

Trinity Torch



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December 2019

Peace to all of you in the name of our Savior Jesus.

“You mean Jesus is God?” I heard this at least twice this year. Once, from a child who had put all the pieces together for the first time, and realized that Jesus was God in human flesh. The other time, was from an adult who was not raised Christian, and while attending Bible class had the same realization. It was a life-changing moment for both individuals.

Christmas is all about Jesus. More importantly, it is our celebrating the fact that God indeed became human... and for a purpose. It is both mysterious and miraculous. The Angel Gabriel is dispatched by God the Father, to a very humble woman of faith, Mary. She receives the message that she has been chosen to give birth to Messiah. Mary is the mother of Jesus, the mother of God in flesh.

She receives the news by faith and with caution. Joseph receives the news and responds in disbelief. But he too receives word from God and takes Mary to be his wife. Together, they will experience many joys and challenges when it comes to the Son of God, Jesus.

God gives them the name (Jesus) for their newborn boy. A name which means Savior. Everyone who calls upon this name in faith will be saved from sin, death and the devil. To be the Savior, Jesus must endure the pain and penalty of our sin. For the Savior is born... to die. Jesus' death on the Cross was His mission in life. The Cross is proof that God loves us. Christmas is when God's love comes down to us. I pray that your Christmas celebration is filled with the joy of Jesus this year.

In Christ,

Pastor Bob

PAWS/PTL



We are still looking for volunteers to help with the holiday gift shoppe at school Wednesday, December 4th—Friday, December 6th. Our holiday gift shoppe provides Trinity students the opportunity to purchase gifts for their family members and friends “all by themselves” during their school day! PAWS helps the children pick out presents, wrap them, and fill out the labels. If you are able to assist, even if it’s only an hour or two, please call or text Kristin Stephens at 312-961-4518.

Parish Education – Bible Study Schedule

December 2019

Please check over the many Bible Classes and TLC Bible Groups available throughout the week. If you have questions or desire more information, you may contact the class leader or DCE Rob Grady – 708-839-1200 ext.6. All studies are weekly unless otherwise noted.



Sunday Morning

Adult and Youth Bible Studies – 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

The Adult is held in the Church Library. This study will be the “Ephesians” curriculum. Small Group TLC meets in the lower level of school, “Community” will be our next study. High School Youth Bible Class meets in the school conference room. Sunday School for Three-Year-Old through Grade 8 currently meets in the church basement.

Tuesday Evening

Pastor Bob has begun a study on “The Gospel of Mark”. This study meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month (December 17) in the Church Library at 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday Evening

Join us as we have begun the study “LifeLight: Feasts” in the school conference room at 7:00 p.m. This class is facilitated by Rob Grady.

A study on the “Gospel of Mark” will meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month (December 10) in the Church Library at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Bob is the facilitator.

Wednesday Morning

Men’s Bible Class meets weekly at 6:30 a.m. in the Church Library. Facilitated by Roy Carr (630-323-3688) we will continue the study of Francis Chan’s book “Forgotten God”.

Wednesday Morning TLC

We will continue our study on Ephesians and 1 and 2 Thessalonians on December 4 and 18. We usually meet the second and fourth Wednesday, and any fifth Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in the Church Library.

Thursday Afternoon

Ladies Bible Class meets weekly at 1:00 p.m. in the home of Susie Carr (630-323-3688).

Thursday Evening TLC

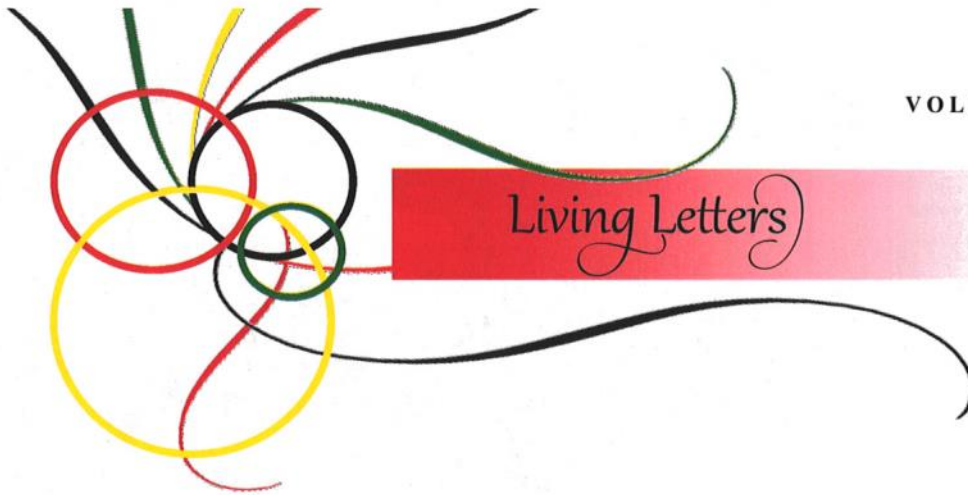
TLC Bible Study Group will meet on December 12 at 4:30 p.m. in the Trinity School Conference Room. The class is led by Sharon Wendte (630-455-1775). We are continuing the study on “Angels”.

Thursday Evening Fit For Life

Pastor Bob will continue the Adult Confirmation Class in December in the church library at 6:45 p.m.

Friday Evening TLC

TLC Bible Study Group meets in member homes and is led by Cliff Gustafson (815-372-9937).



Living Letters

2 Corinthians 3

Dear friends and family,

This year has been filled with transitions. I transitioned back to the US this Spring. This Summer I traveled through much of the U.S., and this fall I transitioned back into the life of a masters student in Dallas, TX. Amidst all these transitions God has been with me each step of the way and I am thankful. He has placed supportive family and friends in my life to help me in my transitions. I would like to introduce you to a very important friend of mine who has supported me through each of these transitions.

Naomi Erber is a registered occupational therapist working in Topeka, KS. She has been living there for several years now. Before I share about our connection, I would like to provide a brief introduction.

Naomi was born in Nigeria to Rev. David and Joyce Erber, missionaries with the LCMS. She grew up in rural Nigeria and attended a Christian school in Jos, Nigeria throughout middle school and high school. Her parents transitioned to Accra, Ghana during the end of her senior year of high school. Her experiences in Nigeria have shaped her into someone who values people and relationships greatly. If you meet Naomi, you will see someone who has a large smile and all the time in the world to listen to you and hear about your family, work, and life story. People are important to her, and serving people and sharing Christ's love is something she learned from her immediate family and Nigerian friends.

After graduating from high school, she attended Concordia University in Wisconsin (CUW). She was involved in several campus ministries and that is where we met. We also shared some mutual friends.

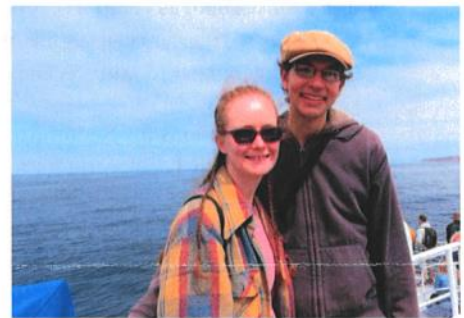
We didn't keep in contact much after I graduated from CUW while I was in the States preparing to head to Ghana. While I was living in Ghana I would share stories with her from my experiences from time to time.

In the summer of 2018 we began to message each other more frequently. As our relationship grew, it also changed. We asked for our parents to pray and guide us as we continued to communicate back and forth. Long distance relationships are not desirable, but they are possible.

In February she was able to come see her parents in Accra, and I was able to fly down to be with her for a couple weeks. It was a relief to be together in person after several years of not seeing each other. Her visit also helped strengthen our relationship.



An engagement picture from this Autumn.



We were able to do some activities together this summer, like whale watching (above) and be with family on vacation (below).





*During family vacation we were able to see the Ark Encounter in Kentucky (top left).
It was a blessing to see each other in February in Accra, Ghana (top right).*

Prayer Requests

- Praise God for strengthening Naomi and my relationship and for the excitement of a wedding in December.
- Pray for God's guidance and peace as we prepare for the wedding.
- Pray for wisdom as I start a second round of fast paced masters classes that will be from mid October to mid December.
- Pray for transitions for Naomi from her work and life in Topeka and for me in Texas. (We are now in the same time zone, but living states apart is still challenging for a long distance engagement.)
- How may I pray for you? Please let me know so that I may be praying for you!

Contributions:
Lutheran Bible Translators
PO Box 789
Concordia, MO 64020



Checks written to Lutheran Bible Translators with *Ersland Ministry* on the memo line. You can also give online at LBT.org

It was fantastic to arrive back in the States this summer and to be on the same continent as her. We were not always in the same time zone, but it was only a 1-2 hour difference compared to a 5-6 hour difference with Ghana. I would say it is nice being in the same hemisphere, but Gbintiri is technically a few miles West of the Prime Meridian.

We were able to be together almost every week this summer. I was able to meet her family and she was able to meet mine. By God's grace, we got engaged in August just before I came down to Dallas, TX for more classes. These past few months have been a whirlwind for us as I started and finished a round of two fast paced masters classes. We have also been busy preparing for our wedding, which will be just after Christmas this year.

We are hoping to return to Dallas in January as I will continue to take classes and she will take a few classes for learning basic principles of languages in order to help her in language learning for where we will live abroad. We will continue to work with Lutheran Bible Translators. I am excited to introduce her to my Komba colleagues, family, and friends.

We ask that you please pray for us as we now move through these transitions of engagement into married life and taking classes as we prepare to return to the field. I am thankful for the blessing Naomi is to me and to many other people. I cannot wait for when the opportunity arises that I can introduce her to you in person. Her smile is contagious and her care for other's lives is peaceful and genuine.

Confident in Christ,

Michael Ersland and Naomi Erber

YOUTH NEWS! YOUTH NEWS! YOUTH NEWS! YOUTH NEWS! YOUTH NEWS! YOUTH NEWS!



GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING!!

Watch Fast Direct, the Torch, the announcement page on Sunday mornings, and your monthly newsletter for information regarding Open Youth Room. Open Youth Room is held from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. The refrigerator is full, and the fellowship is waiting! Friends are always welcome! Hope to see you all there for a lot of fun!

Thank you to everyone who plucked a feather from Tom Turkey again this year. With your help the youth were able to fill nine baskets for members of our church and school who are in need. The baskets were filled to the brim with enough food to give each family a Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings. The youth are continually reminded through their service to the community and Trinity of the many blessings they receive on a daily basis. We thank God for each youth who take time out of their busy schedules to serve.

IT'S BACK!!!! Winter Retreat...mark those calendars for the weekend of January 1-3, 2020. Don't miss out on this fabulous opportunity! You have all been earning money in your accounts by working several events and should have enough money to cover the cost! You will enjoy various outdoor winter activities, Bible study, games, music, and much more! Spaces are filling up fast!

The youth will be having their annual pizza sale immediately following the Christmas holiday. The pizzas are from Little Caesar's company and are delicious. This is the one fundraiser where each youth gets the full return on their individual sales. The order forms will be sent out during Christmas break. We are asking that each youth group member sells six items. Any Trinity members who would like to purchase pizzas may do so by seeing a youth group member or Mr. Grady. Thank you for your support!

Information regarding the 2020 Mission Trip will be forthcoming after the first of the year. The Youth are headed to West Virginia. Please see Mr. Grady if you have any questions on the trips.

Remember Youth Bible Class on Sunday morning at church and school. Bible class is held every week and begins at 9:45 a.m.

Christmas Blessings!

The Board of Youth Ministry



Calvary Lutheran Church, our small sister congregation in Wood Dale, serves Caring Network moms in need in that area. The Baby Bank is in need of a number of items. They have requested gently used winter clothing and baby blankets – newborn is most needed, but they will take up to 3T for girls and boys. Newborn diapers are also needed. I serve in Wood Dale for part of my deaconess intern work and have direct contact with the moms in need. I am routing prayer requests. Perhaps, you'd care to choose a few that touch your heart.

Sincerely,

Lori Trinche



Walther Christian Academy will have their first placement test on Saturday, December 6th at 8:00 a.m.

Please register in advance at <https://bit.ly/2pTyF5X> or call Alma Calleros at 708-344-0404 ext. 245.



Voice of Care

Voice of Care Seeks Executive Director, 48 to 60 hours per month. Active LCMS members in good standing can be considered. Executive nonprofit or corporate leadership experience is a plus. Ordained and commissioned church workers with executive leadership and financial experience are also invited to apply.

The position requires the ability to carry the Voice of Care vision to congregations and potential donors. The Executive Director works with staff to make and oversee the execution of an annual action plan within the budgetary constraints set forth by the Board. Chief among requirements is the ability to consistently uphold the values expressed in Voice of Care's mission to equip churches to reach and serve people with disabilities, and their caregivers.

For more information about Voice of Care, visit voiceofcare.org, and for the complete Executive Director job description, see: <http://voiceofcare.org/job-openings.html>

Library News

As we know, December is a busy month — busier than usual, even. So we've selected lighter reading. JAN KARON has her Christmas in Mitford series of Esther's Gift and Mitford Snowmen.

MAX LUCADO gives us Christmas Candle.

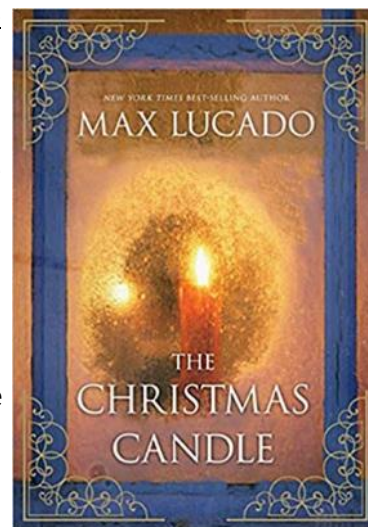


KAREN KINGSBURY wrote the Red Glove series: Gideon's Gift, Maggie's Miracle, Sarah's Song, and Hannah's Hope.

Bethany House Publishers has put four Holiday Novellas in a book titled The Christmas Heirloom. These are tales of a brooch passed from mother to daughter for almost 200 years. Does its legend hold true for all those years?

All of these, of course, are fiction and entertaining. For solid truth and a story that is everlasting, we continue to find that in our Bible. May God bless our time spent reading and hearing the words about God's great Gift - Jesus.

Elaine Rall



2019-2020 1st Quarter



High Honor Roll

3rd Grade - Luke Cudney, Ian Novak

6th Grade - Gaby Vasquez

7th Grade - Heather Stephens

Honor Roll

3rd Grade - Riley Blalock, Isabella Farrare, Alan Le

4th Grade - Addison Tabor

5th Grade - Hayden Blalock, Sophie Halpin, Youyin Hung, Quinn Murray, Cole Perakis

6th Grade - Josslynn Farrare

7th Grade - Aryanna Elizondo

High Honor Roll All A's (in all subjects)

Honor Roll All A's and B's and 1 C (in all subjects) No D's, F's, or I's in any subject

St. Paul
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Missouri
Synod

Rev. Matthew D. Troester
PASTOR
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October 31, 2019

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ:

Deaconess Lori Wilbert has been serving in Prison Ministry for over 30 years within the NID. The No. IL District has had connections to prison ministry since the 1930's. Lori currently serves Stateville Prison in Crest Hill, IL, outside of Joliet. Pastor Robert Kramer trained Lori and worked with her for over 10 years before retiring in the mid 1990's. The history of the district office is that for a good many years they were able to fund a number of chaplains and ministries but in 2003 money ran out and two of the ministries, Voice of Hope Behind the Wall (Lori) and Voice of Care, mentally handicapped, have had to raise their own salaries and ministry costs. Without the support of churches and individuals in the NID there would be no prison ministry.

Here at St. Paul's Lutheran in Matteson, we decided to connect with Lori's ministry in 2003 (to present) providing her with financial support, love and prayers. From the first time Lori spoke to us about the work at Stateville Prison we felt the need to stay educated and informed about this sizeable group (over 3000 inmates) of individuals living behind the wall that need to hear the Good News! Each year Lori visits us and brings us stories of the lives of inmates that she has come to know in her ministry work. I've had the opportunity to go with Lori "behind the bars" and bring communion to inmates who are brothers in Christ in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. It is a sobering experience! Lori found out the first time she visited St. Paul's that a member here had a personal attachment to Stateville through a family member who had worked there years ago. We feel blessed to partner with Prison Ministry.

On a personal note, Lori and I have connections that go back to my vicarage and Lori's' first call when she graduated from the Deaconess program at Concordia, River Forest (Chicago). I was a vicar at Gloria Dei (53rd & Major) and Lori took a call to Nazareth (3250 W. 60th St.).



Hope Lutheran Church



Seniors Lunch 'N More

Aging Care Connections and Hope Lutheran Church invite you to Lunch, Fellowship and Entertainment.



Bandleader Steve Cooper will present "Big Band Memories," a show of rare films and videos of the Big Band era. You will see and hear bands playing in Chicago's Aragon Ballroom and the famous Coconut Grove nightclub in Hollywood. Rare clips of swing bands include Glenn Miller, Harry James, Bob Crosby, Tommy Dorsey, Count Basie and many others.

A nutritious meal of chicken parmesan, mostaccioli, mixed vegetables, french bread, fruit and milk will be provided by Salerno's Pizzeria and Sports Bar in Hodgkins.

When:	December 11, 2019
Time:	12:00pm - Luncheon
Where:	Hope Lutheran Church 6455 Joliet Rd, Countryside, IL 60525
RSVP:	Call Aging Care Connections at 708-354-1323*
Cost:	Suggested donation of \$2.50 Seating is limited. 80 people maximum.

*Please call Aging Care Connections at 708-354-1323. Reservations will be taken starting Nov. 19 through 12pm on Dec. 10. Once maximum of 80 people is reached, they will no longer be taking reservations. Please let them know you are reserving a space at Hope Lutheran Church.

Continued from previous page

Lori's work at Stateville includes rounds to cell houses and weekly classes that include restorative justice. Restorative justice enables offenders to recognize the damage and harm they have caused others in light of a God who loves them no matter what. The power of Christ's forgiveness enables true transformation of heart and soul, a message the incarcerated need to hear. Over 2.2 million individuals are locked up in the U.S. and an additional 6.8 million folks are involved within the parole/probation system.

Add to the number of incarcerated the victims of crime and their families, offender's families and each of us touched by crime in our communities and the number is staggering. We are all affected by the prison system. It is paramount that the church keep the imprisoned, victims of crime and the entire court and prison system on our radar screen with prayers and direct involvement in our prisons and jails.

If you would like to learn more about Deaconess Lori's work and provide financial support please contact the district office. President Buss and I would like to encourage you to consider donating to this ministry if the Spirit moves you. We know that many are impacted by this work that keeps Kingdom of God alive and well behind the wall!

In Christ,
Matt Troester,
Pastor - St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Allan Buss,
NID President

TRIP Program



The next gift card orders are on **Sunday, December 8 and December 15**, and will be available the following Sunday. Paper copy forms are available in the school lobby and in the church narthex by the flower chart. Drop off the order forms in the school office.

For questions, please call Michele Geaschel 708-839-1444. x221 Trip ordering is also available online, where there are hundreds more merchants and monetary increments. **Start thinking of Christmas gifts and places you like to shop for the holidays. GIFT CARDS ARE SOLD EACH WEEK IN THE NARTHEX. IF YOU DON'T SEE CARDS YOU WOULD LIKE, WE CAN ORDER THEM.**

Human Care

Human Care continues the visits for Homebound members.

We also collected underwear donations for Vets in November.

We wish everyone a Blessed Christmas.



Trinity's annual **Children's Christmas Service** will be held on Sunday, **December 15, at 1:30pm** in the school gym.

We are excited to share the good news of Jesus' birth with you as we present "CAKE: Christmas Acts of Kindness Experiment."

Make plans to join us!

Principal's Page

GALATIANS 5:22-23 "BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS AND SELF-CONTROL. AGAINST SUCH THINGS THERE IS NO LAW."

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior!

Have you visited Trinity's school gym recently? As many know, we are a very culturally diverse school. If you visit the school and see the many faces that fill our halls and classrooms, you can see our diversity. One way we celebrate and display that diversity is by hanging flags in our school gym.

Hanging our students' heritage country flags has become a discussion point on many of the tours that I give. Families love to see the different flags and discuss whether their heritage is represented or not. This year, we welcomed twin 4-year-old preschoolers. On Back-to-School Night, many families began in the gym. As we left,



Mrs. Pierson, the mom of the twins, looked up and asked me what the flags represented. I explained to her that we try to celebrate all the countries represented by our students within our school family. She then asked the dimensions of new flags. I answered and she looked at Mr. Pierson and asked him to order it. The next week, I had a new flag, Trinidad & Tobago, on my desk for the gym.

After it was hung, all the students noticed the new flag. This sparked many conversations about their own heritage and if their background was represented. The next time you are in the gym, take time to look up and see all the nationalities that have and do walk the halls of Trinity. Do you see your flag?

Thank you for choosing to send you children to Trinity and making us who we are! Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Pierson, for the wonderful new flag for our gym!

In His Service,
Mr. DeWitt



Two wonderful volunteers came to serve today at the NID office, assisting with quarterly mailing projects while getting acquainted and brainstorming ways congregations might work together - I am thankful for Jeanne and Jayne - they are hardworking and fun! We are in this together!



From Lori Trinche

Pastor recently preached on the need for helpers at church. I heard his request and volunteered to serve on the human care board next year when they are ready, and when I will have more time. The work often overflows into our lives keeping us from friends and family. I am blown away by the servant hearts of the two ladies in the picture (pictured with me to the left of this article). Their selfless service allowed me to take a day off in the midst of the busiest time of year in our office, so that I could attend a memorial service for my aunt and spend some time with my family. The salvation of my own family is always so much on my heart, and any chance to spend time with them in a situation where Christ is shared, opens a door to talk about Jesus. My heart is full. I am not sure this is news-worthy, nor that the helpers in the picture would even want this much deserved recognition publicly. However, I share this information in case anyone wonders if there truly is a need for your time or talent. There is! Prayerfully consider the options available. Help is always appreciated.

I am thankful for the gifts received thus far for the Caring Network moms and will bring them up to Wood Dale today. Some of the ladies are busy knitting now :-)

Blessings,

Lori Trinche, Deaconess Intern

Wheel-chair Life Dedication



Dear friends, our wheel-chair lift will be dedicated between services, before the start of adult Bible class, on Sunday, December 1. We would like to thank those who donated (individuals, memorials and organizations) to the wheel-chair lift fund (FYI, we are at a negative \$-3,000.00 balance right now... so more donations are needed). We especially thank Nancy Montelbano and Loretta Forsner for promoting and "*leading the charge*" in the project. We also thank our Trustees and their helpers including: Randy Ball, Steve Voelz, Alan Gasparas, Bob Bordak, Bob Sass, Steve Gehrt, and Sue Voelz who cleaned up after them all.

Pictured above is the Baby Bank at Calvary Lutheran Church in Wood Dale



“You have been told, O man and woman, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice,
to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.”

- Micah 6:8

Have you ever felt alone in your work and ministry? Work you were convinced God called you to, work you took great joy in and work that fed your soul...? I am convinced all of us have felt this way at some point or another. I know I have. There are times I see God working miracles in the lives of people, offering them a second chance. There are moments I have witnessed slammed doors opening just a crack, and roadblocks removed. I know in those sacred moments, God is working. There will always be days full of challenges and overwhelming obstacles that leave us feeling quite alone and perhaps, doubting ourselves. Expect it. I have come to see these alone times as the “norm,” perhaps an indicator that we are on the right path, the road God has called us to in order to get His work done. Things do get tough and we may want to give up, however, by God’s grace we rise to the occasion in spite of ourselves.

Jesus, the Son of man, Son of God, was well acquainted with going it alone. The Pharisees and Saducees, the politicians of the day (mighty Rome) all conspired to shut him down yet he persevered. Jesus’ single focus was to love the unloveable, forgive the unpardonable and grant grace where there was only law. Each day we need to remind ourselves to touch the hem of his garment, as the woman did in Mt 9:21-22, “for she thought, “if I only touch him, I will be healed.” Jesus turned around and spoke to her. “Daughter, he said, “all is well!” Your faith has healed you. And the woman was well from that moment.”

We are to do the same. The individuals I teach and visit in the cell houses each week inspire me. They are curious, interested in this Son of man, Son of God, and they hunger to know more of God’s grace, pardon and forgiveness. We do the work God has called us to in spite of the obstacles because God always finds a way to keep us in good stead and “run the race with perseverance,” no matter what. He is faithful. Remember to touch the hem of his garment and always know, you are not alone. 😊

“...and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Hebrews 12 1 - 2

O Holy Spirit, Enter In (verse 3)

O mighty Rock, O Source of life, let your good Word in doubt and strife be in us strongly burning. That we be faithful unto death and live in love and holy faith, from you true wisdom learning. Lord, your mercy on us shower; by your power Christ confessing, we will cherish all your blessing.

Up Date - Classes:

Classes and rounds are ongoing. In addition to the work at Stateville, I spoke to a group of students at Concordia River Forest in early September interested in prison ministry, the correctional system and issues revolving around incarceration. I very much appreciated our dialogue after my presentation as well as answering their questions and responding to their insights regarding the individuals I serve. It was an opportunity to speak to restorative justice and the needs of both victims and offenders. What does healing look like? How can we, the church, be involved in this system and make a positive impact? I will be bringing various students into the prison between now and May to participate in the Houses of Healing class I teach. What a great opportunity for learning on both sides.

Many thanks for the continued support of this work and ministry at Stateville. The work is not possible without your prayers and financial support, please consider making a donation as you are able. Thank you! 😊

Peace+
Deaconess Lori Wilbert

***"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."
Phil. 4:13***

DONATIONS

Your tax deductible donation will ensure that prison ministry and programs continue at Stateville Correctional Center in Joliet.

Checks should be made out to:
NID Prison Ministry/Lori Wilbert

Send to the following address:
No. IL District Office • 2301 S Wolf Rd. • Hillside, IL 60162

If you have questions, call the district office at 708-449-3020. You may designate your donation for a particular item or to general expenses that will ensure this ministry continues into the future.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Our Wednesday, Midweek Advent services will focus on different Chrismons.

December 4, 11 and 18 at 10 a.m. & 7 p.m.

**Trinity Lutheran School Christmas Service, Sunday, December 15 at 1:30 p.m.
in the Rall Memorial Gymnasium**

**Contemporary Candlelight Christmas Worship with Holy Communion,
Tuesday, December 24 at 4:30 p.m.**

**Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24 at 6:30 p.m.
with Holy Communion and 10 p.m. (No Communion)**

Traditional Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25 at 10 a.m.

JOY Club

Join us on **Thursday, December 19** at
11:30 a.m. Please bring your favorite dish.

Please bring a \$3.00 gift for Crazy Bunco. Contact Joyce Tomes at 630-257-2927 or Donna Halla 708-839-0551 if you have questions.

Fit for Life

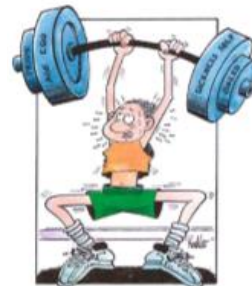
Thursday Evenings 6:45 to 8:00 p.m. in the Church Library
November 14 & 21, December 5, 12, & 19
January 9, 16, 23, & 30, February 6, 13, & 20

Ever wonder...

What it means to be a genuine Christian? If going to church is really necessary? Whether or not there truly is life after death? Can a person ever be certain he/she is saved? Maybe you have some questions about our church and want to know more about what we really believe and teach? Or maybe you want to know what you have to do to become members.

Well—the answers to those questions and many others can be found in our 12 week Fit for Life Class. There is no cost (except your precious time) or obligation to join our church; however, this class does serve as a membership class for those desiring to become members at Trinity.

Contact Pastor Bob at rgeaschel@tlbr.org or office: 708-839-1200 or cell: 708-846-4170.





Holiday Greetings from the Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid



November's meeting was our annual "all birthdays" celebration. We were treated to pizza, salad, and homemade cupcakes. Following some joyful Lutheran fellowship, we got down to business.

Our Ladies Aid Rummage Sale was a huge success. It was reported to be one of our most successful in the last few years. "It takes a village" and for that we give thanks. Thank you to Marilyn Todd for coordinating this event. Thank you to all who donated and shopped, helped with setting up and taking down, and worked the sale days. A special thanks to Rob Grady and the Youth Group for their help. This event is always a huge undertaking and successful fundraiser.

The Holiday Market underwent a bit of a "makeover" this year and was very well received. It was moved to the school gym this year, so we were able to increase the number of vendors. Thanks to Nancy Bordak for her devoted work in organizing the vendors, contracts, floorplans, and much more. Thanks to the cooks, bakers, kitchen and bake sale help. Thanks to all who helped with the setup, takedown, and cleanup. Once again, thanks to the Youth Group and 6th & 7th graders for their help in setting up. We received good feedback from our vendors, and many expressed their desire to return next year. Our Lunch menu completely sold out, the Bake Sale goods were just short of gone, and the Raffle was a hit, all which accounted for another gainful fundraiser.

A special thank you to Linda Isbell for her time and talent to design creative and eye-catching flyers and social media posts for both events. Thanks to everyone for "sharing" posts and distributing flyers to add to the success.

The annual Cookie Sale will be during all services December 7th & 8th. We welcome homemade cookies from all church members. We cannot accept any burnt cookies. Please be mindful of this request. Baked goods can be dropped off from 9:00-10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 7th, or before the Saturday evening or early Sunday morning service. Cookies sell fast! Don't miss the opportunity to buy these delicious homemade treats.

We will be hosting our Ladies Advent Tea on Monday, December 9th. If you are interested in attending the tea, please let us know. We have a few seats still available. Please contact Sheri Abernathy at the earliest opportunity. The evening will be filled with a devotion, fellowship, and delicious food! We begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. and conclude at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting of Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid will be Monday, January 13th at 6:30 p.m. We would love to have you join us. We extend a warm welcome to women of all ages to "Come serve the Lord with gladness!" We thank Eileen Stonys (President), Joann Kopping (Vice President), Val McClain (Secretary) and Sherrie Ketcherside (Treasurer) for serving on the 2019 Board.

Our Executive Board for 2020 will be Joann Kopping (President), Eileen Stonys (Vice President), Joanne Stastny (Secretary), and Sherrie Ketcherside (Treasurer). Thank you for serving on the board during the upcoming year! We appreciate your time and talents.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!!

Feed My Starving Children

The children in grades 3-7 visited [Feed My Starving Children](#) in Aurora on Thursday, November 21. The school kids, along with other volunteers, packed 36,072 meals in under two hours. These meals will feed 99 kids for one year! The picture below shows the group praying over the meals that were packed. One FMSC representative shared that 99.8% of the meals reach the intended destination. They believe the percentage is so high because of the prayer coverage. Thank you for your continued support of our school, which allows Trinity's students to learn the importance of serving.





**TRINITY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH &
SCHOOL**

11503 German Church
Road
Burr Ridge, IL 60527

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OFFICE HOURS

Church Office Hours
Mon–Thurs 8am-3pm
School Office Hours
Monday–Friday 8am-3pm

In an emergency, contact
Pastor Bob
(708)846-4170/call or text

Pastor Emeritus Albrecht
(815) 293-0934 / home
(815) 531-7590 / cell



December Birthdays

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|
| 1 | Julio Salverredy | | |
| 2 | Joann Kopping
Marilyn Rampage | | |
| 3 | Irene Borchartd | | |
| 4 | Pamela Cook
Joshua Koshiol
Mark Tiedt | 18 | Holly Randolph |
| | Sharon Zalewski | | Susan Villarreal |
| 5 | Tessa Francis
Jackson Rockrohr
Emma Schiller | 19 | Kylie Autullo
Bradley Bohac
Eric Michaelson |
| 6 | Jerry Morgan | 20 | Quinn Murray
Brooke Taylor |
| 7 | Melanie Carli
Arnie Mueller | 21 | Carole Killalea
Carrisa Korres
Joshua Rodriguez |
| 8 | Phil Abraham
Lynn Ferree-Bowlin
Joshua Kania | 23 | Marcia Behrens
Ella Noetzel |
| 9 | Eric Kluge
Julia Ward | 24 | Jeffrey McClain
Lisa Workman |
| 11 | Isaac Gil
Kevin Murray
Dawn Socha
Kellan Tyree | 25 | Ethan Grady |
| | | 26 | Brett Benes |
| 12 | Abby Collins
Grace Feiler
Theodore Remes
Ryan Salverredy | 26 | Tyler Lambert
Carol Malina
Sharon Marwitz
Jackson Trtan |
| 13 | Ryan Dierberg
Mark Murray
Helen Voelz | 27 | Jeanne Collins
Toby Huff |
| | | 28 | Robert Sass |
| 14 | Erika Aluzas
Lisa Elizondo
Anand Lyall | 29 | Susan Carr
Donna Mersch
Betty Pastori |
| 15 | Isabella Torres | 30 | Aaron Wendte
Kristy Wunglueck |
| 16 | Katie Lund | | Brianna Zausa |
| 17 | Matthew Hruska
Jonathon Rossi Jr | 31 | Jan Baranek
Jeremiah Cermak
Annette Simon |
| 18 | Wayne Pahr | | |





Trinity Basketball Home Game Dates:


Friday, December 6 at 4pm
Monday, December 9 at 4pm

No entry fee - Join us for the excitement!



Trinity Lutheran Church & School
 11500 German Church Road † Burr Ridge, IL 60527
 Church: 708.839.1200 † School: 708.839.1444 † Fax: 708.839.8503
 For more information, go to our website: www.tlbr.org

HC = Holy Communion BC = Bible Class SS = Sunday School

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Advent 1 8:30am Worship HC 9:45am BC & SS 11:00am Cont. Worship <i>- Baptism Kurtz</i> 12-2pm Altar Guild Tree Set-up 6:30pm Witnessing Forum (CL)	2 6:30pm Elders (CL) 7:00pm Adult Volleyball (G)	3 10:30am Gosp of Mark (TFH) Afternoon - Fabry (Ch) 6:30pm Bell Choir (Ch) 6:30pm Gosp of Mark (CL) 7:00pm Adult Basketball(G) 7:00pm TLC (CR) 7:30pm Sanc. Choir (Ch)	4 6:30 Men's BC (CL) 10:00am & 7:00pm Advent Midweek #1 10:45am TLC (CL) 4:45pm Pub. School Conf. (CL) 7:30pm AA (TFH)	5 1:00pm Ladies BC (OP) 6:30pm Praise Band (Ch) 6:45pm Fit for Life (CL)	6	7 8:30am Trustees Celebration 6:30pm Service HC - <i>Ladies Aid</i> <i>Cookie Sale</i>
8 Advent 2 <i>Ladies Aid Cookie Sale</i> 8:30am Worship 9:45am BC & SS 11:00am Contemp. HC 6:30pm Open Youth (YR)	9 6:30pm Advent Tea (TFH) 7:00pm Adult Volleyball (G)	10 10:30am Gospel of Mark (TFH) 11am St. Matthew's (OP) 6:30pm Bell Choir (Ch) 7:00pm Adult Basketball (G) 7:00pm TLC (CR) 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir (Ch)	11 6:30 Men's BC (CL) 10:00am & 7:00pm Advent Midweek #2 4:45pm Pub. School Conf. (CL) 7:30pm AA (TFH)	12 1:00pm Ladies BC (OP) 4:30pm TLC Wendte (CR) 6:30pm Praise Band (Ch) 6:30pm School Brd (CR) 6:45pm Fit for Life (CL)	13 5:30pm Wedding Rehearsal	14 8:30am Trustees 3:30pm Murray / Jimenez Wedding 6:30pm Celebration Service HC
15 Advent 3 8:30am Worship HC 9:45am BC & SS 11:00am Contemp. 1:30pm Christmas Program (G)	16 12:00pm TORCH DEADLINE 7:00pm Adult Volleyball (G) 7:00pm Church Council (CR)	17 6:30pm Bell Choir (Ch) 6:30pm Gosp of Mark (TFH) 7:00pm Adult Basketball (G) 7:00pm TLC (CR) 7:30pm Sanctuary Choir (Ch)	18 6:30 Men's BC (CL) 10:00am & 7:00pm Advent Midweek #3 10:45am TLC (CL) 4:45pm Pub. School Conf. (CL) 7:30pm AA (TFH)	19 11:30am JOY Club (TFH) 1:00pm Ladies BC (OP) 6:30pm Praise Band (Ch) 6:45pm Fit for Life (CL)	20 11:30am School <i>Dismissal</i>	21 St. Thomas, Apostle 8:30am Trustees Celebration 6:30pm Service HC
22 Advent 4 8:30am Worship 9:45am Voters (CL) 9:45am BC 11:00am Contemp. HC 6:30pm Youth Christmas Gathering (YR)	23 7:00pm Adult Volleyball (G)	24 Christmas Eve HC 4:30pm Contemporary HC 6:30pm Traditional HC 10:00pm Candlelight Worship *All are Candlelight	25 Christmas Day HC 10:00am HC 7:30pm AA (TFH) 	26 St. Stephen, Martyr 1:00pm Ladies BC (OP) 6:30pm Praise Band (Ch)	27 St. John, Apostle and Evangelist	28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs 8:30am Trustees Celebration 6:30pm Service HC
29 8:30am Worship 9:45am BC 11:00am Cont. Worship 12:00pm Fellowship Gathering (CL)	30 7:00pm Adult Volleyball (G)	31 Eve of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus	Altar Guild: Volunteer Days	Ushers: 8:30 - Group 3 11:00 - Group 1	Meeting areas: Ch = Church CL = Church Library N = Narthex TFH = Trinity Fellowship Hall CK = TFH Kitchen YR = Youth Room	CR = School Conference Room SL = School Library G = School Gym SK= School Kitchen OP = Off Premises