



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 – PS-High School
9:30am-Sundays

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

A Prayer for the New Year

Father,

Thank You for granting me the beginning of a brand-new year. You have already prepared me for the days ahead with talents, abilities, and all the tools that I will need. Daily remind me that You have equipped me on purpose for a purpose; to increase Your kingdom of grace. For the times I fail, forgive me. For the times I succeed, move me to give You the glory.

Amen.



*Concordia Publishing House
Portals of Prayer
January-March 2019
Pg. 105*

January, 2023 - Newsletter

2023 Officer Installation

All newly elected and current Elders, Board of Education members & Sunday School Superintendent will be installed on Sunday, January 8th during the 8:30am worship service. We pray God's blessings on them all.

Epiphany Service



A special Circuit Epiphany Service will be held on Sunday, January 8th at 3:00pm at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Momence. Dessert will follow.

Voters' Meeting

Our quarterly meeting will be held on Sunday, January 15th at 11:00am. The LYF will serve lunch at 10:45am.



2023 Offering Envelopes & Flower Chart

2023 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up on the table in the Parish Hall. Please contact Diane in the office with any questions.

The 2023 Flower Chart is posted in the Parish Hall near the east door to the Sanctuary.

Annual Report

Please submit all items to Diane in the church office for the 2022 Annual Report by Monday, January 9th. *Please and thank you.*

Angel Tree Ministry

Thank you to everyone who helped bless families that were in need this holiday season. Over 75 gifts were distributed. We are very blessed to have such a supportive and giving congregation.

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

Looking for Jesus?

One of the great lines of Scripture is what the boy Jesus says to Mary and Joseph when they find Him after three days in the temple teaching the teachers. Luke 2:49 – And He said to them, “Why were you looking for Me? Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?” We can almost hear this today as though this is a preteen giving their parents a bit of sass – but that is not what Jesus is doing at all. Jesus doesn't sound whiny or sassy – He sounds like a Rabbi.

Classic Rabbinical teaching was done by posing questions. The teacher asks questions; the student must ponder and answer. This is why when you see Jesus getting into discussions with the Pharisees or the Scribes they are always asking questions to each other. This is something that is near and dear to our own Lutheran heritage – our Catechism is questions and answers as well.

So, what is Jesus driving us to ponder as He asks these questions? There is the first question – why are we looking for Jesus? What are we expecting, what are we wanting Jesus to be? Mary and Joseph often wanted a Jesus who would be quiet and well behaved – a Rabbi who keeps upsetting the apple cart wasn't what they preferred. Oh well – that's who Jesus is. Of course He will be found among the teachers.

More importantly Jesus will be found, must be found, in His Father's house. If you want Jesus to be Jesus, the real Jesus, the Savior who comes for you, you're going to find Him in the Church. You're going to hear Him in the proclamation of His Word and the preaching, you're going to receive Him in His Supper where He has promised to be. If Jesus has promised to be somewhere, He indeed MUST be there.

So, as we start a new year, think about plans and habits – consider. What kind of Jesus are you looking for? Because while we might have our own wants and expectations, Jesus is precisely what He has promised to be – the LORD and Savior who gives out rich forgiveness in His Church. Come and learn, come and benefit from Him!

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.

LYF (High School) Bible Study is held on Sundays at 9:30am in the church basement.

Sunday Adult Bible Study is held on Sundays at approximately 9:45am after the Sunday worship service and Sunday School opening. We are currently studying the *book of 2nd Samuel*.

Saturday Adult Bible Study is held on Saturdays at 4:00pm before the worship service. We are currently studying the *book of Psalms*.

Confirmation is held on Sundays at 2:00pm.

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

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

Sunday School

Sunday School for the children will not be held New Year's Day, January 1st. Regular sessions will resume, Sunday, January 8th.



Ordering the days

God spoke and created all that exists. He separated and ordered his creation. What did God say about all he made?

Directions: Write the correct day of creation next to each clue. Then fill in the circled letters in order below to complete Genesis 1:31, NIV.

	FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	FIFTH	SIXTH
God made wild animals and livestock.						○
God said, "Let there be light."						○
God gathered the waters under the sky into one place.						○
God made a vault to separate the waters and called it "sky."						○
God created plants and trees.						○
God separated the light from the darkness.						○
God made the water teem with living creatures.						○
God made the sun and moon.						○
God made birds fly above the earth.						○
God made stars.						○
God created mankind in his own image.						○

God _aw all tha _he _ad ma _e, an _t was ve _y g _od.
GENESIS 1:31, NIV

Answer sixth, first, third, second, third, first, fifth, fourth, fifth, sixth, God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.

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 February newsletter are due on, **Monday, January 23rd 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. There is a new postcard on the bulletin board kiosk in the Parish Hall from Rev. Trump.



Courtyard Estates of Herscher Services



A worship service is planned at Courtyard Estates of Herscher (Harvest View) on Mondays, January 9th and 23rd at 2:00pm. Watch the bulletins for updates.

Member Birthdays



- 1 Reece Harrod, Frosty Thomas,
Donna Witheft
- 2 Jeremy Thurston
- 4 Bryan Johnston
- 6 Dorothy Janssen, Kayla Scanlon
- 7 Keith Berger, Quynn Johnston
- 8 Jane Benjamin
- 10 Wheeler Johnston
- 11 Haley Maland, Joseph L. Malone,
Mariah Malone
- 13 Pam Peterson
- 16 Wyatt Ferris, Joe Hart, Tina Varvel
- 17 Dara Wagner
- 18 Margie Dominick, Jennifer Doss,
Robert Yactzak
- 24 Amy Henson, Remi Jo Royal, Van Schwark,
Ellie Smith
- 27 Valarie Crane
- 30 Austin Foltz, Bobbi Jean Jette,
Brad Moritz, Gabriel Noffke
- 31 Mary Kay Fieldman, Morgan Gaus

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

A Birthday Prayer

O source of life and every perfect gift, as I celebrate another year lived in and by Your grace with those who give me great joy, accept my thanks for every blessing You bestow. I especially praise You for the perfect gift of Your Son, who gives me the greatest joy—the promise of everlasting life with You. May I hold fast to that promise all the days of my life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Concordia Publishing House
Portals of Prayer
Jan.-Mar. 2023, page 112*

Trinity Lutheran Church November 30, 2022 Financial Summary

General

Beg. Balance	\$ 4,454.31
Receipts	17,197.35
<u>Expense</u>	<u>21,434.20</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 217.46

Mission Fund

Beg. Balance	\$ 5,584.10
Receipts	4,569.06
<u>Expense</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$10,153.16

Little Lambs Preschool

Beg. Balance	\$ 6,036.27
Receipts	6,161.00
<u>Expense</u>	<u>7,429.47</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 4,767.80

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 to be removed from the offering envelope list.

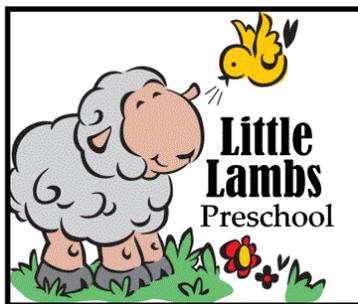
Sales Tax Exemption

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!

Little Lambs Preschool



As always, I would like to start with thanking those who have help make December a great month for Little Lambs Preschool. Without the support from our congregation, we wouldn't be able to do what we do! The students and staff did a wonderful job at the Christmas program! We had a packed church with families and friends that were able to enjoy the students and light refreshments afterwards.

Also, thank you to everyone who helped bless families that were in need this holiday season with our Angel Tree. We really are so blessed to have such a supportive and giving congregation!

This next month we will be focusing on enrollment for the 2023–2024 school year. Open enrollment for church members and returning families will begin the first week of February. There will be more information sent out in our church bulletin and posted on our preschool website mid-January. If you have any questions about enrollment, please feel free to contact me at 815-530-5088.

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year!

Many blessings,
Mrs. Kruse

Raise Right Gift Card/Scrip Card Program—go to: raiseright.com

Thank you to all that have utilized the scrip card program. In 2022, \$519.26 was raised for Trinity's Little Lambs. It is easy to raise funds for Trinity's Little Lambs Preschool simply by shopping! A current list of retailers/order form is available at raiseright.com. You may order online or give paper orders with payment to Diane in the office. Contact Diane in the church office with any questions regarding this no selling fundraising program. Thank you for your support! All proceeds benefit Trinity's Little Lambs Preschool. Remember, this program goes year-round! The online enrollment code for Trinity's Little Lambs is: 363ECBLF55795. Please make checks payable to **Trinity's Little Lambs Preschool**. ! Questions/orders may be directed to Diane in the church office.

Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, Inc. (RLOM)

EAST DUNDEE, IL EXPANSION: WHY THIS EXPANSION MATTERS

In 2017, an analysis showed that Illinois had 90 abortion-providing facilities. Additionally, Illinois has some of the most aggressive abortion laws in the country! The need for a Lutheran maternity home program has never been greater. Our goal is to redeem the lives of single mothers and their unborn children by providing hope, love and a future as we share the Gospel of Christ.

Important facts about abortion in Illinois:

- In 2018, 42,441 babies were aborted
- There is no requirement for counseling prior to the abortion to discuss the abortion-breast cancer link, the pain to the fetus and the negative psychological effects of abortion
- There is no waiting period required for a women to consider other options
- Parents of minors are given notice prior to an abortion, but consent is not required

Our goal is to protect the lives of women and unborn children in Illinois.

Single pregnant women who lack safe, stable housing feel that abortion is their only option. Redeeming Life is a positive, pro-life maternity home that provides just-in-time resources to redeem the lives of women and babies. How can you help?

- Pray for the success of this expansion and spread the word about this new maternity home in Northern Illinois throughout your faith and local community
- Redeem the lives of women and babies with a gift to support the new maternity home.

Contact Barbara Schwark, Trinity's RLOM Advocate with any questions. Visit rlom.org/expansion for updates and information regarding the new home in Illinois.



Martha Circle

Martha Circle will meet for breakfast on Friday, January 6th at 8:30am at the Herscher Restaurant. The group will be discussing projects for 2023. If you would like to be part of our group, please join us for breakfast.

Board of Education

We will meet on Sunday, January 8th at 10:30am.

Church Council

The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, January 10th at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall.

Hannah Circle

We wish to thank the congregation once again for supporting our Priester's nut fundraiser!

We will meet on Tuesday, January 17th at 6:30pm at the home of Bonnie Matherly (655 Vernon St, Herscher). Please read ahead chapter 11 in PEW SISTERS.

January Card Care: Frosty Thomas

Altar Guild

We will meet on Wednesday, January 18th at 7:00pm in the Shepherd's Lounge.

LYF

Bible Study for the LYF (high school age) is held on Sundays at 9:30am in the church basement. All high school youth are welcome and encouraged to attend!



Dartball



Dartball games will be held on Monday, January 2nd & 16th at 7:00pm. Practices will be held on most Mondays that there are not league games. Printed copies of the full schedule are available on the counter in the Parish Hall.

Trinity's Sewing Group

Trinity Sewing Group will meet Tuesday, January 3rd from 12:30-4:00pm. Stop in and join us for tying ,binding or visiting with us. We are enjoying getting together and have quite a few quilts in various stages of completion. You do not have to be part of any group to enjoy a day of fellowship.

Thank you for all the donations of sheets, we will continue to need these items each month.

Herscher Council of Churches

Herscher United Methodist Church distributed 18 Christmas food baskets on Saturday, December 17th. Canned goods were collected from their church and State Bank of Herscher.

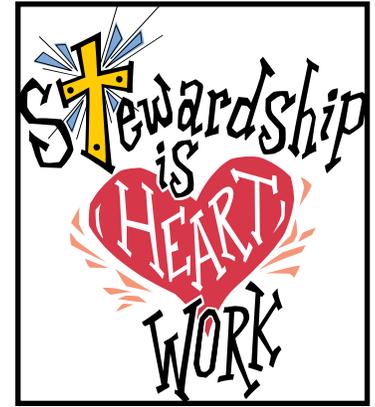
Our quarterly meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10th at 7:00pm. at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church.

Herscher Christian Church will also be distributing food boxes on January 10th beginning at 10:00am.

January Laughs



"He's today's greeter."



Your Past Does Not Define Your Future

New Year's is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it's over), and we look to the future in hope and anticipation, and perhaps with some worry, for what it holds.

The point is that New Year's celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be, what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we've lost. Who we've lost.

New Year's is our own version of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*. And we all play Scrooge. We are visited by the ghosts of our pasts, presents and futures.

St. Paul writes: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor. 9:6–15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord will both supply and increase what we need to give to the church for its work in the world. He tells us that this work God does in us will enrich and bless us in every way, and through this, will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving in years past and change what needs to be adjusted, improved, or done away with altogether.

First, attend the Divine Service to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. If you've not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God's Word, to receive forgiveness and feast on the rich food of our Lord's body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn't want your money. He wants you — all of you (Matt. 22:20–22).

Second, pray for the Lord's help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1–16).

Third, consider what the church is and what the church does. The church is a place of mercy. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward neighbors. You are a member of the church, of God's family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God's mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy through the generous giving of your income to support the work of the church in the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Lev. 27:1–34).

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament's teaching on supporting the work of the church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, or ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church's work. Are you relying on God's promise to provide and increase what you need to do His work? If your answer is no to any of these, repent. If God gave you His only Son, will He not provide for you all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it.

So, don't let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of your income, which is God's gift to you for this body and life.

Serving Our Lord This Month—January, 2023

Elder/Communion Assistant

January 01*	Dale Simmons
January 07*	<i>Available</i>
January 08*	Kim Weerts
January 14*	<i>Available</i>
January 15*	Brian Noffke
January 21*	<i>Available</i>
January 22*	Dale Simmons
January 28*	<i>Available</i>
January 29*	Ken Taube

*Denotes Holy Communion is served

THIS MONTH



USHERS

Usher Captains	Usher Team
Gerald Kruse (Sat.)	Kevin Kruse
Dan Shute (Sun.)	Don LaChappell; Jeff Stutz

Altar Guild



Cindy Witheft
&
Debbie Witheft

Altar Flowers

January 01	<i>Available</i>
January 07/08	<i>Available</i>
January 14/15	<i>Available</i>
January 21/22	Hugh Van Voorst & family in memory of Anita on her birthday
January 28/29	Ruth Kruse in memory of parents' 81st wedding anniversary



January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p><i>Communion</i> New Year's Day Worship 9:00am</p>	<p>2</p> <p>No School Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Dartball Games 7:00pm Herscher 1 @ New Life Assembly, Herscher 2 @ home</p>	<p>3</p> <p>No School Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Sewing/Quilting Group 12:30-4:00pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Children's Music 5:30pm Handbells 6:00pm Choir 7:00pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Martha Circle 8:30am @ Herscher Restaurant</p>	<p>7</p> <p><i>Communion</i> Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm</p>
<p>8</p> <p><i>Communion</i> Worship w/Officer Installation 8:30am Sunday School & LYF Bible Study 9:30am Bible Study 9:45am Board of Ed Meeting 10:30am Confirmation 2:00pm Epiphany Service @ Our Savior, Momenca 3:00pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Annual Report Deadline 9:00am Courtyard Estates Service 2:00pm Dartball Practice 7:00pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Circuit Meeting-Zion, Bonfield 9:30am Council Meeting 7:00pm HCC Meeting @ St. Margaret Mary 7:00pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Children's Music 5:30pm Handbells 6:00pm Choir 7:00pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p><i>Communion</i> Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm</p>
<p>15</p> <p><i>Communion</i> Worship 8:30am Sunday School & LYF Bible Study 9:30am Bible Study 9:45am Confirmation 2:00pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>No School Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Dartball Games 7:00pm Herscher 1 at home, Herscher 2 at Emmanuel, Dwight</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Hannah Circle @ Bonnie Matherly's 6:30pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Children's Music 5:30pm Handbells 6:00pm Choir 7:00pm Altar Guild Meeting 7:00pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p><i>Communion</i> Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm</p>
<p>22</p> <p><i>Communion</i> Worship 8:30am Sunday School & LYF Bible Study 9:30am Bible Study 9:45am Confirmation 2:00pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am February Newsletter Deadline 9:00am Courtyard Estates Service 2:00pm Dartball Practice 7:00pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Children's Music 5:30pm Handbells 6:00pm Choir 7:00pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p><i>Communion</i> Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm</p>
<p>29</p> <p><i>Communion</i> Worship 8:30am Sunday School & LYF Bible Study 9:30am Bible Study 9:45am Confirmation 2:00pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Dartball Practice 7:00pm</p>	<p>31</p>				
<p>Deadlines for printing: Bulletin announcement deadline-Wednesdays 12:00pm February Newsletter deadline-Monday, January 23rd by 9:00am</p>						