
24- Sandy Peters
31- No Coffee – Easter Sunday

Next Food and Fellowship: will be **Tuesday, January 9**. All adults are welcome to attend! Please join us for lunch and an afternoon activity.

Next Social Ministry Meeting: will be **Monday, January 15 at the Church**. This committee sponsors service projects for our congregation and the community. It also directs social programs and events of the congregation. We have a small, dedicated group but would welcome new members to be able to expand our programs. Please consider joining us!

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!

USHER SCHEDULE 2023/2024

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

10:30 AM

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

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

A minimum of two ushers are needed for each service. **Please call the reserve usher to take your place if you are not able to serve on your Sunday, also call your counterpart to make them aware.**

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!

Other Alternates: Zack Horn 630 664 9224 zacharyhorn@gmail.com, *Bob Jackman 815-933-3864*, Robert Stark 708 307 4069

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00am to 2:00pm