Dear Friends,

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday cannot be skipped. These are established by Jesus in fulfillment of the Law and Prophetic writings and are the ways Jesus laid down his life in humble service to the world in order to rescue it from the darkness of sin, death, and the devil.

The temptation we grapple with is the urge to forego these events and move right on to the glory and celebration of Easter. After all, it's brighter and draws bigger crowds. It isn't a big downer. We can instantly go from hum-drum to bright and exciting. Please resist this temptation or you'll miss out on one of the main reasons Jesus came in the first place, and that is, to die in order to feed his wandering sheep and rescue them from predators.

Easter is the "icing on the cake", so to speak. It's wonderful and glorious and true, and we have risen with Jesus into new life.and no longer estranged from God. If it weren't for Easter our faith would be vanity and we would still be in our sins. Easter marks Jesus' vindication as his sacrifice is accepted by his Father. But it all centers on Good Friday at the cross of Jesus Christ. There we died to sin with Christ. There Jesus' lifeblood was shed for us. There was Jesus' earthly throne and he is crowned with thorns as our King.

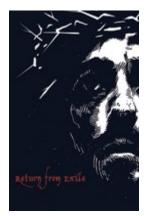
I pray for a very blessed Holy Week and Easter Sunday for you and yours!

Pastor Hoag

Pastor Hoag and members of the Church Council want to remind you that they will never use online methods to solicit money or gift cards out of the blue. If you ever receive a text, email, or social media message asking you to purchase gift cards or to send money, ignore and delete the message and contact Pastor Hoag

Adult Instruction Class begins Sunday, February 18 at 7pm in the library. If you are previously from another denomination or if you had no denominational affiliation, and you desire to join our congregation, this class is for you. The class will also be livestreamed and saved on our church Facebook page. Please contact Pastor Hoag by email at <u>douglashoag@gmail.com</u> to join this class.

(Every Sunday @ 7:00pm Beginning on 02/18/24 - Ending on 03/24/24 - <u>NO Class on: 03/10/24</u>)



Our Lenten Theme for 2024 is Return from Exile

Life is full of journeys—even life itself is a journey. Much takes place between the beginning and the end, and our Lenten journey is no different. As Christians, we embark upon a daily movement from exile—from life under the burden of sin to the joy of the Gospel that is ours in Christ Jesus. As we begin each leg of the journey, do not be surprised to discover that Christ travels with us. He has always been our guide from the beginning, and He will journey with us to the end. We embark on this Lenten journey contemplating the reality of our earthly journey but with eyes fixed on the destination—the empty tomb and the open gates of everlasting life, with the confidence of knowing that we do not walk alone!

The Series begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, at 7:00pm and will continue each Wednesday evening, preceded by a Lenten Supper at 6:00pm.

All is done in the cross!

Pastor Hoag

MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

President's Message:

Do you know where the idea of "Spring Cleaning" came from? According to Wikipedia, during the 19th century, before the days of the vacuum cleaner, March was often the best time for dusting because it was getting warm enough to open windows and doors but not warm enough for insects to be a problem. The high winds could carry the dust out of the house. Oh if it was only that easy! Our church building is in need of some elbow grease. If you are free and able, our Church Council is looking for some help on Saturday, March 9, with some "spring cleaning." Please consider giving us a hand; and remember, many hands make work light.

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

- General Fund Donations for January were down, but it is too early to tell if this is a trend.

- Passing of the offering plates will resume on Ash Wednesday.

- Pastor is holding Adult Instruction Classes for new members starting Sunday 2/18 with confirmation planned for Easter Sunday.

- Property reported the boilers were frequently checked during the extreme cold weather. All checked good and thermostats were adjusted.

- Half of the downstairs tile floors were stripped and waxed.

- Outreach presented ideas to continue to build on Each One Reach One and Back Home with Jesus Sunday. Plans for a "New Member Sunday" are in process.

- Youth is working with Parish Education to encourage youth participation at the Junior High level and beyond.

- Parish Education is hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday. Plans are being made for a Sunday School picnic in May to include the congregation.

- Parish Education reported Jeanine Welsh has announced her resignation as Preschool Director. Teacher Jen DeMaertelaere is also not returning. A search for replacements is in process.

- Social Ministry discussed the schedule for Lenten soup and sandwich sponsors. Sign-up sheets for volunteers to help with the Easter Breakfast are across from the Church Secretary's office.

- The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 10, 2023, at 7PM.

Gary

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES:

*6:00pm: Lenten Soup and Sandwich Supper

followed by

*7:00pm: Midweek Lenten Services

- Wednesday March 6: ***Host: Junior High and High School Youth Group** (a Sign-Up Sheet is on the Table Next to Pastor's Office)

- Wednesday March 13: *Host: Church Council

- Wednesday March 20: *Host: Chancel Guild
- Thursday March 28 7:00pm MAUNDY THURDAY
- Friday March 29 10:00am CROSS WALK
- Friday March 29 7:00pm GOOD FRIDAY
- Saturday March 30 5:00pm HOLY SATURDAY

- Sunday March 31 7:00am and 10:30am EASTER

What Is Lent All About, and Why Is It Important?

The purpose of the Lenten season is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ and his life, death, burial, and resurrection. Lent is the 40 days (not including Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to the night before Easter Sunday. Lent prepares us for Good Friday and Easter.

<u>Ash Wednesday</u> is the first day of Lent. We reflect on our mortality and on the fact that we are but ashes and dust, and to the dust we will return. We lament our sins which have alienated us from God. We receive our Lord Jesus' body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins.

<u>Maundy Thursday</u> is the establishment of Jesus' last will and testament he gives to his disciples for the life of the world as he institutes the Sacrament of the Altar.

<u>Good Friday</u> is the solemn celebration of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, where we see the result of our sinfulness. Jesus died for us and as us, giving his life unto death to save the world from its sinful ways and reconcile it to God once and for all.

<u>Easter Sunday</u> is the joyful celebration of Jesus' rising from death and thereby sealing eternal life for us and for the world. While we still experience death, it is still conquered by Christ. On the Last Day we will be raised from our tombs clothed with immortality and incorruption.

The traditional practices of Lent are Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving (giving to the poor). These are not done to earn anything from God, but instead are kept as the outpouring of the love of Christ first given to us. Attending Lenten worship on Sundays and during the week are wonderful ways of keeping Lent.

It is our prayer that your keeping of Lent will help you be mindful of the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation through the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

THE CONGREGATION'S HELP IS DESPERATLY NEEDED

The Church Council is Asking for Everyone's Help Cleaning Our Church on: <u>Saturday March 9, 2024</u> beginning at 9:00AM It is up to us the congregation - this is all our church, and we all need to help.

ALSO Let's All Make the Church Beautiful to Celebrate Easter!!!

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.

-Cleaning Up Around the Church Outside.

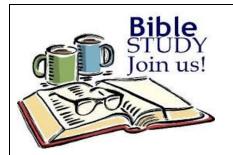
a Sign-Up Sheet is on the Table Next to Pastor's Office

TLC Youth Group: Your help is needed Saturday March 9th at 9:00am for church clean up. There is a sign-up sheet outside of Pastors office. This is a great opportunity if you are in need of service hours. Many hands make light work!

Gentle Reminder for Everyone: donations to the church can be made to the church directly, or online at -

-Our Website: www.trinitynewlenox.org

-Our Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/TrinityNewLenox/



Bible Study: -Wednesday 8:30am -Thursday 7:00pm

Visit us on the web at <u>www.trinitynewlenox.org</u>

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:

-Mason Wyatt Pezan 01/20/24



2023 Weddings:

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

2024 Weddings: -Devin O'Neill and Nichols Bechtold 02/03/2024



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 @ <u>tammydoerrer@gmail.com</u>. 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 <u>www.raiseright.com</u>. Any questions contact Angie at <u>minett411@yahoo.com</u> or 815-228-4902. Thank you so much to all our current and newbie participants, we greatly appreciate your support!

Need gift cards for Easter? The next Raiseright order deadline is March 3rd.

The cards will be ready for pick-up the following week.

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:

-March 9 -- Roc City, Rockdale, 8-12pm -March 23 -- Gustos, Crest Hill, 9pm-1am -March 30 -- VFW, New Lenox, 7-11pm Canceled -May 21 -- New Lenox Commons, 5-8pm all new dates will be posted in the weekly bulletin.



Trinity Preschool News:

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, <u>3-Year-Old</u>, Tuesday & Thursday: \$125.00

-3 Day, <u>4-Year-Old</u>, 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: -March 2024 T.B.D. -May 2024 T.B.D.

Trinity Lutheran Preschool is Hiring!		
Adthew 19:14		
Do you love working with young children? Do you have experience in early childhood education? We would love to hear from you! Trinity Preschool is a Christian program that is child-focused, play-based, and developmentally appropriate.		
We will be filling the following positions: *Preschool Director/Teacher *Preschool Teacher		
*Preschool Aide (potentially)		
If you are interested in being considered for any of these positions, please submit a resume		
to Michelle Buell at <u>mbuell3769@gmail.com</u> .		



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 @ <u>mbuell3769@gmail.com</u> or Beth Parker @ <u>elizabemarie@sbcglobal.net</u> if interested. Thanks!!!

<u>March</u>

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

<u>April</u>

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

<u>May</u>

- Sunday, May 12th, 9:00 am Mothers' Day Tea & Donuts for Dads
- Sunday, May 19th, 11:30 am Last Day of Sunday School & CHURCH PICNIC

2024 Vacation Bible School (V.B.S.) Dates: June 10 - 14



Chancel Guild News!

<u>Attention Ladies of Trinity</u> - 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 March:

March 2-3: Beth Parker and Denise Buchanan March 9-10: Denise Buchanan and Jan Schlak March 16-17: Jan Schlak and Lois Dobbs March 23-24 - **PALM SUNDAY**: Lois Dobbs and Jennifer Mudrock March 28 **MAUNDY THURSDAY**: Jennifer Mudrock and Wendy Kaun March 29 **GOOD FRIDAY**: No Worker Needed March 30 **EASTER VIGIL**: Denise Buchanan (Easter Flower Set-Up ay 9:00am) March 31 **EASTER SUNDAY** 7:00am: Jennifer Mudrock and Robin Kroll 10:30am: Denise Buchanan and Kay Purnell

<u>ALTAR FLOWERS</u> - Fresh flowers are placed on the altar to remind us of the "Garden of Eden" and "Jesus' Garden Tomb." They are part of the beauty of the Creation. Chance 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 2024 Altar Flower Calendar is posted in the glass case hanging on the wall outside the general office. If you would like to reserve a Sunday in memory of a loved one or to honor a special occasion, please fill out a sponsor order form and put it along with payment in the Chancel Guild mailbox. The forms are located on a hook attached to the glass case. If you have any questions, contact Kay Purnell at <u>purnellk51@hotmail.com</u> or (815) 485-9017.



*Chancel Guild Members will again be decorating the chancel area for our Easter services. Watch for order forms in upcoming bulletins. If you have any questions or do not have access to an order form, please contact: Kay Purnell at <u>purnellk51@hotmail.com</u> or (815) 485-9017

March Altar Flower Sponsors:

March 2/3	Jennifer Mudrock In Memory of Jennifer's Father, Henry Sward
March 9/10	Eileen & Chase Johnson In Thanksgiving for Their Many Blessings Received
March 16/17	Rita Larson In Memory of Rita's Brother, Fred Sharing with - Sandy & Chuck Peters In Thanksgiving for Their Many Blessings
March 23/24	Julie & Andy Verchimak In Celebration of Their 30th Wedding Anniversary Sharing with - Jennifer Kojro-Badziak In Honor and Memory of Jennifer's Mother's Birthday

March 29/31 Maxine Pearson In Thanksgiving for Her Many Blessings

Social Ministry Announcements:

<u>Coffee Hours</u>: 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 <u>tlcsecretary508@gmail.com</u> or Jan Toepke at <u>toepkej@gmail.com</u>.

Coffee Hour Schedule:

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 Social Ministry Meeting: will be **Monday, March 11 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!

Next Food and Fellowship: will be **Tuesday, March 12**. All adults are welcome to attend! Please join us for lunch and an afternoon activity.

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!

EACH ONE REACH ONE: We have several shut-ins, or members in need of support or encouragement, here at Trinity. If you are interested in doing your heart and their heart some good by reaching out to them just to say "Hello", please talk with or email Jennifer (the Church Secretary tlcsecretary508@gmail.com) for a list of names.

TRINITY FREE LIBRARY: Need a Book. Take a Book. Bring One Here for Others to Share. We have several locations within the Church that have books that can be borrowed. We have the library box right outside our parking lot doors - these books are for children and adults. We also have a library in the corner downstairs for children. ENJOY!

ONE Large Print Hymnal is Now Available! This can be found on the table in the Narthex near the bulletins and must always be returned after the service.

OUR PROPERTY TEAM IS IN NEED OF: INDUSTRIAL TYPE SHELVES. If you have any that can be donated, please contact: Steve Tomany - Director of Property / <u>sltomany@gmail.com</u> (815)-485-3163

Gentle Reminder for Everyone: donations to the church can be made to the church directly, or online at -

-Our Website: www.trinitynewlenox.org

-Our Facebook Page: <u>https://www.facebook.com/TrinityNewLenox/</u>



Dear friend in Christ,

My name is Josh Baggett and I am the Alumni Scholarship Chairman for the Alpha Alumni Chapter of Beta Sigma Psi - National Lutheran Fraternity. I'm contacting you to inform you of scholarship opportunities our organization has to offer Lutheran high school seniors. If you'd like to learn more about our organization, please check out <u>https://www.betasigmapsi.org/</u>. Our Alumni Chapter is offering a \$3,000 scholarship given out to a Lutheran male freshman attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in Fall 2024. There is no obligation to join Beta Sigma Psi to receive this award. Runner-ups may be eligible for \$1,000. Our scholarship application may be found online at <u>https://forms.gle/cDewGziVwUjPdcGG8</u>. All applications are due March 29th, 2024.

The Beta Sigma Psi Educational Foundation also offers additional scholarships and grant opportunities for members of the Lutheran community. These opportunities can be found here <u>https://www.betasigmapsi.org/scholarships-for-high-school-students/</u>

We would greatly appreciate it if you would share this opportunity with your congregation. Thank you,

Josh Baggett

USHER SCHEDULE 2023/2024

1st Sunday

9:00 AM -Tom Kaun kauntd@gmail.com -Biff Aiken biffdebaiken@gmail.com 10:30 AM -Brett Carr brettdcarr@gmail.com -Paul Krol p.krol@sbcglobal.net 2nd Sunday 9:00 AM -Edward A. Tatro etatro4@aol.com -Tim King tim.king1@comcast.net 10:30 AM -Tom Buell tombuell@sbcglobal.net -Bob Blecke cqm964@comcast.net 3rd Sunday 9:00 AM -Mike Gardner mgardner1453@gmail.com -Gary Purnell gpurnell3@hotmail.com 10:30 AM -Cameron Hoag <u>cam.hoag@gmail.com</u> -Dana Knodel knodel.dana@yahoo.com 4th Sunday 9:00 AM -Steve Tomany tomany@sbcglobal.net -Randy Varju ravarju@hotmail.com 10:30 AM -John Buell jan.buell@yahoo.com -Phil McFarlane philmacp40@comcast.net 5th Sunday 9:00AM -Rex Toepke rtoepke@usa.net -Jeff Lorenz jlorenz2367@gmail.com 10:30 AM -Paul Krol p.krol@sbcglobal.net -Diane Sewing 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 <u>your</u> 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 zacharyhorn@gmail.com and Robert Stark

SUGGESTION BOX RESPONSE(S):

SUGGESTION: "...consider adding a time for two minutes of silent prayer into the church service..."

ANSWER: this is in the process of being reviewed

SUGGESTION: "I think it would be good to title the sermons. It would be a refresher after we leave church."

ANSWER: this is in the process of being reviewed

SUGGESTION: "I would like to suggest an updated directory – either print or electronic" **ANSWER**: as most of you are aware, the secretary has been working on this project for over a year. It is close to completion. The congregation will be made aware when it is ready for distribution.

SUGGESTION: "May I Suggest Doing Devine Service 2 or 3 In Place of Matins Occasionally" **ANSWER**: IMPLEMENTED IN 2023

SUGGESTION: "Maybe Buy One or Two Large Print Hymnals for People with Bad Eyesite. The Large Printouts Are Only the Hymns"

ANSWER: IMPLEMENTED IN 2024 – (1) Large Print Hymnal Purchased. This can be found on the table near the bulletins – this must always be returned after the service.

SUGGESTION: "Next Year (2024) for Reformation Sunday Suggest We Wear RED to Church That Day" (Thursday October 31st, 2024)

ANSWER: YES, we will add a note to the Bulletin Insert

SUGGESTION: "Next Advent (2024) Write in the Bulletin Something About Each Candle as We Light It"

(Sun, Dec 1, 2024 – Tue, Dec 24, 2024)

ANSWER: YES, we will add a note to the Bulletin Insert

SUGGESTION: "Turn Church Lights Up During the Service and Lower Them During the Sermon. It Is Hard to Read the Hymns with the Lights Low for Us with Bad Eyesight" **ANSWER**: NO, Unfortunately, we just have very poor lighting in the church. The lights are up as far as they can go throughout the service."

SUGGESTION: "Use Battery Candles for Candlelight Service Instead of Real Candles – the Candles Sunday School Uses for Their Program"

ANSWER: NO, not feasible currently.

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