

Dear Friends of Trinity,

Independence is held very dear to our hearts in this nation. We cherish our freedoms to do and to be as we wish, and to worship according to the dictates of conscience. We have chosen to worship our God through the merits and work of Jesus Christ and have bound ourselves to the choice of being Lutheran Christians. But the faith that we have was not a choice that was drawn from our yearning to be free. Faith is a gift of God by the Holy Spirit. “I cannot, by my own reason or understanding, believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him,” says the explanation to the Third Article of the Apostles’ Creed by Martin Luther. Of the many things for which we give ourselves credit, faith in Jesus can’t be one of them.

From the human drive for independence derives the desire for independence from God. The result is a condition that Jesus called “lost”. Humanity seeks to be free from any and all constraints and end up becoming slaves to the self, and freedom becomes an illusion.

The purest form of independence comes from a radical *dependence* on Jesus Christ, who came to destroy the sin that entraps and enslaves us. In his crucifixion Jesus took the brunt of the violence of people caught in the slavery of self and showed the result: death. But in dying he destroyed the power of death by emptying it into God’s infinite being and unbounded love. This was to show us the severity of our sin, but more importantly what God did about it.

To be set from sin and death is the greatest freedom one could have. This freedom is found only in Jesus Christ and is for all people. We are wholly and completely dependent on Jesus’ blood and merit for true independence.

I hope and pray that you have joyous celebrations of our nation’s independence on July 4!

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Hoag

JULY 2014

JULY WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Saturday Contemporary Worship Services are held at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Traditional Worship Services are held at 9:00 a.m.

Communion will be served on the 2nd and 4th weekends.

A special congregational meeting was held after the service on June 8th where we discussed options for making our church accessible to people who might have difficulty with stairs. We explored three options and voted to retain an architectural firm to draw up plans for this project based on a lift being installed at the south entrance of our building. Our property committee, along with other members of church council, will be actively involved in this project and will communicate more on this project when there is more to convey. We do know this project is likely to cost \$75,000 or more, though, and we continue to seek funding from our members in hopes of raising as much as possible to fund this project without incurring any more debt. We have about \$29,000 dedicated to this project now. We prayerfully request all members consider donating what they can to this project in hopes of completing it free of debt by our 75th Anniversary next June.

75th Anniversary **Mark your calendars! We have selected a date of Sunday, June 14th, 2015 for our 75th anniversary celebration here at Trinity.** The 75th anniversary committee is exploring a number of ideas for this celebration and hopes to have a kick-off meeting in September to communicate plans for Trinity's diamond anniversary to all members. **Our next meeting for the committee will be Sunday, July 20th, at 8:00 a.m.** If you would like to join us and help us plan for this event, please contact Jeff McDonald at jimcd97@hotmail.com or come to the meeting on July 20th.

Summer Offertory Music – If you are interested in offering some type of musical addition to our service please sign up on the sheet on the hallway table. If you have any questions, please call Julie Verchimak at 815.723.1429. After you sign up, Julie will be in touch with you to make the arrangements.

USHERS. Thank you to all the ushers who have participated in our worship services each week. The Summer Usher schedule was mailed out the middle of May. If you did not receive a copy, or would like another copy, please call the church office. *If you are unable to usher on your scheduled date, please call one of the alternates listed on the schedule to fill in for you.*

We are looking for a volunteer to be our usher coordinator. The schedule is already set up but it would be helpful to have someone to chair this group. If you are interested or have any questions please contact Ed Tatro, Director of Spiritual Life (815.485.5760), or Pastor Hoag or Doris Klemm, Church Secretary (815.485.6973).

2014-15 Trinity Pre-School
AM and PM spots available.
Please tell your friends and neighbors!

There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$66.00 per student. For the school year beginning September 2014 the tuition per month will be \$100 for two day students and \$125 for three day students. Children must be 3 by September 1, 2014. For further information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815.485.6973.

Readers and Greeters – we have a few open Sundays! Please take a turn and sign up today to be a Reader or a Greeter at one of our upcoming worship services. The sign up sheets are on the hallway table.

Vacation Bible School

VBS had a great week! Each day we had about 125 students and 40 volunteers learning about God's Amazing Grace. Thank you to our faithful volunteers for your selfless service and thank you to all who graciously donated food and supplies.

The "VBS staff" would also like to thank Michelle Hoag, the Director, of the VBS. Thanks for all the time and energy you put in to make VBS so successful. We all enjoy working with you and helping with VBS!

WELCOME

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 July are on the hallway table for Readers and Greeters Stop and sign up!

Morning Star Serving Dates

July 7th and 21st: You need to be at the Mission by 3:45 pm. The sign-up sheet is on the hallway table. If you have any questions call Judy Wilmsen at 815.462.1374.

CHANCEL NEWS

Altar Flowers: If you would like to give altar flowers, check the flower chart in the hallway outside the church office for dates that are still open for the balance of the year. If you are interested in ordering flowers to place on the altar in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a special birthday or wedding anniversary, or to celebrate God's many blessings, please fill out one of the flower forms which are attached to the side of the flower cabinet. Please place it in the Chancel Guild mailbox located inside the church office. Please call Christine Stark at

815.478.4079 if you have any questions. You can also email her at candb.stark@gmail.com. The cost of the flowers are \$8.50 per vase or \$17.00 for both vases. The flowers may be picked up after the Sunday service.

Serving the Lord and keeping our church looking beautiful and our Communion ware filled this month are: July 5/6 – Jan Prospero, Lois Dobbs; July 12/13 – Lois Dobbs, Judi Donovan; July 19/20 – Judy Donovan, Jan Falk; July 26/27 – Jan Falk, Kay Purnell.

Social Ministry

Thanks to our "coffee hosts" who will continue to serve during the summer after the 9:00 a.m. worship service. Please stop in the gym for coffee and fellowship.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED -- COFFEE HOSTS OR HOSTESSES FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH beginning in September. Please sign up on the yellow sheet on the hallway table for the months that you would be willing to serve. **If we get 6 volunteers – each person would only have to serve twice a year!** If you have any questions, please call Midge Meents at 815.485.6527. If you would like this serving to continue – we need your help!

St. Matthew's Fund Raiser

Please continue to donate the suggested foods named on the printed forms, found on the hall table outside the Narthex. Thanks for your continued support. Rummage, food and monetary donations will be delivered periodically.

Hoag Family Open House, Saturday, July 12, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m. Come
help us celebrate Chris' high school graduation and all the blessings
we've had this year! No gifts – your presence is our present. RSVP at
815.723.7642 if you can join us.

Vacation Bible School –Good Shepherd Lutheran ChurchVBS Kingdom

Chronicles – Standing Strong in the Battle for Truth! All knights and fair maidens are invited to attend Monday, July 14 - Friday, July 18, 2014. Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Where: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 295 Sauk Trail, Frankfort, IL. For information call 815.469.2549 or visit www.goodshepherdfrankfort.org.

Rotary of New Lenox - Lincoln-Way Area Summer Stock presents “Jesus Christ Superstar”. Dates: July 18th, 19th and 26th @ 7:30 p.m.; and July 20th and 27th Matinee @ 2:00 p.m. Location: The Fine Arts Center at Lincoln-Way West High School. Tickets can be ordered online at

SHAREFEST NEW LENOX

ShareFest is an annual event in New Lenox involving over 103 organization through “Thirty days of service” from September 1st through 30th. During this time, they unite as Proud Americans to meet the needs in the community. These needs are met through hundreds of volunteers sacrificing their time, talents, gifts and resources in compassionate community service for those in need. Meetings are held the last Tuesday of the month at 12:00 Noon at Standard Bank Meeting room, 456 Nelson Rd., New Lenox. Lunch will be served. This is open to the community. If you are interested or want more details, please call 815.7172614 or visit www.sharefestnewlenox.com.

Third Annual L.A.M.P. Golf Outing – Lincoln way Area Mobile Pack, Saturday, August 2, 2014 at Woodbine Golf Course, Homer Glen. Time: 8:15 a.m. Check-in; 9:00 a.m. Shot-gun start 9:00 a.m. Profits will go to benefit the Feed My Starving Children organization! By participating in this event you will be feeding hungry children! Each golfer with dinner will feed 204 children for one day. Each

dinner guest will feed 68 children for one day! For details and/or sponsorship information, please call Larry DeSando at 815.351.8378 or call Lincolnway Christian Church at 815.485.3004.

Pre-School Teacher position open at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – Frankfort, Illinois

beginning August 2014. Hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Education Requirements: must have an Early Childhood Development Degree/Associates Degree. If you are interested please contact the church office at 815.469.2549.

Church Office Hours: Monday, 9-3, Tuesday, 1-4 and Thursday, 1-4, Friday 9-12.

Our organizations are on “summer break” but our worship services continue each week. See you at church!

JULY BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS		Austin Bird	21
Aiden Majchrzak	2	Brian Johnson	21
Caleb Majchrzak	2	Charles Johnson	21
Debbie Miller	3	Kiley Pfiffner	21
Olivia Gerk	4	Elena Gerk	22
Ashley Salazar	4	Jonathan Pfiffner	22
Christine Stark	4	Don Burke	23
Quinn Bowden	4	Christopher Hoag	23
Colton Donath	5	Logan Valentine	23
Julie Verchimak	5	Sharlene Verchimak	23
Alicia Woodcock	5	Lea Rae Marcolina	24
Anna Minett	7	Jordan Cuthbert	25
Nancy Tomany	7	Jim Ingalls	25
Denise Buchanan	9	Grace Anderson	26
Patricia Cruise	10	Midge Meents	26
Madison McGinnis	10	Angelina Condit	27
Chris Myers	11	Reaghan Downing	27
Ken Myers	11	Eric Kosel	27
Janet DeForest	13	Bob Buchanan	29
Jacelyn Gerk	13	Madison Condit	29
Jacqueline Tomany	13	Rachel Czaja	29
Dominik Youngren	13	Judi Donovan	29
Barbara Adochio	14	Carol Palmer	29
Cameron Hoag	15	Sean Palmer	29
Wendy Kaun	15	Linda Thompson	29
Mike Kunce	15	Sharon Lorenz	30
Kevin Schlak	15	WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES	
Michelle Kosel	17	Thomas and Jennifer Stuart	8
Angie Opiola	17	Matthew and Elizabeth Conway	9
Melica Kenworthy	18	Scott and Suzanne Jablonski	12
Judy VanderVeen	18	Les and Ginny DeCarlo	16
Dave Anderson	19	Bob and Denise Buchanan	16
Elyse Black	19	Brian and Bridget Garrison	19
Allison Bormet	19	Eric and Dana Kosel	24
Larry Buell	19	Scott and Cheryl Baggs	25
Katelynn Briese	20	Tom and Michelle Buell	26
Scott Cruise	20	Lee and Marcy Remm	27
Elyse Little	20	Kevin and Julie Seville	27
Paul Sandahl	20	Mike and Liz O'Neill	29
Julie Seville	20	Roy and Nancy Minnick	30

Visit us on the web at www.trinitynewlenox.org