

Trinity Lutheran Church

Proclaiming, Teaching and Living the Gospel of Christ!

WORSHIP SERVICES

December 2023 - Newsletter

Saturday: Sunday:

5:00pm 8:30am

Holy Communion is celebrated weekly on Saturday & Sunday

Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am-Sundays

Saturday Bible Study 4:00pm Sunday Bible Study 9:45am

An Advent Prayer

Lord Jesus,

In this season of Advent, prepare us to celebrate Your blessed incarnation. Illumine our minds and hearts. Ignite our spirits so that we may welcome You in genuine love and faithfulness. May the Holy Spirit embrace us with His presence so that we may live sanctified lives and reflect Your Advent light in all we say and do until that day when You return. In Your name we pray.

Amen.



Concordia Publishing House Portals of Prayer Oct.-Dec., 2023 Pg. 108

Blood Drive

A Blood Drive will be held on Monday, December 4th from 12:00-6:00pm. Contact Deb Chmielowiec at 815-954-1363 to schedule an appointment.



Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule

Advent Worship Services will be held Wednesdays, December 6th, 13th and 20th at 7:00pm.

Lovzoy

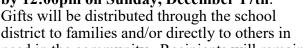
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services will be held at 6:30pm & at 10:30pm. The Sunday School Children's Christmas Program will be

held during the 6:30pm Christmas Eve service. Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion will be held at 9:00am.

Angel Tree

Angel ornaments are on display in the Parish Hall. The numbered

angel is tagged with items that are needed/wished for. Please use this tag to select your purchase(s). Please purchase your gift and return to the church office wrapped with the angel tag number taped to the package by 12:00pm on Sunday, December 17th.



need in the community. Recipients will remain anonymous. We know you will be blessed joining in this ministry.

Offering Envelopes & Flower Chart

2024 Offering Envelopes will be available for pick up on the table in the Parish Hall mid-December. Please contact Diane in the office with any questions. The 2024 Flower Chart will be posted mid-December as well.

Annual Report

Please submit all items to Diane in the church office for the 2023 Annual Report by **Monday, January 15th**. *Please and thank you*.

255 E. Third Street, P.O. Box 414 Herscher, IL 60941 Phone: 815-426-2262

Web site: trinitylutheranherscher.org Email: trinityherl@comcast.net Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/trinityherscher

December – The Strange Tale of Corinth

1st and 2nd Corinthians are such interesting books. Both are letters of Paul to the Church in Corinth. Now Corinth was a big, fancy, decadent city, full of wealth, commerce, and pagan temples. Paul had helped to found a congregation there on one of his missionary travels, but a few years later he hears that things have gone catastrophically sideways. So Paul writes 1st Corinthians to basically read the Corinthians the riot act.



Sometimes when people in a Congregation are upset over some trouble or hardship in their own congregation – even very serious hardships – I suggest that they read 1 Corinthians. Seriously, it's a horror show of problems. Fights over who is the actual pastor, gross sexual immorality, crazy lawsuits, chaos all over the place – even people getting drunk at the Lord's Supper! It serves as a reminder that there is nothing new under the sun, and that while we might not have experienced a specific situation before the Church has already seen it.

In response to these problems, we get some wonderfully clear teaching on what the Lord's Supper is, what love looks like, and how to handle your neighbors. This is part of the reason why we will have 9 or 10 epistle readings from 1 Corinthians over the year, including on Easter.

However, 1 Corinthians was rather blunt, and apparently many people in Corinth were shaken to the core. This is why a few months later Paul writes 2 Corinthians. 2 Corinthians is wonderful letter revolving around the idea of forgiveness, reconciliation, and God working through us even though we are weak and flawed. It is a letter of rebuilding people up in Christ. Here you will hear Paul speak to the ministry of reconciliation. The images of "treasures in jars of clay" and "a thorn in my flesh" are both from 2 Corinthians, reminding us that while we are weak, Jesus is strong. Again, we will hear from 2 Corinthians around 5 times next Church year as well.

These two books together show the fullness of not only Christian Doctrine but also how we need both law and gospel, teaching and encouragement. There's a time to be called to the carpet, and there's a time to be lifted up. So wherever you find yourself in life – whether it's getting caught up in things or in the harsh aftermath, 1 and 2 Corinthians are most useful for understanding your life as a Christian.

Pastor Brown

Christian Education Schedule/ Bible Study

Sunday School is held on Sundays at 9:30am. Meet in the front of the church for the opening.

High School Bible Study is held on Sundays at 9:30am in the church basement. All high school youth are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Sunday Adult Bible Study is held on Sundays at approximately 9:45am after the Sunday worship service and the Sunday School opening. We are currently studying the *book of Matthew*.

Saturday Adult Bible Study is held on Saturdays at 4:00pm before the worship service. We are currently studying *The Small Catechism*.

Facebook Live devotions are held online most weeks, Monday through Thursday at 8:00am.

Be in the Word!
It's a great place to be!
All are welcome!

Sunday School

The Sunday School Children's Christmas Program will be held Sunday, December 24th at 6:30pm along with the candlelight service. This service will be aired on Facebook Live.

Choir Practice-Wednesdays



During Advent, the Vocal Choir will rehearse after mid-week Advent services.

Children's Music 5:30pm Handbell Choir 6:00pm Vocal Choir 7:45pm

Directory updates

Please update the following address:

Ronald & Roxanna Kruse 230 Westwood Oaks Court Kankakee, Il 60901

Steven Lund 521 N. 5th Street Lafayette, IN 47901

Weekly Bulletin Deadline

Items for the weekly bulletin are due in the church office each **Wednesday by noon.** Thank you!



Monthly Newsletter Deadline

Articles, announcements and information for the January newsletter are due Monday, December 18th by 9:00am. Thank you!

Pastoral Care & Church Office Hours

Pastor Brown will be in the office on Mondays & Wednesdays 8:00-11:00am-ish. He will be happy to meet with you at other times as well, just call, text or email.

Pastor's Email: pastorbrown.trinity@comcast.net Pastor's Cell phone (call or text): 815-953-9995 Pastor's Office phone: 815-426-2262 x102

Diane Hart will continue to be in the office as often as needed. Phone messages and email are checked multiple times daily.

Diane's Email: trinityher1@comcast.net

Diane's Office phone: 815-426-2262 x101 Diane's Cell phone (call or text): 708-307-2710

Missionaries

Please continue to pray for our missionaries Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump and their family as they continue to share God's love and spread His Word.



Courtyard Estates of Herscher Services

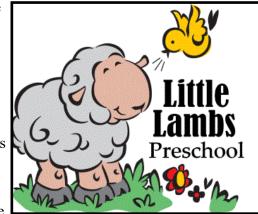


A worship service is planned at Courtyard Estates of Herscher on Monday, December 11th 2:00pm. Watch the bulletins for updates.

Little Lambs Preschool

Once again, our wreath fundraiser was a tremendous success! Little Lambs received \$1,504 between wreath orders and separate donations. As you can imagine, that will purchase a significant quantity of items for our classroom, which we can use for years to come. Thank you to everyone who ordered and donated! Your support means so much to the preschool, students and staff alike.

Students are currently practicing for our upcoming Christmas program. Both classes will be singing together, meaning everyone is working on the same songs and rhymes. It is hard work to learn all the words and movements! We started practicing right after Halloween to give the kids the time they need to have everything down pat. Our program is extra short, but also extra sweet! You are



welcome to join us on Thursday, December 21st at 6:00pm for a brief musical performance, with light refreshments served afterward.

Christmas break starts the day after the Christmas program, and students won't be returning until January 9th. This gives everyone at the preschool a much-needed chance to recharge their batteries. We will return in January "pumped, psyched, and ready to go," as Pastor Brown likes to say. In the meantime, we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year! Really, we do-that's one of the songs the kids will be singing at the program. God's blessings on all your upcoming celebrations and travels!

– Mrs. Brown

Raise Right Gift Card/Scrip Card Program—go to: raiseright.com Raising funds with NO SELLING!

Trinity's Gift Card Program through Raise Right: This program is available year-round. If you need gift cards, this is for you!



Ordering is simple. First, download or pick up a copy in the Parish Hall, of the vendor list showing the percentages that go back to the preschool (www.raiseright.com/c/shop/product/brandalphabeticallist). After you decide what you want, you may give your order and payment to Diane Hart in the church office or sign up online using enrollment code 363ECBLF55795 and order them directly from the RaiseRight website (www.raiseright.com/shop)

or via the RaiseRight mobile app. Please make checks payable to Trinity's Little Lambs Preschool.

Regardless of the method you use, **all orders will be placed on Mondays**, allowing for delivery usually by Thursday of the same week (online orders will be submitted with the paper orders). While they are most popular for holiday and birthday gifts, people also purchase cards to use themselves at places they regularly shop.

For Christmas gift shoppers, to ensure that gift cards are received in plenty of time for Christmas, please have your orders in no later than Monday, December 11th by 12:00 noon.

Contact Diane Hart with any questions. Thank you for supporting Little Lambs simply by shopping!



Martha Circle

Martha Circle will meet at the Herscher Restaurant Friday, December 1st for our annual Christmas breakfast at 8:30am.

Board of Education

Contact Jessica Kruse for the next meeting date or with any questions.

Church Council

The Church Council will meet Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall. Newly elected Council members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Hannah Circle

Our thanks to the congregation for their generous support purchasing Priester's Pecans. We still have some left if you need any Christmas ideas!

We will go Christmas caroling at Courtyard Estates Tuesday, December 19th at 6:30. Everyone is welcome to join us. The more voices the merrier!

December Card Care: Marianne Mau

Trinity's Sewing Group

Trinity's Sewing group enjoyed a pizza party at the November quilting day furnished by Gerald Kroesch. The Ladies enjoyed visiting with Gerald when they ate their pizza. Thank you, Gerald. They will meet Tuesday, December 5th from 12:30-4:00pm to continue our sewing projects. If you are interested in what we do, stop by and see for yourself.

Dartball

Practice will be held Monday, December 11th at 7:00pm.



Games will be played at 7:00pm: Monday, December 4th. Trinity 1 at Herscher Methodist; Trinity 2 at home; Monday, December 18th. Trinity 1 at home; Trinity 2 at Herscher Methodist.

Herscher Council of Churches

Through Herscher Christian Church we distributed twenty-three Thanksgiving Food Baskets on November 18th. We thank State Bank of Herscher for partnering with us to collect many canned goods to help fill these baskets.

Herscher United Methodist Church will distribute our Christmas Food Baskets on Saturday, December 16th from 9:00-10:00am. If you know of someone in need, please have them call Dan Martin at Hardware Han (815-426-2113) by Thursday, December 14th. Once again, SBH will hold a canned food collection in their lobbies to assist us in feeding those in need.

Volunteer Help Still Needed—Prairie **Auxiliary Members**

Prairieview has resumed activities after many long months of shut-downs. Trinity's long-time



auxiliary members have stepped down and for volunteers that would like to serve in this

manner. In the past they planned and executed an activity once a month for the residents of Prairieview and assisted with the annual Fall Festival. Please contact Bonnie Matherly for information regarding serving on the auxiliary. Trinity will coordinate with Steve Baker of Prairieview for scheduling etc.

Trinity's Library

Our library is located in the southeast corner of the Parish Hall.

There are many books available to check out. Enjoy!

Contact Edith Schwark with any questions.

Happy reading!



From Redeeming Life:

Dear Pastor Brown,

Thank you so much for your recent gift of \$750.00 to support the ministry of Redeeming Life Maternity Home! Your generous gift shares the love of Jesus with our residents.

These women are single, pregnant, and alone. They have chosen life for their unborn babies yet lack the resources and skills to live independently. Most have never experienced the grace of unconditional love. Few know the redemption and abundant life that comes only through Jesus. Because of your generosity and financial support, we can offer them a home and all they need, *most importantly the love of Jesus*!

Together in Jesus, the saints at Trinity Lutheran Church partner with Redeeming Life to live out our calling to love our neighbors and to share the life-changing good news of the Gospel. We praise God for you and for your action in supporting the moms and babies of Redeem Life! To God be the glory!

In His Service,

Sheryl DeWitt Executive Director Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, Inc.



Contact Barbara Schwark, Trinity's RLOM Advocate with any questions.

Visit rlom.org/expansion for updates and information regarding the new home in Illinois.

Update from LWML & Operation Christmas Child

Hello Ladies and Gentlemen,

You and your churches did amazing this year! We went into the year with a few late-coming funds from last year which helped, but we had extra help in providing gifts this year and extra funds. At the Fall Zone Workshop 167 Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes were assembled. More boxes were packed later with the extra gifts and more specific need items were purchased with available funds. When those gifts were used and the filled-to-overflowing boxes totaled, we surpassed the past several years' totals! 255 children in countries around the world will hear the great news of our Savior and receive fun and hope filled gifts because of you! 255 boxes will be delivered to Gibson City on Monday, Nov. 13. The \$10 donation for each box has been paid and will be used for all those things mentioned below. As soon as the boxes ship, we will be notified of their destination and you will receive another email. Please keep the children receiving these boxes and all those touched by these boxes in your prayers.

To God be the glory, great things He has done!

Thank you so much for your contributions to this life changing mission!

Ruth Ann





Member Birthdays



- 1 Austin Howard, Barb Kruse,
 Mistie Whitlow
 3 Lillian Anderson, Darthy Bisaillo
- 3 Lillian Anderson, Darthy Bisaillon, Jonathan Claassen, Collin Glas
- 4 Keith Witheft
- 5 Claudia Huston
- 6 Jason Ferris, Sawyer Johnston
- 7 Jean Janssen
- 9 Joe Corneal
- 10 Lisa Corneal, Peter Gray
- 11 Hailey Varvel
- 14 Megan Burke
- 15 Debra Chmielowiec, Valerie Simmons
- 16 Kristina Hubly
- 17 Alissa Claassen
- 19 Judy Witheft
- 20 Craig Gaus
- 21 Daryl Rogers
- 25 Rebekah Moore
- 26 Ambrose Brown; Sawyer Yoakum
- 27 Evelvn Marti, Ella Zirkle
- 28 Mason Zirkle
- 29 Daniel Becker, Randall Becker, Rebecca Jackson, Finley Jensen
- 30 Sophia Malone

Please notify Diane in the church office if there are any errors or omissions. Thank you!

A Birthday Prayer

Gracious Father,

How joyful is the day You called and set me forth to be a blessing to Your creation and to all of those around me. Lord, I'm not done yet. Forgive me of my failings and propel me now toward Your ongoing purposes for my life. Bless this day and every day, and me in it, until that day You call me to that eternal celebration of life in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Concordia Publishing House Portals of Prayer July-Sep. 2023, page 111

Trinity Lutheran Church October 31, 2023 Financial Summary

General

Beg. Balance	\$ 5,929.48
Receipts	25,689.98
Expense	22,411.75
Ending Balance	\$ 9,207.71

Mission Fund

Beg. Balance	\$ 3,131.50
Receipts	2,240.00
Expense	3,750.00
Ending Balance	\$ 1,621.50

Little Lambs Preschool

Beg. Balance	\$ 9,844.34
Receipts	3,924.10
Expense	4,676.82
Ending Balance	\$ 9,091.62

Complete financial reports are given at Quarterly Voters' Meetings held on the third Sundays of January, April, July and October.



Please contact Diane in the church office if you need to pick up your offering envelopes, have them issued, or wish to be removed from the offering envelope list.

Sales Tax Exemption

Contact Diane in the office for a copy (electronic or paper). This should be used for all purchases for Trinity. There are additional forms/bar codes available for church purchases made at Home Depot and Menards. Please get a copy of the forms/bar code prior to making purchases. Thank you.

Parish Hall Rental/ Property Check-Out List

The Parish Hall may be rented to Trinity members for various functions. Please contact Diane in the office to schedule, remit rental fee, and obtain a copy of the guidelines. Also, any property borrowed (old tables, kitchen items, etc.) need to be signed out on the check-out sheet in the church office. Please note, per the Church Council, the white tables and chairs may not leave the church property. Also, all items used are to be returned clean and stored appropriately. Thank you!

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship Newsletter Article—December 2023

The Measure of Our Generosity

If you open up the Small Catechism, you'll find a shortened version of the Third Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." But if you look up the list of the Ten Commandments in Exodus, you'll find the full version:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Ex. 20:8–11)



Why did Luther shorten this commandment for the Small Catechism? Was it so that the kids wouldn't have so much to memorize? No, it was because Luther knew that all the details of the Third Commandment were part of the "shadow" of the Old Testament (Col. 2:16). Or as St. Paul puts it, there is "letter" in the Old Testament law and "spirit" (2 Cor. 3:6). The details of not working on Saturday were fulfilled by Christ. That part of the Sabbath regulation no longer applies. But the spirit of the law does remain: We need to dedicate sufficient time each week to hearing God's Word and giving it honor and respect. Or as Luther sums it up in the Small Catechism's explanation to the Third Commandment: "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

The same sort of analysis applies to our giving. In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to give a tenth of their income to the Levites so that those men could dedicate their lives to serving in God's house, teaching the people, conducting worship, etc. In the New Testament, there is a rigid requirement listed about handing in your tax forms to church to make sure you've given enough. But the mandate to have a full-time ministry, which is the spirit of that law concerning tithing to the Levites, is right there in 1 Corinthians 9:14: "The Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel."

The New Testament church's job is significantly larger than the job of Old Testament Israel. We are commanded to preach the Gospel to all nations. There was only the temple to maintain in the Old Testament, but we have churches, schools, universities and seminaries, plus missionaries everywhere. So you tell me: Can we really undertake the work of the ministry if our giving doesn't even measure up to Old Testament levels of generosity?

Serving Our Lord This Month—December 2023

Elder/Communion Assistant

December 02* Brian Noffke
December 03* Chip Thurston

December 09* Don LaChappell

December 10* Kim Weerts

December 16* Kevin Kruse
December 17* Chip Thurston

December 23* Joe Hart

December 24* Dale Simmons

December 25* Chip Thurston

December 30* Al Janssen December 31* Ken Taube

*Denotes Holy Communion is served



Usher Team

Usher Captains

Karl Kruse (Sat.) Position Available

Mike Thomas (Sun.) Joe Hart; Brandt Nottke;

Larry Sharper

Altar Guild

Becky Berger & Cassandra Royal

Altar Flowers

Weekend or date:

December 02/03 Deb & Kim Weerts for Advent

December 09/10 Available

December 16/17 Available

December 23/24 Available (Poinsettias will be in the chancel)

December 30/31 Available



Trinity—December 2023

	ı	1		i	ı			
ADVENT 3	Rlood Drive	5	6	7	Martha Circle Christmas Breakfast @ Herscher Restaurant 8:30am	Communion Wreath Pick up 3:00-4:00pm Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm		
Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Bible Study 9:45am Wreath Pick up 10:40am-12:00pm Confirmation 2:00pm	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Blood Drive 12:00 -6:00pm Dartball 7:00pm Trinity 1 @ Herscher Methodist Trinity 2 @ home	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Quilt Tying/ Sewing Group 12:30-4:00pm	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Children's Music 5:30pm Handbells 6:00pm Advent Worship 7:00pm Vocal Choir 7:45pm	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am		Communion Orr Parish Hall Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Bible Study 9:45am Poinsettia Orders Due Confirmation 2:00pm	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Gift Card Orders Due 9:00am Courtyard Estates Service 2:00pm Dartball practice 7:00pm	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Circuit Meeting 9:30am @ Zion, Grant Park Council Meeting 7:00pm	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Children's Music 5:30pm Handbells 6:00pm Advent Worship 7:00pm Vocal Choir 7:45pm	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	-0	Communion Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm		
17	18	19	22	21	22	23		
Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Bible Study 9:45am Angel Tree Gifts Due 12:00pm Confirmation 2:00	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am January Newsletter Deadline 9:00am Dartball 7:00pm Trinity 1 @ home Trinity 2 @ Herscher Methodist	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Little Lambs Party 10:15am Baptism 6:00pm Hannah Circle Caroling @ Courtyard Estates 6:30pm	Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Little Lambs Party 10:15am Children's Music 5:30pm Handbells 6:00pm Advent Worship 7:00pm Vocal Choir 7:45pm	Little Lambs Christmas Program 6:00pm	Little Lambs-No	Communion Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm O School 12/22-1/8		
Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am	Communion Christmas Day Worship 9:00am	26	27	28	29	Communion Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm		
Bible Study 9:45am Children's Christmas	CHRIST*	Pastor vacation 12/26-1/2						
Program w/ Candlelight Service	ESAVIOR							
6:30pm Candlelight Service 10:30pm	isBORN!		Little Lamb	os-No School 12/22-	1/8			
31								
Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School &	Deadlines for		in announcement ry Newsletter dea					
High School Bible Study 9:30am								
			10					