

March 2025

Dear Friends,

I'd like to take this space to announce our Midweek Lenten Series for this year. I hope you find it eye-opening and interesting.

This year we are going to explore **Commonly Misused Bible Verses**. We will examine the context of these passages and work out what they are **really** saying because there is more than meets the eye. We will then make proper application of these verses and point out how they sharpen our understanding and perception of Jesus Christ. Here is a list of the passages we will consider.

March 12 (Week One)—“I Can Do All Things” (Philippians 4:13)

March 19 (Week Two)—“If My People” (2 Chronicles 7:14)

March 26 (Week Three)—“Plans To Prosper You” (Jeremiah 29:11)

April 2 (Week Four)—“No Weapon Formed Against You” (Isaiah 54:17)

April 9 (Week Five)—“All Things Work Together For Good” (Romans 8:28)

The Midweek Services will take place on the above dates at 7pm. And don't forget our Lenten Dinners each of these dates at 6pm. Eat a meal and feast on the Word of God, all in one evening! I'm looking forward to our Lenten observances and seeing you there!

Pastor Hoag

**DATE CHOSEN FOR OUR TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH SPRING CLEANING 2025: Saturday,
March 22nd, Beginning at 9:00am
(the Sign-Up Sheet is on the table in front of Pastors Hoag's Office)**

*****THANK YOU to Judy VanderVeen
for Reminding Us to Reactivate the Carillon System for Bells**

*****More Information to Follow About the Re:Vitalize Workshop*****

**Thank You to everyone who purchased candy from our Valentine Candy Sale!!!
WE RAISED: \$704.00
the proceeds from the sale will benefit hurricane victims in North Carolina and Tennessee**

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER: President's Message

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to serve our church as the Church Council President. I am looking forward to being more involved with the church in service, and to meeting and working with so many of our affable members. Please feel free to reach out to me with any of your Church Council needs or concerns.

Points that were addressed during our February 9th Church Council Meeting included:

- New Members Sunday will be celebrated on April 6, 2025.
- The Preschool Open House is to take place on February 24. We will report on that at our next meeting.
- The Midweek Lenten Services Suppers have been determined and assigned.
- The Annual Spring-Cleaning Day is scheduled for March 22, 2025. We encourage all to sign up and participate in helping to maintain and beautify our church.
- The Chancel Guild will hold its annual Cleaning of the Sanctuary Day on April 5.
- We are finalizing important dates for the 2025 year.

Sincerely,

Dan Wheeler

**Thank you to everyone who purchased candy from our Valentine Candy Sale.
There is still candy left which will be available today after the services.
Also, thank you to everyone who made the yummy treats!**

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES SUPPER:

***6:00pm: Lenten Supper**

- Wednesday March 12th: ***Sunday School - TACOS**
- Wednesday March 19th: ***Social Ministry - 3-SOUPS & BEEF SANDWICHES**
- Wednesday March 26th: ***Board of Youth Ministry (B.O.Y.M) - SOUP & SANDWICHES**
- Wednesday April 2nd: ***Church Council - (1) SOUP & CHILI & HOT DOGS**
- Wednesday April 9th: ***Chancel Guild - BBQ & SOUP CHOICES**

YOUR 2025 CHURCH COUNCIL:

President:

-Dan Wheeler

Secretary:

-Jennifer Kojro-Badziak

Financial Secretary:

-Jacob M. Sheffer

Treasurer:

-Tim King

Directors of Outreach:

-Michael Gardner & Kim Gappa

Director of Parish Education:

-Michelle Buell & Beth Parker

Director of Social Ministry:

-Vacant

Directors of Spiritual Life:

-Dr. Edward A. Tatro & Diane Sewing

Directors of Property:

-Steve Tomany & Vacant

Director of the Board of Youth Ministry (B.O.Y.M.)

-Christina Kipper

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

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LUTHERAN CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

<https://www.lcrlfreedom.org> (see monthly bulletin insert)

LCC Disaster Response Ministry

LCC Disaster Response deploys, coordinates and manages volunteer teams as they respond to disasters throughout the United States and beyond. LCC trains volunteer Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT) through our LCMS congregations in many areas of disaster response.

Approximately 850 active LCC volunteers have been certified in basic LERT training. Many have gone on to certify in additional training such as chainsaw, heavy equipment, debris removal, flood recovery with pumps, mucking homes and how to provide emotion and spiritual care. LERT volunteers can prepare, cook and serve meals to volunteers and affected communities while deployed. For LERT volunteers, disaster response is an essential relief and outreach ministry.

In the chaos of disaster, it's important to stay focused on the task at hand. LCMS Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) training will help you focus on the most important thing to remember as you prepare for or to respond to a disaster in your community or beyond. At the center of our LERT volunteer training is one thing: **MERCY!** Christ's mercy is the basis for everything we say and do. This training event will equip you to be an effective volunteer should a disaster strike your community. After a brief introduction regarding the goals and theological rationale of LCMS Disaster Response, the LERT volunteer training will address the following:

- Christian Care In Times of Disaster
- A Ministry of Presence
- The LERT Program and How It Works with Other Responders
- Introduction to Disaster Response
- LCC/NID Disaster Response & Deployment Protocol
- Service Opportunities after a Disaster & Safety Protocol

LERT training is also now offered to youth, ages 14 – 17, so they can also assist in general disaster response safely and under the guidance of their own youth leadership. LCMS Disaster Response has developed new guidelines for youth participation. A parent must be present and sign form for participation.

If you know someone who would be a good addition to your LERT Team, encourage them to register and attend.

PLEASE REMEMBER: ANY TYPE OF HELP **IS HELPING** – IT COULD BE AS SIMPLE AS PASSING OUT WATER BOTTLES

<https://www.lutheranchurchcharities.org>

BEST WAY TO DONATE: CASH (it is preferred – it's as simple as that) – this can be placed in an envelope and put into the offering plate. The money will be collected in a safe and given to Mark Razny when the proper time arises. He will purchase what is needed for each specific location.

for more information please reach out to: Mark Razny at mrazny@yahoo.com or the Church Secretary at tlcsecretary508@gmail.com

Lutheran Early Response Teams (L.E.R.T.) BASIC TRAINING:

-SATURDAY 03/15/25 9:00am – 1:00pm (in the Fellowship Hall)

TO SIGN UP: http://www.lcms-lert.org/need/detail/?need_id=1047115



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



2025 we will be reading through the Bible again this year! If you haven't joined us yet, join us for the New Testament! Contact Michelle Buell for details or for help connected with us! (815) 909-6366



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 Jacob Sheffer jmsheffer62@gmail.com. If you received a statement in the past, you are on the list to automatically receive one each year.



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.

TWO Large Print Hymnals are available! These can be found on the table in the Narthex near the bulletins and must always be returned after the service.

Hearing Devices are available for anyone who is hearing impaired.

Please ask Pastor or an Usher for help.

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!

“MEALS FOR MEMBERS”: What this is: from time to time, some of our members find themselves in the position of needing a little assistance with meals. Whether it be an illness, welcoming a child, an injury, or so on. What we would ask of our members is to help provide a meal and deliver it to the person in need. There is a sign-up sheet on the table for anyone willing to provide a meal when the time arises. You can also contact Suzy Kambic @ kambicsuzy@gmail.com or 815.735.8657 (or you can contact Jennifer at tlcsecretary508@gmail.com if needed.)



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!

The Next Raiseright Order Deadline Dates:

MARCH 2nd

Payment is due when you order. Cards will be ready to pick up the following week.

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

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/>



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

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

- Saturday, March 1, 9pm-1am, Gustos, Crest Hill**
- Saturday, March 22, 7-11pm, VFW New Lenox**

OUTREACH UPDATES:

-PLEASE CONSIDER VISITING OR SENDING A LETTER/CARD TO OUR SHUT-IN'S. FOR NAMES AND ADDRESSES CONTACT Jennifer at tlcsecretary508@gmail.com

-NEW MEMBER SUNDAY (including Thanks You & Welcomes): SUNDAY 04/06/25 (more info to follow)

-COME HOME TO JESUS SUNDAY: SUNDAY 10/26/25 (more info to follow)

OUTREACH FLYERS: Lutheran Hour Ministries PROJECT CONNECT can be found on the shelves outside of the Narthex –

-Some of the following Project Connect booklets are available as audio files, in addition to their standard PDF readable formats. <https://www.lhm.org/projectconnect/booklets.asp>

-A MATTER OF TIME (taking control of your life)

-COMEBACKS (how to get back up after life knocks you down)

-CONTENTMENT (five practices for a more content life – no matter who you are)

-EVERYONE IS A GIFT (letting God transform how you see people)

-FORGIVENESS IS A CHOICE

-GRIEF (where sadness and hope meet)

-HOW TO TALK ABOUT YOUR FAITH (an introduction to the spiritual conversation curve)

-JOURNEY THROUGH ADDICTION

- JOURNEY THROUGH ANXIETY

-JOURNEY THROUGH THE RAT RACE

-LOVE THY NEIGHBORHOOD (rediscovering the power of sharing the gospel with our deeds)

-PRAYER (when you don't know what to say)

-REGRETS, REALITY, RESTORATION

-SETTING PRIORITIES (previously titled: "Too Much to Do – Too Little Time")

-THE BIBLE (what? when? why?)

-WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DIE?

-WHO IS JESUS?

-WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN? (courage during difficult times)

-WHY DID JESUS DIE?

-YOUR PLACE IN GODS PLAN (previously titled: "And the Lord Appointed You")

Member News!!!



2025 Baptisms:

-Vonn Orn Johnson (January 5th, 2025)

-
-



2025 Weddings:

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Trinity Preschool News:

REGISTRATION FOR 2025-2026 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 2025. The tuition per month will be:

-2 Day, Tuesday & Thursday: \$125.00

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

(3- and 4-year-olds can choose 2 days a week or 3 days a week)

Children must be 3 or 4 by September 1, 2025.

For additional information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815.485.697 or email tlcsecretary508@gmail.com



NOTE: Would you like to sub for preschool? It would be an occasional position. Three hours a day, 9 to 12, often last-minute notice. If interested please email Jennifer at tlcsecretary508@gmail.com Thank You!!!



Sunday School News:

**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 GODS HANDS AND FEET"
as we share the Truth of God to our family, friends, and community!"**

The Sunday School is 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 EVENT CALANDER

March

- March 12th - Sunday School Serves Lenten Supper
- March 16th - Opening in church

April

- April 13th, 9:00 am - Palm Sunday/Participate in Church
11:30 am- Easter Egg Hunt & coffee hour
- April 20th-Easter No Sunday School

May

- May 18th-Opening in church
Last Day of Sunday School-Church Picnic

TLC Youth Group is for grades 7th-12th and is a great opportunity to form new friendships and make plans for exciting things to do.

We host monthly dinners on the second Sunday of each month at 5pm.

I would love to see you there, and as always bring a friend!

NEXT TLC Youth Groups Activity Will Be:

Sunday, 03/09/25

We will meet at Country Lanes at 3:30 to bowl,
then get dinner after on our way back to church for confirmation.

Also, Youth Group will be serving Lenten Supper on Wednesday, March 26th.

We will meet at 5:00pm to set up, dinner is at 6:00pm.

The menu will be soup and sandwiches.

There will be a sign-up sheet outside of Pastors office by March 2nd.

If you need service hours for school, please bring a form.

Can't wait to see you!

TLC Youth Group:

An Instagram page has been created where you can find information and invites for fun activities.

Please follow: [tlcyg_nl](#)

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE FOR 2025

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| -March 2 (10:30am Service) | Owen Elmlund |
| -March 9 (9:00am Service) | Kellyn Gappa |
| -March 16 (10:30am Service) | Owen Ronan |
| -March 23 (9:00am Service) | Owen Ronan |
| -April 6 (10:30am Service) | Charlie Mulvihill |
| -April 13 (9:00am Service) | Owen Elmlund |
| -April 20 (7:00am Easter Service) | Volunteer |
| -April 20 (10:30am Easter Service) | Volunteer |
| -April 27 (9:00am Service) | Kellyn Gappa |

DATE OF RITE OF CONFIRMATION: 05/04/25



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 March:

March 1-2: Robin Krol and Denise Buchanan

March 5 - Ash Wednesday: Denise Buchanan and Kay Purnell

March 8-9: Kay Purnell and Debbie Crawford

March 15-16: Debbie Crawford and Sharon MacFarlane

March 22-23: Sharon MacFarlane and Allene Bachman

March 29-30: Allene Bachman

ALTAR FLOWERS - 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. 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 2025 Altar Flower Calendar is posted in the glass case hanging on the wall outside the general office. When selecting a date, please check the calendar for availability. 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 purnellk51@hotmail.com or (815)485-9017.

March Altar Flower Sponsors:

March 1-2	Dawn & Dan Wojnarowski In Memory of their Fathers
March 8-9	Jennifer Mudrock In Memory of Jennifer's Father, Henry Sward
March 15-16	Katherina Fandl and Family In Memory of Kathy's Husband, Adolf
March 22-23	Rita Larson In Memory of Rita's Brother, Fred Sharing with: Lois Dobbs In Thanksgiving for Her Many Blessings
March 29-30	Julie & Andy Verchimak In Celebration of their Wedding Anniversary

**Chancel Guild: Our next meeting is March 5th at 9 a.m. in the church meeting room.
We will be discussing our Easter preparations.
Watch for Lily order forms in upcoming bulletins.
If you have any questions, or do not have access to an order form, please contact:
Kay Purnell at purnellk51@hotmail.com or (815)485-9017.
All ladies are welcome to join us in our service to TLC**



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: (coffee hours will continue during the summer following the 9:00 service)

March 2 - Liz and Christina
 9 - Sharon Lorenz
 16 - Kay Purnell
 23 – Sharon MacFarlane

Thank you to all of our Coffee Hosts who have been doing a wonderful job of providing coffee and sweets for the fellowship following the 9:00 services.

We are looking for one or two additional people who can fill in when we have a vacant Sunday (usually when there are 5 Sundays in the month) or if someone who is scheduled needs to cancel. Please contact the church office if you are able to help out.

Social Ministry Meeting: will be **Monday, March 11th @ 7:00pm at Church.** We will be making plans for the upcoming year. If you have been looking for a way to become more involved with your church family, consider joining us!

Food and Fellowship: will be **Tuesday, March 12th @ 12:00pm.** Please join us for lunch and an afternoon activity. All adults are welcome! Bring a friend if you like! If you plan to attend, please sign up on the sheet by the office.

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!

Trinity Lutheran Church Usher Sunday Schedule 2024-25

1st Sunday

9:AM	Virgil Seitzer	331 588 4264	virgilswitzer66@gmail.com
	Biff Aiken	815 954 0682	biffdebaiken@gmail.com
*10:30AM	Brett Carr	815 370 6651	brettdcarr@gmail.com
	Paul Krol	815 575 1315	p.krol@sbcglobal.net

2nd Sunday

*9:AM	Edward A. Tatro**	815 485 5760	etatro4@aol.com
	Tim King	815 463 0415	tim.king1@comcast.net
10:30AM	Tom Buell	815 485 3769	tombuell@sbcglobal.net
	Bob Blecke	815 353 7561	robert.blecke@yahoo.com

3rd Sunday

9:AM	Mike Gardner	815 485 9623	mgardner1453@gmail.com
	Gary Purnell	815 485 9017	gpurnell3@hotmail.com
*10:30AM	Cameron Hoag	779 279 4223	cam.hoag21@gmail.com
	Dana Knodel	708 822 2902	knodel.dana@yahoo.com

4th Sunday

*9: AM	Steve Tomany	815 485 3163	sltomany@gmail.com
	Randy Varju	815 685 1363	randy.varju@aah.org
10:30AM	Phil McFarlane	815 258 0946	philmacp40@comcast.net
	John Buell	815 756 0194	jbuell7528@gmail.com

5th Sunday

9:AM	Scott Benedict	815 953 8105	maxem02@yahoo.com
	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

Alternates:

Zack Horn 630 664 9224

Dan Wheeler 708 932 1054

Craig Black 815 278 0330 cbnb33@sbcglobal.net

*Communion.

Members who have an interest in serving the Lord and our congregation as an usher, helping to assist with the sanctity of our services, should contact Ed Tatro or Diane Sewing. {noted above**}

8/24 ET

USHERS:

Please check the usher schedule in the Attendance Notebook and make any corrections for an update if needed.

Also, this is a good time to review Usher Duties for services and special occasions. The duties are also in the front of the Attendance notebook in the Narthex."

SUGGESTION BOX RESPONSE(S):

SUGGESTION: "Move American Flag over by the Red Banner"

ANSWER: *this is being discussed*

SUGGESTION: "I think it is sad we do not have an usher at the Saturday night service"

ANSWER: *when that service was established it was to be informal and without need of an usher. Members were to take care of themselves or step forward to assist. Usher coordinator responsibilities were for Sunday services.*

SUGGESTION: "Newsletter – only list baptisms and weddings from the previous month. Makes it easier to see what is new."

ANSWER: *IMPLEMENTED IN 2025 -we will list only the current year*

SUGGESTION: "please make sure the heat is on early enough for the 9:00 service when the benches are cold and parishioners are wearing jackets it's not warm enough"

ANSWER: *Property Was Made Aware*

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 – TWO Large Print Hymnals are Now Available! These can be found on the table in the Narthex near the bulletins and must always be returned after the service.*

Thank You Jan Falk for Gifting the Church a Second Large Print Hymnal

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

ANSWER: *IMPLEMENTED IN 2024*

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

ANSWER: *IMPLEMENTED IN 2024*

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: *IMPLEMENTED IN 2024*

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.*

SUGGESTION: "1 Outdoor Service a Month During the Summer"

ANSWER: *NO, not feasible currently.*

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

ANSWER: *NO, not feasible currently.*

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