

March 2012

Dear Friends of Trinity,

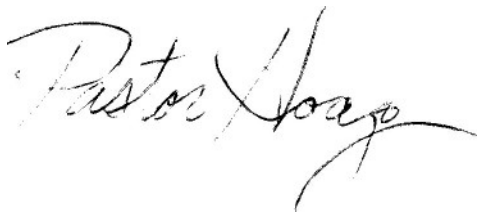
You're probably expecting a letter about my journey to India, and you would be correct! God is doing incredible things on the other side of the planet and I want to share with you what He's doing.

Put succinctly, God is transforming lives. The Holy Spirit is working mightily among the Indian people with the good news of Jesus Christ. It stands in sharp contrast to the bad news they receive daily about the spirituality they are supposed to practice in accordance with Hindu law. They hear it so often it ends up being deeply woven into the fabric of the society. It's just "the way it is".

God doesn't settle for that. He's in the freedom business. Jesus demonstrated that in his own day as he challenged the religious status quo. And just like us, India needs a Savior to free them from the darkness of their slavery to idolatry and superstition. People are hearing the good news of their Savior and coming to faith in him, forsaking their former spirituality and stepping out into the light of a new day. It's wonderful to see!

On Sunday, March 4, at 9:15am I will be giving a special presentation about my trip to India. I have lots of pictures to show you and stories to tell you. Grab yourself a cup of coffee and a donut hole or two, and come in to the sanctuary to hear and see what God is doing in India. I'm convinced that God can do the same thing in America! Mark your calendars and look forward to it. I'll see you then!!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Hoag". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "In Christ," text.

Pastor Hoag

March 2012 Newsletter

www.trinitynewlenox.org

Lent has arrived and we are in the midst of our Lenten dramas. This year, Pastor is portraying a series of characters in a courtroom setting. Each Lenten service begins at 7:30 following a soup and sandwich dinner served by the various groups of Trinity. Come and join us as we see anew what sacrifices our Lord made for us.

Dinner sponsor **2/29**: Women's League

3/7: Chancel Guild

3/14: Church Council

3/21: Youth Group

3/28: Sunday School

Social Ministry's next meeting is **3/12** at 7 pm at Midge Meent's home. All women are invited to attend.

Cookie Dough Sales will continue through **February 29**. Pick up of items ordered is scheduled for Monday, **March 12**, after 3 pm. Left-overs will be stored in the gym refrigerators for later pick-up.

Please sign Virgil's greeting card and read his latest letter, on the Church Council bulletin board. He sincerely appreciates all Trinity does and means to him during his confinement.

Mother's Day Luncheon – **April 29** is the selected date for the Luncheon. Ladies wishing to be Table Captains should call Deb Aiken at 815 462 0687 or Midge Meents at 815 485 6527. Tickets, which go on sale March 4, are \$9 for adults, \$5 for children 3-18; younger children are free.

Per congregational request and voting at the annual meeting, Holy Communion will now be offered at the rail on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Serving on Chancel this month:

(As of newsletter publication!)

Weekend of 3/3-4: Allene Bachmann & Sharon MacFarlane

Weekend of 3/10-11: Sharon MacFarlane & Wendy Kaun

Weekend of 3/17-18: Wendy Kaun & Robin Krol

Weekend of 3/24-25: Robin Krol & Jan Prospero

Weekend of 3/31-4/1 (Palm Sunday) Jan Prospero & Lois Dobbs

Choir Rehearsal during Lent has been moved to 5:30 pm on Wednesday evening and will be done in time for all to enjoy the wonderful soup/sandwich supper at 6:30. Choir will be singing March 11 @ 10:30 and March 18 @ 8:00.

Debate Judges Needed:

March 5-8 will see several hundred homeschooled high school students descend on University of St. Francis for a 4-day speech and debate tournament. Judges are needed to evaluate the competitors. There is information on the bulletin board as you walk into church, or more information may be obtained by going to: <http://www.ncfa.org/> and clicking on the Judges (at the top) and selecting IL National open. You can select one or more rounds. For questions, please contact Mary @ mjvilim@gmail.com

Help Wanted:

The Christian Youth Center is looking for a part-time bookkeeper. 8-10 hours per week. If you are interested, please contact them. You may email: brian@thecyc.org or call 815 723 6837.

Speaking of things financial:

2012 Financial Report: The congregation adopted a 2012 General Fund Budget of \$193,269 at its Annual Meeting on January 29. The Budget is 2.2% higher than contributions made to the General Fund in 2011. The Council deemed the increase warranted to cover expected higher operating costs. A modest salary increase of 2% was granted to Pastor, the Secretary, Organist and Choir Director. Primary support of the General Fund by the congregation is very important to meeting Trinity's ongoing needs.

Our congregation was truly blessed with financial support during 2011. Even though General Fund receipts were lower than in 2010, special donations and lower expenses allowed for the payment of all bills and modest increases in debt repayment and endowment funds. We met our final commitment to the Manhattan Mission and exceeded our budgeted remittances for Synod Missions, LCCF and Debt repayment. The balance on the original \$100,000 mortgage, used to finance the new restrooms, was \$29,196.84 at year-end. We want to thank everyone for their support of Trinity Lutheran Church and its missions. If you could not make the Annual Meeting and have financial questions, please contact Janice Prospero, Financial Secretary, or Bruce Hasch, Treasurer.

Morning Star Service Opportunities

Our MorningStar serving dates for March are 3/5 and 3/19. Meet there at 3:45. The sign-up sheets will be posted at church on the sign-up table. However, there are other opportunities for service to MorningStar: they need volunteers to fill 2 hr time slots at the information booth at the New Lenox Expo on 3/17. Contact Jackie @ 815 722 5780 x226 or email volunteercoordinator@morningstarmission.org

Feed My Starving Children

Please stay tuned for more information as we get prepared to roll out this exciting mission opportunity. We are considering partnering with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Frankfort. Yes, we are aware there are other organizations also doing this at roughly the same time. We are working on sorting this all out. For now, please visit the website www.fmssc.org to find out what the mission itself is about. Thanks!

COMING IN JUNE:

Vacation Bible School's Amazing Desert Journey June 11-15

NOTE EARLIER DATE!!!!

Ages 3-11 (5th grade). More information and registration will be coming later in spring. Watch the website for details as well.

Sunday School Awards Day/Last Day: May 20 (This is a change.)

TPCG

Come and join the portable crafting group on Friday, 3/9 from 5-11 as we work on various crafting projects including a Confirmation Banner. Come for any or all of the evening. Cost is \$2 and a snack to share.

Women's League Meeting 3/27 12:30 Fellowship Hall

Pastor Hoag will be presenting a program on Mission India. The hostesses will be Judy Wilmsen and Julie Verchimak.

PS Here's another reminder about coming to Pastor's presentation on March 4 at 9:15...

YOUTH NEWS:

March 11: Bowling Party 2-4. Grades 2- High School. \$6 includes pizza, pop, bowling and shoes. What a deal! Sign up on youth bulletin board.

Also on March 11: BAKE SALE... After each service. Sign up on board. Proceeds go to defray costs of programs. What will you bring???

TRINITY SIXTH ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT!!

Bring your kids, grandkids, camera, baskets and smiles to Trinity's 6th Annual Easter Egg Hunt! Children 10 years or younger, please join us again this year on Saturday, April 7, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. The hunt begins promptly at 10:00 a.m.!!! Any questions, please see Doris Bay.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

As part of a Service Project for Confirmation Class, we are asking all confirmands to please bring in a bag or 2 of individually wrapped candy, toys, wrist bands, or other items that fit inside an egg, which will be used in the Easter Egg Hunt. PLEASE, NO CANDY CONTAINING NUTS DUE TO ALLERGIES!!! The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 7 at 10:00 a.m.

Do you need Service Hours? Help is needed to stuff the eggs before the Egg Hunt. If you can spare an hour, Pastor will sign your Service Hours sheet so you get credit. I also need helpers the morning of the Egg Hunt to hide the eggs. PLEASE SEE THE SIGN UP SHEET ON THE DESK OUTSIDE THE GYM! THANKS!

TO THE TRINITY CONGREGATION – if anyone would like to donate plastic eggs and/or wrapped candy, small items that fit inside an egg, etc. for the Easter Egg Hunt; or juice or treats after the Egg Hunt, please leave your donations in the office on the counter by April 1. Any contributions are greatly appreciated!! The kids get thirsty after all that running around!! THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Jeremy Paul	2
Tom Kaun	5
Jessica Newman	5
Taylor Kessel	6
Paul Prospero	6
Jacob Sheffer	6
Russell Rohner	7
Sam Sigrist	7
Tina Fox	8
Matt Kunce	8
Helen Anderson	9
Janet Buell	9
Christine Alfano	10
Sarah Leahy	10
Chris Reithel	11
Susan Jandeska	13
Lois Dobbs	14
Nick Buell	15
Benjamin DeMaertelaere	16
Kathy Fandl	16
Joe Farneti	16
Lawrence Cozzo	18
Ken Oldendorf	18
Keith LaVazza	19
Laura Forsythe	21
Melissa Gappa	21
Helen Sullivan	21
Brian Thompson	22
Nancy Varju	22
Jeff Pavlovich	23
Anthony Prospero	23
Jeff Smith	23
Amanda Grady	24
Ava Peters	24
Alexander Renwick	24
Joanne Gardner	25
Noah Cruise	26
Doug Schlak	27
Jim Capretto	28

Johna Salazar	28
Damon Tinker	28
Greg Giffin	29
Bill Loggarakis	30
Bill Smith	30
Greg Guenther	31
Weston McCure	31
Ralph Teare	31

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Glen and Victoria Fabish	5
Bud and Andrea Sherman	10
Angela and Kevin Klisz	17
Chris and Michelle Kosel	18
Walter and Angie Opiola	19
Amanda and Robert Romadka	20
Edward and Pat Czerwinski	23
Andrew and Julie Verchimak	26