



Trinity Lutheran Church

Proclaiming, Teaching and Living the Gospel of Christ!

WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday: 5:00pm

Sunday: 8:30am

Holy Communion is celebrated weekly on Saturday & Sunday

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

Sat. Adult Bible Study 4:00pm

Sun. Adult Bible Study 9:45am

A Prayer during Lent

Lord Jesus, we recall the hardship You endured in order to eventually end all hardship once and for all. As we live in this time of suffering, remind us that You know our pain. Lead our hearts to repentance, that we may acknowledge our sin and turn from it. Comfort us with peace, that we may follow our Savior where He leads, even through death and into eternal life.

Amen.

*Concordia Publishing House
Portals of Prayer
Jan.-March 2024, page 108*



February 2024 - Newsletter

2024 Church Council

The following is a list of our 2024 Elders of the Church Council and their alphabetically assigned congregation members. In a church our size, open communication is a necessity for our church to be effective in bearing a clear witness of God's grace. You are encouraged to contact your Elder with any questions or comments regarding Trinity or its activities.

We pray God's continued blessings on Trinity and we hope that all members take an active part of this religious community centered around Christ Jesus.



<u>Elder</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Last Names</u>
Gavin Grace	815-953-2971	A-B
Chip Thurston	970-631-6082	C-F
Alan Janssen	815-685-4692	G-H
Don LaChappell	815-325-2962	I-J
Gerald Brutlag	815-922-7425	K
John Varvel	605-431-7114	L-M
Ken Taube	815-693-5915	N-R
Kim Weerts	815-593-0486	S-T
Joe Hart	708-289-7846	U-Z

2024 Officers/Committees

Chairman	Joe Hart
Vice Chairman	Don LaChappell
Treasurer	Kim Weerts
Secretary	Kevin Kruse
Activities	Gerald Brutlag
Activities	Gavin Grace
Activities	Chip Thurston
Properties	Ken Taube
Properties	John Varvel
Properties	Kim Weerts
Little Lambs	Gerald Brutlag
Little Lambs	Joe Hart
Little Lambs	Ken Taube

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Phone: 815-426-2262

Web site: trinitylutheranherscher.org Email: trinityherl@comcast.net

Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/trinityherscher

Ephesians – A Simple Primer

This month we will consider Paul's letter to the Ephesians, which holds a special place in my heart. 20 years ago this summer, when I showed up at my first parish fresh out of the Seminary, I had to pick something to teach in bible study. I picked Ephesians – and as that congregation had bible study before service, the very first official thing I did was teach a study on this book.



But why Ephesians? Ephesians is an incredible valuable book because it is unique among all the letters Paul writes. In every other epistle there is a specific problem that Paul is addressing, but in Ephesus, nothing is going wrong. This lets Paul write a simple letter that serves as a great, basic overview of the Christian faith and life. It serves as a simple primer for what how one is saved and the impact Christ's salvation has upon us.

As an example of this, Ephesians 2:1-10 is the great passage about salvation being by grace through faith in Christ Jesus. Verses 8 and 9 are the kicker – *For by grace you have been saved, through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.* Here Paul can be direct, and he doesn't need to really focus on any point over and against local tomfoolery.

In Chapters 4-6 Paul goes on to explain how this grace that God has given manifests in our lives together. Chapter four speaks to the unity we have in Christ and how we are pulled away from sin. Chapter five speaks to how we love our neighbor, especially as husband and wife. And then, in Chapter 6 we get the famous “whole armor of God” passage, which will be the theme for our Lenten midweek services.

So if you were wanting something straightforward to read and be refreshed by, I highly recommend sitting down and reading Ephesians. It's a quick read, much of it will be familiar to you, and it's quite edifying.

Pastor Brown

2nd Sunday Funday! High School Youth



Pastor Brown will hold 2nd Sunday Funday for all high school youth Sunday, February 11th from 10:30am-1:30pm. Lunch be served, let Pastor know your lunch suggestions! Come join in for food, fun, & fellowship!

Easter Sunday-March 31, 2024

Looking ahead, a Sunrise Service with Holy Communion will be held Easter Sunday, March 31st at 6:15am. The Church Council will serve Easter breakfast at 7:00am (or immediately following the Sunrise Service). Festival Worship with Holy Communion will be held at 8:30am. The Children's Easter Egg Hunt/Craft Activity will be held at 9:30am.



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!

Ash Wednesday Midweek Lenten Worship

Midweek Lenten Worship services begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00pm. Please join us. Pastor Brown and Pastor Wyeth of Zion, Bonfield will do a pulpit rotation this Lenten season.

Meager Meals During Lent

Meager Meals are served during Lent before worship on Wednesdays. Meals will be served in our Parish Hall from 5:30-6:45pm. A free will offering is taken. We welcome you to join us!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meal</u>	<u>Prepared by</u>
02/14	Soup	Pastor Brown
02/21	Taco Bar	Circle of Friends
02/28	Casseroles	Hannah Circle
03/06	<i>To be determined</i>	<i>To be determined</i>
03/13	<i>To be determined</i>	<i>To be determined</i>
03/20	Italian Beef	Altar Guild

Choir Practice-Wednesdays

Children's Music	5:30pm
Handbell Choir	6:00pm
Vocal Choir	7:00pm
2/14-3/20:	Children's Music 5:15-5:45pm
	Handbells 5:45-6:45pm
	Vocal Choir 7:45-8:45pm

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 March newsletter are due **Monday, February 19th 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

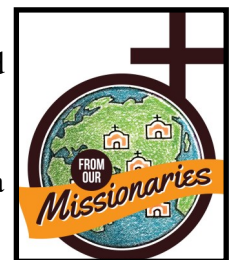
Diane Hart will continue to be in the office as often as needed. Phone messages and email are checked multiple times daily.

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

There is an updated postcard from Pastor Trump on the bulletin board kiosk in the Parish Hall!

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.

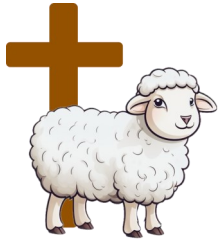


Courtyard Estates of Herscher Services



A worship service is planned at Courtyard Estates of Herscher on Mondays, February 12th & 26th at 2:00pm. Watch the bulletins for updates.

Little Lambs Preschool



The last newsletter mentioned that January is typically the coldest month with the most snow, and it certainly did not disappoint this year. Thank you to Brian Noffke for your spectacular snow management! Thank you also to the properties committee, who arranged for the furnace fan to be replaced. The fact that the water heater failed mere hours before the furnace appointment and was therefore ALSO handled in a supremely timely fashion may have been unintentional, but we are grateful to you for fixing it nonetheless.

Something I am asked on occasion is how we handle snow days at Little Lambs. The answer is that we follow the Herscher school district, with one slight change: no e-learning. When COVID-19 necessitated the closure of schools across the nation, we implemented e-learning in an effort to keep in touch with our students and help them feel less isolated during lock-down. We still feel that was the best option available in a difficult situation and cannot rule it out as something we'd do in the future (should we be closed long-term again). However, for short-term closures such as snow days, we consider it a blessing that we are able to allow students to truly be out of school. Preschool is heavily designed around social, emotional, and motor development; could we find an electronic task that would meet that need better than playing (hopefully with others) outside in the snow? Even on the bitterly cold days that keep our preschoolers indoors, they will be interacting socially with caregivers and/or siblings. It is hard to be little, so in this respect, we are happy to let them have it easier than the big kids.

As we move into February, with Valentine's Day and Grandparents Day celebrations, we will be talking about love and family. Our Bible lessons this month will be focusing on the ways Jesus helped people, and what He teaches us about caring for others. Love is an action. It certainly makes us feel many ways, too, but we ultimately show love best by serving others. This will set the stage for Easter, when God's perfect love for us is demonstrated with Christ's death upon the cross. It may seem like a lot to wrap your head around, but that is why God tells us to have faith like a child: they don't have to fully understand to trust that God loves and forgives them.

Have a blessed Lent, and may we all have faith like preschoolers!

— Mrs. Brown

Vacation Bible School Celebrate the Savior June 3-7, 2024

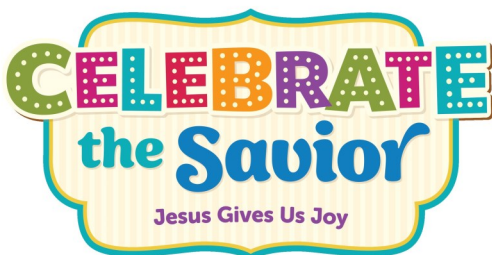
We are excited and already preparing for Vacation Bible School 2024!

Student and volunteer online registration is open!

Go to: vbsmate.com/trinitylutheranherscheril
You may contact our 2024 VBS Director, Heather Meredith with any questions.

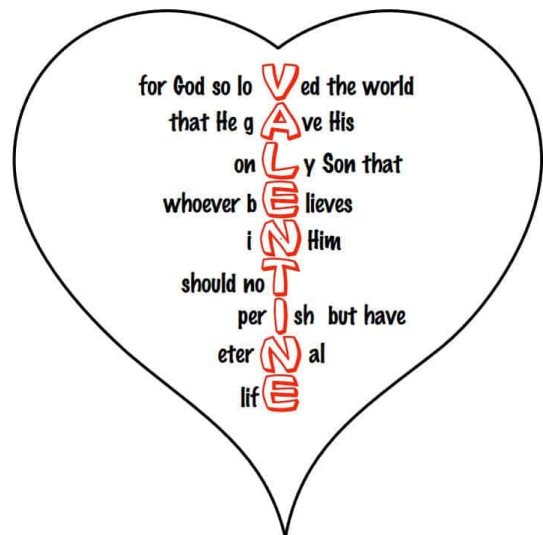
Heather—Phone/text: 815-573-1056

Heather—Email: hmj8706@yahoo.com



Happy Valentine's Day

John 3:16



Heartfelt Thanks

I would like to thank everyone for the many cards I received and especially for all your prayers and well wishes. They were all greatly appreciated. We thank God for the successful surgery and continued healing He has given me.

Don LaChappell

Martha Circle & Trinity Sewing

Martha Circle will not meet in February.

Trinity Sewing will meet February 6th 12:30-4:00pm. Martha Circle is supporting our Mission projects with the generous donations of our members and fellow Church members. Trinity Sewers do not have to be a member of Martha Circle. We appreciate any individual who would like to have a fun day getting together with others.

We have received many donations this past year consisting of bolts of fabric, sheets and sewing machines. We currently are in possession of three portable machines. One was just gifted and has not been used as of yet. The other two machines have been used to bind quilts every meeting day.

We currently have forty-four finished quilts boxed, and around 10 in various finishing stages. We have been blessed with flannel liners and some hospital blankets. We have four bolts of cotton batting to use in the future also. One was a family donation and three were purchased with a donation from a Church member.

In reading on LWR website we realize some of our quilts are not warm enough for the areas they are being sent. This is why we have purchased the batting. We will continue to use light blankets and flannel sheets also.

We sent 176 quilts to LWR last fall and 132 school kits. We cannot do this without the support of our church family.

Martha Circle would like to be listed as one of Trinity's recipients of their Mission Opportunities.

Board of Education

The Board of Education will meet Sunday, February 11th at 10:30am. Contact Heather Thurston with any questions.

Church Council

The Church Council will meet Tuesday, February 13th at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall.

Hannah Circle

We plan to hold a February bake sale February 10th & 11th. All proceeds will help fund our ministries and missions.

We will meet Tuesday, February 20th at 6:30pm at the home of Bonnie Matherly. Please read ahead Chapter 6 in our study book Daughter of the Reformation. (Our January meeting was cancelled due to the weather, so we will review Chapter 6.)

February Card Care: Rachel Taube

Dartball

Practice will be held Mondays, February 12th & 26th.

Games will be played at 7:00pm
Monday, February 5th
Trinity 1 at home
Trinity 2 at New Life Assembly

Monday, February 19th
Trinity 1 at home
Trinity 2 at Zion



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!

Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, Inc. (RLOM)-Illinois Expansion

A new birth announcement is posted on the bulletin board kiosk in the Parish Hall! We praise God.

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

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



Member Birthdays



- 1 Brittany Janssen, Alta Sorenson
- 2 Ronald Kruse, Steven Suess
- 3 Bill Orr
- 5 Jonathan Starasinich
- 6 Jerry Snedecor, Maritta Tolmer
- 7 Gerald Brutlag, Laura Doss
- 8 Shirley Jette, Mya Kruse
- 9 Nancy Snedecor
- 10 Lori Kruse
- 12 Kaden Hubly; Mark Johnston, Beth Van Voorst
- 13 Madysen Gaus, Joshua Kersten,
Renee Noffke
- 14 Marilyn Ramsey
- 15 Bonnie Becker, Kaitie Stutz,
Joshua Winterroth, Aidan Witheft
- 18 Rachael Bishop, Jared Tofte
- 19 Nolan Fansler
- 20 Kathy Berger, Charles Noffke,
Elaine Whitesell
- 21 Gia Kruse
- 22 Kamber Johnston, Dean Peters
- 23 Hunter Whitlow
- 24 Donald LaChappell, Jackie Morrical
Hailey Wojnowski
- 25 Connor Overacker, Madilyn Varvel
- 26 Wayne Berger, Drew Rogers
- 28 Leah Henson; Dalton Taube

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

A Birthday Prayer

*Dear Father in heaven,
You created me and have sustained me through the years. I thank You for the gift of life. Since You have redeemed me from my sin through Your Son Jesus and have given me new life by Your Holy Spirit, help me to lead a life that shows You proper honor and praise for Your mercies toward me. Continue to bless and watch over me in the year ahead, that I may faithfully serve You.*

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

*Concordia Publishing House
Portals of Prayer
Jan.-March 2024, page 114*

Trinity Lutheran Church December 31, 2023 Financial Summary

General

Beg. Balance	\$10,562.52
Receipts	32,589.05
<u>Expense</u>	<u>31,416.43</u>
Ending Balance	\$11,735.14

Mission Fund

Beg. Balance	\$ 5,158.50
Receipts	10,333.00
<u>Expense</u>	<u>13,067.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 2,424.50

Little Lambs Preschool

Beg. Balance	\$10,051.62
Receipts	10,829.00
<u>Expense</u>	<u>11,886.32</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 8,994.30

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



Treasurer's Report

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!

Caring for My Neighbor

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, “you shall not murder,” goes much deeper — down to the heart.

You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21–22)

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every “do not” in the commandments also includes a “do this:” “We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need” (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church’s work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church’s alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.



Serving Our Lord This Month—February 2024

Elder/Communion Assistant

February 03* Kevin Kruse
February 04* Alan Janssen

February 10* Jerry Brutlag
February 11* Joe Hart

February 17* Jerry Brutlag
February 18* Kim Weerts

February 24* Don LaChappell
February 25* John Varvel

*Denotes Holy Communion is served

THIS MONTH USHERS

Usher Captains

Gerald Brutlag (Sat.)

Brian Noffke (Sun.)

Usher Team

Randy Kerschke

Lynne Noffke; Dale Simmons;
Stan Schwark



Heather Meredith
&
Brian Noffke

Altar Flowers

Weekend or date:

February 03/04 Don & Joanne LaChappell on the occasion of Don's birthday

February 10/11 Lori Kruse on the occasions of February family birthdays

February 17/18 Madison Orr & Jonathan Schultz on the occasion of their marriage

February 24-March 29 *While we refrain from placing flowers on the altar during Lent, we continue to celebrate the victory won for us by Jesus Christ.*



Trinity— February 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 LITTLE LAMBS 2024-2025 ENROLLMENT Coming this February! Watch the bulletins for exact dates.				1 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	2	3 <i>Communion</i> Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm
4 <i>Communion</i> Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Bible Study 9:45am Confirmation 2:00pm	5 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Dartball Games Trinity 1 @ home Trinity 2 @ New Life Assembly 7:00pm	6 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Quilt Tying/ Sewing Group 12:30-4:00pm	7 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Children's Music 5:30pm Handbells 6:00pm Vocal Choir 7:00pm	8 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	9	10 <i>Communion</i> Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm Hannah Circle Bake Sale
11 <i>Communion</i> Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Bible Study 9:45am Hannah Circle Bake Sale Board of Education 10:30am 2nd Sunday Funday 10:30am-1:30pm Confirmation 2:00pm	12 Little Lambs-No School Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Courtyard Estates Service 2:00pm Dartball practice 7:00pm	13 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Circuit Meeting @ Risen Savior, Manteno 9:30am Little Lambs Party 10:15am Council Meeting 7:00pm	14 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Little Lambs Party 10:15am Children's Music 5:15pm Meager Meal 5:30pm Handbells 5:45pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm Vocal Choir 7:45pm	15 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	16 Orr/Schultz Wedding Rehearsal 7:00pm Dinner follows	17 Orr/Schultz Wedding 2:00pm <i>Communion</i> Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm
18 <i>Communion</i> Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Bible Study 9:45am Confirmation 2:00pm	19 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am March Newsletter Deadline 9:00am Dartball games Trinity 1 @ home Trinity 2 @Zion 7:00pm	20 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Hannah Circle @ Bonnie Matherly's 6:30pm	21 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Children's Music 5:15pm Meager Meal 5:30pm Handbells 5:45pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm Vocal Choir 7:45pm	22 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Little Lambs-3's Grandparent's Day	23 Little Lambs-4's Grandparent's Day	24 <i>Communion</i> Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm
25 <i>Communion</i> Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Bible Study 9:45am Confirmation 2:00pm 4-H 4:00pm	26 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Courtyard Estates Service 2:00pm Dartball practice 7:00pm	27 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am	28 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Children's Music 5:15pm Meager Meal 5:30pm Handbells 5:45pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm Vocal Choir 7:45pm	29 Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am		


Forty Days OF LENT

Deadlines for printing: Bulletin announcement deadline-Wednesdays 12:00pm
March Newsletter deadline-Monday, February 19th by 9:00am