

November 2023

Dear Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to calm some fears about what is going on right now in the Middle East. There's a lot of speculation about the end of the world. References are being made to the prophets, namely, Ezekiel and Daniel, and Revelation. The gist of what's being said is that we are seeing the last days of planet Earth being played out on the global stage and that it was predicted by the Bible.

All of it exhibits a very poor understanding of the Bible. Ezekiel and Daniel are explicitly about the *coming of the Messiah*, what he will accomplish and under what conditions he will come. Their fulfillment came in the person of Jesus Christ and not in current geopolitical realities.

The book of Revelation is describing events that have *already passed* (the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Romans). The Beast is the Roman Empire, Babylon the Great is apostate Israel, and the False Prophet is the collective of would-be messiahs that proliferated in the 1st century AD. The final two chapters describe what we have inherited as redeemed children of God through Jesus Christ.

With all of that being said, do not give ear to celebrity preachers (online or otherwise) who are using the news to interpret the Bible. The Bible interprets itself very well and has Jesus Christ alone as its focus and center. Do not deviate from Jesus, in whom we have assurance that the forces of the demonic realm have been conquered and will meet their final doom when Jesus reappears once and for all. Know that you are forgiven of all sin and are kept from all evil through the cross and resurrection of Jesus. You are his forever!

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 Detailed Information to Follow**

NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

An update from Church Council President, Gary Purnell:

President's Note:

A big thank you to Outreach, Social Ministry, Parish Education, Church Council, specifically Mike Gardner, and all else involved for all the heart and energy put into our "Back Home with Jesus" Sunday. Thank you to Pastor as well for his very informative and welcoming service. I know a lot of work went into the morning to make it special from preparing the food to welcoming the congregation to entertaining our Sunday School children, etc. Your efforts did not go unnoticed. I saw a lot of fellowship and smiles happening. Let's keep those welcoming smiles going. Please when you notice a new guest or even a member who does not seem to have anyone to visit with, offer your friendship. A little kindness goes a long way.

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

- General Fund Donations year to date through September are \$13,200 less than the same period in 2022.
- Expenses for September were generally in line with the same period last year except for the parking lot project.
- Property, Liability, and Workers Comp Insurance for 2024 should go out for bid.
- Property reported repairs to plumbing, gutters, siding and trim. Gables and windows need to be scraped and painted and should be budgeted for 2024. Plans for upgrading exterior lighting are in process.
- Outreach, Social Ministry, and Parish Education discussed plans for "Back Home with Jesus" Sunday.
- Youth and Parish Education are planning a bonfire on October 21 and a game night on November 10.
- Council elections are scheduled for October 22. Three openings still exist. A discussion of potential candidates was held. Pastor will follow up.
- The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 12, 2023, at 7PM.

Member News!!!



2022 Baptisms:

- Gabriel Wojnarowski Bendoraitis 01/09/22
- Matthew Robert Longmire 02/20/22
- Russell Roy Goebig 04/03/22
- Mary Elizabeth Niemann 05/07/22
- Kanerick Matthew Dobrez 07/02/22
- Alita Sue Hicks 07/03/22
- Landon Paul Ondera 07/10/22
- Everly Jo Youngberg 08/14/22
- Alessi Anastasios Zarvos 08/21/22
- Persephone Mae Sheffer 08/21/22
- Roan Roy Seville's 11/26/22

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**



2022 Weddings:

- Camden R. Meade & Francesca T. Prospero 06/11/22

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2023 Weddings:

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PERSONAL NOTE FROM JAN AND REX TOEPKE: Thank you to our Trinity family for all of the prayers, cards, and messages during Rex's hospitalization and recovery. It was greatly appreciated. We also thank the people who provided some meals upon our return home. Rex and Jan

Exciting News - the Cookie Walk WILL Happen This Year!!!

Cookie Walk: Saturday December 2nd from 8:30am - 11:30am

Cookie Drop Off Day: Friday December 1st from 9:00am - 6:00pm

Proceeds from this fund-raiser have purchased many needed items for our church building. All members of Trinity are encouraged to help bake cookies for this annual event.

If you are interested, please contact Donna Cuthbert at rusty351@ameritech.net or 815.651.6381

Active Shooter Training Session with Mark Razny, and a guest from the New Lenox Police Department: Sunday November 12th After Both Services (more information to follow)



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:

-December 2-- VFW New Lenox-- 7-11pm

-December 9 - Gusto's 9pm-1am

~~-December 31 - Fireman Ted's Joliet - 8:30pm - 12:30am - Canceled~~

all new dates will be posted in the weekly bulletin.

***** MORNINGSTAR "STARS OF HOPE" *****

Please Find the Sign-Up Sheet on the Table in the Hallway

As of 9/19, Morningstar had 275 children signed up to receive gifts this Christmas. The big sign up will happen on 10/2 and 10/3.

The Recipients are all Will County Residents.

You will be able to specify if you prefer to shop for a boy or a girl; if you want to shop for the needs list, the wants list, or both.

We will pick up the stars on Sunday 10/15 and distribute them Reformation Sunday weekend.

Please have your wrapped, tagged presents back to church BY WEDNESDAY 11/29. We must deliver to MorningStar on 12/1. Please place them in either a large box or a black plastic bag in the gym. On the original star you are provided, please circle any items you did not get. MorningStar will be able to supply the unmet items from their warehouse and other donations. You DO NOT have to buy everything!

If you would like to participate, but cannot physically shop, make a cash donation, and the committee will fulfill the child's request with your input.

Some stars to attach to the gifts will also be available on Reformation weekend. They need to have the name and the child's number on each tag, but that is all.

Kick off the Christmas season of Love & Hope by providing God's beloved children!

Join Kim Burbank and Limestone Financial Group of Thrivent for an Action Team Event benefiting 2 local Pediatric Cancer Non-profits: Love Smiles & The Finley Forever Foundation!

We will be helping Love Smiles prepare for their annual book drive (building & wrapping book collection boxes & packing Bags of Love) and helping The Finley Forever Foundation prepare for their annual Lights and Ladder Brigade.

Limestone Financial Group (Kim Burbank, Ryan Mitchell, Rick Madal and Mike Shackel) will provide pizza, refreshments, and desserts to all volunteers.

Also, challenge your 4 favorite Thrivent Financial Advisors to an Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest that night! Come in your Christmas finest and receive a raffle ticket for a Christmas Surprise! Bring friends & family along to learn about the amazing blessing of Thrivent Action Teams and these 2 wonderful non-profit organizations!

Friday, November 17th, 2023 5:30pm-8pm

Trinity Lutheran Church Gym & Fellowship Hall

Please RSVP to Kim Burbank via email kimberly.burbank@thrivent.com

or text 708-564-3971 by 11/16/2023

For more information:

<https://connect.thrivent.com/limestone-financial-group/>

<https://www.love-smiles.org/>

<https://www.finleyforever.com/>

PERSONAL NOTE FROM JAN AND REX TOEPKE:

Thank you to our Trinity family for all of the prayers, cards, and messages during Rex's hospitalization and recovery. It was greatly appreciated. We also thank the people who provided some meals upon our return home. Rex and Jan

CRAFT FAIR "THANK YOU"!!!

Thank you to all the volunteers, bakers, shoppers, crafters and vendors! This was our biggest craft fair ever and we counted 340 people who came to shop. We received lots of compliments on our youth who helped carry things in and out of the building for our crafters and vendors - I kept hearing that our youth jumped in to help without having to be asked. Thank you to everyone!



RaiseRight Fundraiser (Formerly ShopwithScrip) - This is a gift card fundraiser. They are the same gift cards you can purchase from retailers, including over 300 brand-name grocery stores, department stores, restaurants, gas stations, hotels, home improvement stores, etc. We order the gift cards at a discount, and you pay face value for the gift cards. (For example, you pay \$25 for a \$25 Speedway gift card - the youth group obtains the card at a discount and keeps the difference.) You can purchase gift cards by filling out an order form (located on the table outside Pastor's office) or by placing your order online at www.raiseright.com. If interested in placing orders online, it is simple to do with our church's enrollment code. Contact Angie Minett for the code or with any questions you might have at minett411@yahoo.com or 815-228-4902.

Thank you to all who participate in our RaiseRight gift card fundraiser. This past year we made over \$1,000. We use these earnings to send our youth to the Youth Gathering every 3 years and we appreciate the generous support of our congregation.

We Are Looking Ahead Due to the Holidays Approaching. We will have the following Extra Dates in November:

- Sunday November 5th
- Sunday November 12th

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.



Trinity Preschool News:

Registration for 2023-2024 Is Open!

Please Tell Your Friends and Neighbors

There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$65.00 per student. The school year beginning September 2023. The tuition per month will be:

-3 Day, 4-Year-Old, Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 9:00-11:30 - \$150.00

Children must be 3 or 4 by September 1, 2023.

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

Next Preschool Board Meetings:

-January 2024 T.B.D.

-March 2024 T.B.D.

-May 2024 T.B.D.



Sunday School News:

The Sunday School staff has been busy this summer 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

GREAT TIME OF YEAR FOR THE FOLLOWING!!!

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

November

- **November 24th, 5-7 pm - Family Fun Night**
Christmas Movie Night with Popcorn and Hot Cocoa

December

- **December 16th, 10-11:30 am Children's Christmas Program PRACTICE**
- **December 17th, 10:30 am - Children's Christmas Program**
- **December 27th, 5-7pm - Christmas V.B.S.**

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 November:

November 4 / 5: Robin Krol / Doris Bay (Holiday Cleaning November 4 9:00am)
November 11 / 12: Doris Bay / Wendy Kaun
November 18 / 19: Wendy Kaun / Jennifer Mudrock
November 23 THANKSGIVING DAY: Denise Buchanan
November 25 / 26: Denise Buchanan / 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. **Our 2023 Calendar is now complete. 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.

November Altar Flower Sponsors:

Nov. 5	Katharina Fandl In Honor of Her and Her Late Husband's Anniversary
Nov. 12	Amelia and Liliana Burbank In Celebration of Mommy's Birthday (Kim)
Nov. 19	Jackie and Richard Rohner In Memory of Their Son, Ronald Rohner
Nov. 26	Sharon and Phil MacFarlane In Memory of Marge Dykstra on her Birthday

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:

Nov. 5 Rita Larson and Denise Buchanan
12 Liz Benedict and Christina Kipper
19 Sandy Peters
26 Sharon MacFarlane
Dec. 3 Rita Larson and Denise Buchanan
10 Liz Benedict and Christina Kipper
17 Kay Purnell

Next Social Ministry Meeting: will be **Monday, November 13**. 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, November 14**. All adults are welcome to attend! Please join us for lunch and an afternoon activity. **November** will be a pizza lunch. Please indicate your choice of pizza (cheese, sausage or pepperoni, veggie) when signing up.

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

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 cqm964@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



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.

Mini Scripture Cards in Each Pew: you may have noticed in the last couple of months that there is mini-Scripture Cards located on either side of each pew. they are there for you to read and enjoy. if one of them is very meaningful to you personally, please keep it.

Church Office Hours:

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