

Trinity Torch



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January 2020

What New Year resolution will you make? How about one that will benefit you and your family...

Psychoanalyst Erica Komisar, writing in *The Wall Street Journal* on December 5, put her finger on a current cultural dilemma. Her column began, "As a therapist, I'm often asked to explain why depression and anxiety are so common among children and adolescents. One of the most important explanations--and perhaps the most neglected--is declining interest in religion. This cultural shift already has proved disastrous for millions of vulnerable young people."

Komisar offered this evidence, from a long-range Harvard study of 5,000: "Children or teens who reported attending a religious service at least once per week scored higher on psychological well-being measurements and had lower risks of mental illness. Weekly attendance was associated with higher rates of volunteering, a sense of mission, forgiveness, and lower probabilities of drug use and early sexual initiation."

Her conclusion: "Pity then that the U.S. has seen a 20% decrease in attendance at formal religious services in the past 20 years, [and that] nearly half of adults under 30 do not identify with any religion."

A great New Year resolution would be to attend worship more consistently and to make sure our children and grandchildren are involved in Trinity Lutheran School, Sunday School, VBS and Youth Group. Secular evidence proves the benefit of worship. Biblical wisdom has always encouraged and commanded worship – for in our Divine Service (Worship), we receive God's Good Gifts in His Word and Sacrament. Very important gifts of love and forgiveness.

Church is the place where we hear, over and over again, that we are loved and highly valued by our Creator. It is the place where we learn that God actually does something for us – He takes on human flesh, to pay the penalty--that justice demands--due to our sin. God's forgiveness at the Cross of Jesus is pure gift. Jesus is God's gift to us. Please pass this gift on to the next generation, it is a spiritual and a physical blessing.

Pastor Bob



Dear community of saints at Trinity, you will notice the "I Serve At Trinity" sheets that are set up on tables in the narthex. Please prayerfully consider serving in at least one area of our church. If you are physically unable to serve in one of the areas like Trustee or Altar Guild, consider joining our church prayer ministry. For more information, please see Pastor Bob Geaschel, Mr. Rob Grady, Principal Andy DeWitt, Mr. Howard Eggert, Pastor Mark Bussert, Mrs. Jan Baranek or anyone currently serving in one of the ministry areas listed at the tables. We need your help at this time... - Pastor Bob Geaschel

Parish Education – Bible Study Schedule

January 2020

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 Bible Study is held in the Church Library. This study will be the “Ephesians” curriculum. Small Group TLC meets in the lower level of school, “Five Things God Uses to Grow Your Faith” is our current 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 Morning

Pastor Bob has begun a study on “The Gospel of Mark”. This study meets (January 7, 14, 28) in the Church Library at 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday Evening

Join us as we continue 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 (January 7, 21, 28) 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 January 8, 22 and 29. 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 January 9 and 23 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 January 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). We will meet on January 10 and 24.

The Eighth Commandment

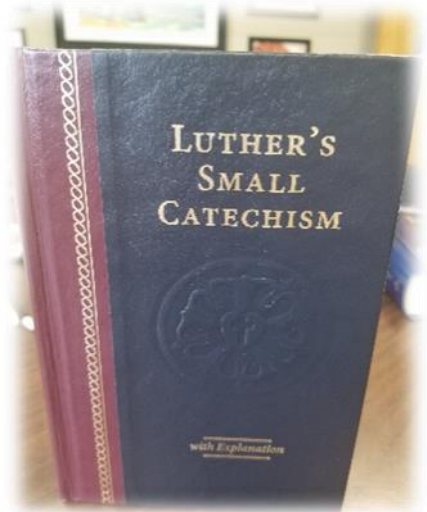
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

The Central Thought:

God commands us to speak truthfully and charitably about our neighbors so that others view them in the best possible light. As Christians, we seek to improve and protect the reputation of others so that people will think well of them. Who in my life or community needs me to speak well of them?



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE BOARD OF YOUTH MINISTRY!

The Annual Winter Retreat is scheduled for January 1-3. Youth and adult chaperones are attending this event. Skiing will be enjoyed by all! Devotions and fellowship will also serve as a large part of this weekend event! We are sure our youth will come back ready to start their second semester of school with a new "outlook"!

PIZZA SALE January 5-20..... We will be selling items from the Little Caesars Pizza Company. This is the one fundraiser where you will get the full return on your sales. For each item sold, you will get \$5.00 in your own account. The order forms and letter explaining everything will be sent out during the Christmas break. Our goal is to sell over 100 items. That means each youth should target to sell ten items!! We appreciate your support! Please see a youth group member today if you want to place an order!

Summer Youth Trip Information - The Youth are heading to West Virginia. Please keep the youth and adult chaperones in your prayers. Please contact Mr. Grady if you have any questions.

Remember Youth Bible Class on Sunday morning in the Youth Room and High School Youth with Pastor Bob at the school. Bible class is held every week and begins at 9:45 a.m.

Blessings in 2020!

The Board of Youth Ministry



Can you defend your faith?

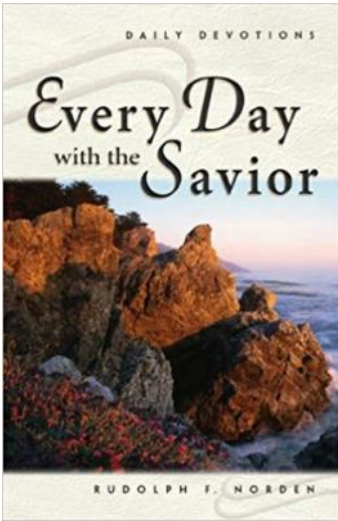
Save the date—Saturday, February 1.

Bethany Lutheran In Naperville will host Dr. Adam Francisco from Concordia University Irvine for the day to talk about some basic apologetics complete with history and arguments. This is a full day event with lunch served and will end in the afternoon. Please mark your calendars now! Watch announcements for more details. This event is for all youth and adults, junior high and older. Students, bring your parents!

Library News

A common resolution made at the new year is to spend more time with Our Lord and Savior through a stronger devotional life. Excellent! But where to start? Resources for daily devotion abound!!!

Our church library has some great One Year Devotionals!



Guide Me Ever and Guide Me, Lord are collections of Portals of Prayer. Every Day with the Savior is also written in the same tradition.

All of these are also available digitally through Kindle or iBooks, and all are published by Concordia Publishing House (www.cph.org).

Additionally, CPH has several marvelous resources that are all related by use of the same daily lectionary found in the Lutheran Service Book: A Year in the Old Testament, A Year in the New Testament, A Year with the Church Fathers. Each of these incorporates a reading from the New Testament, the Old Testament, and a Psalm and includes a brief meditation. A Year with the Church Fathers features both famous and lesser known Fathers and serves as a reminder that, as part of a family of believers that spans centuries and continents, we all encounter the same issues as we strive to be faithful ambassadors in a fallen world until our Lord brings us home. These are all available as books or digital media. Also using the same lectionary, is Treasury of Daily Prayer. Scripture readings, prayers, psalms,

hymnody, writings from the Church fathers appointed for each day work together to deepen reflection and encourage personal devotion. This is a deeply enriching resource that can assist you in developing a regular pattern of prayer and devotion throughout your whole day. While the book form can take some getting used to, my favorite part is it comes as an app! The "Pray Now" app (\$8.99) for Apple or Android is fabulous!! Putting this resource together as an app for the tech-minded was a brilliant move.

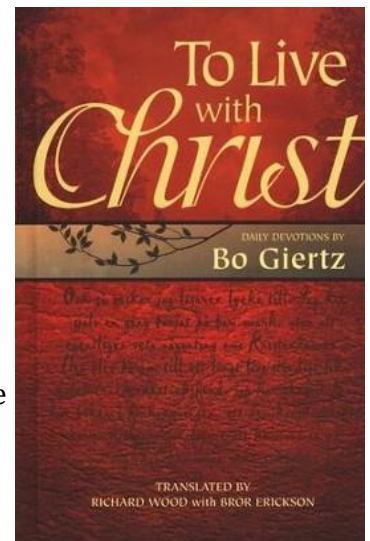
A few other edifying daily resources to consider (Published by CPH):

To Live with Christ by Bo Giertz - Written by the Swedish pastor who journeyed from atheism to Lutheranism each reading points to the forgiveness and atonement Christ won for you.

God Grant It from C.F.W. Walther - The founder of our Synod speaks with directness about our human condition in these readings taken from his sermons. God's Truth proclaimed here is as applicable today as when Walther first proclaimed it 150 years ago.

Day by Day from Martin Luther - Daily reading from Luther's Works encourage and point us to Jesus and His Gospel.

The Lord Will Answer - This daily resource can be used in addition to all the above because time spent in the Catechism should never be confined to the time of Confirmation, but rather serve as a foundation we build upon our whole lives. (If you want to spend time in the Lutheran Confessions this year, including both the Small and Large Catechisms, try <https://www.bookofconcord.org/> for daily readings, apps, and audio resources.)



Everything mentioned here is available as a book and digital media, so you can enrich your faith at home and on the go. This year, take time to spend with the One who will be with you all 527,040 minutes!

Please feel free to speak with your library representative should you have questions regarding any of these resources. God bless you as you grow in your love and knowledge of Him.

Your library representative,

Crista Childers



كنيسة السلام في شيكاغو

WINTER 2019

Salam Christian Ministry Newsletter

Jesus Still Call Sinners to Faith : Hana's Baptism

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." (John 1: 43-46)

This year a North African lady named Hana, 24, won a Green Card (U.S. residency) through lottery, but she had no relatives living in America. She did not know anyone in the U.S. who could help her move out from her country of origin to the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.

It was one of those divine interventions when, one day, she met, Fatima, one of her compatriots on WhatsApp. Fatima, 50, who was baptized through Salam ministries, has been coming to Salam Christian Fellowship for three years. She offered to help Hana relocate in Chicagoland. Hana thought that Fatima was a Muslim like her, but she discovered that Fatima was going to a church called "Salam". Hana asked: "What is Salam?" Fatima replied: "Come and see." Hana was confused. This preacher was talking about a Jesus different from the "Issa" she heard about in Islam. She wondered how could God have a Son? What is the Holy Spirit the preacher is talking about? Islam denies the crucifixion of Jesus and says that a look-alike took his place on the cross. But that preacher was saying that He died for our sins, rose from the dead, and who ever believes in Him and confesses Him as Lord and Savior will have eternal life. The preacher gave Hana a copy of the New Testament in Arabic, a copy of Luther's Small Catechism in Arabic, and told her that he would try to answer any questions she had. Reading and studying the Gospel took two months. Fatima answered more questions asked by Hana than the preacher did.

One day Hana was reading the Gospel alone in her room, when she heard "the Voice of God re-reading the same Gospel verses" in her ears. Hana was not asleep, she was awake, and it was broad daylight.

"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." Ephesians 2: 8-9

The Word of God gave Hana peace and assurance of her salvation, something she could not find in Islam.

Hana was baptized into Jesus Christ on October 19, 2019.

"He saved us, not by the righteous deeds we had done, but according to His mercy, through the washing of new birth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This is the Spirit He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior," Titus 3: 5- 6

-Amen-



Salam Worship Service & Picnic at Fellowship of Faith, McHenry, IL

Salam Christian Fellowship was part of Fellowship of Faith Worship & Pig Roast Event. Salam prepared Middle Eastern food and presented a worship service in three languages, Arabic, English and Farsi. Thank you to the Fellowship of Faith congregation and Pastor David Gaddini for this invitation and the opportunity to pray together.



Fellowship with Lance

Brother Lance, who is a generous Salam supporter, invited Salam's worship attendants for a picnic at his backyard in St. Charles. Thank you Brother Lance for the invite, God bless you.



Pastor Hesham's Message

Salam is a faith ministry that depends on the donations of God's people and their zeal to fulfill the Great Commission. Salam reaches out to refugees and new immigrants from eight Middle Eastern countries, and shares the Gospel with Muslims in three languages: Arabic, English, and Farsi. Salam converts and seekers meet for worship and Bible Study throughout the western suburbs of Chicago, IL. Your support will assist Missionary Hesham and Salam in expanding this mission and will help in creating a Christ-centered community where Middle Eastern & North African Muslim people can confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Salam Christian Fellowship is already seeing results. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we have witnessed over 45 baptisms and have seen the growth of their weekly attendance. Attendance to the weekly worship service increased from 15 attendants to 40 attendants.

The Bible study group has also increased from 4 attendants to 12 attendants. There were 2 people on our volunteer team, now we have 5 volunteers. God is making an eternal difference in the lives of people through the outreach of Salam Christian Ministries.

You are all invited to experience our trilingual worship service and the delicious Middle Eastern fellowship meal that we offer following worship. Join us weekly on Saturday afternoons at 12:30 PM at Peace Lutheran Church, 21W500 Butterfield Rd., Lombard, IL. Also follow us on our website for events & updates www.salamchristianfellowship.org.

Please mail your donations with Salam Christian Fellowship as the subject to Peace Lutheran Church, 21W500 Butterfield Rd., Lombard, IL. For online Donations you can visit www.salamchristianfellowship.org/donate/. Thank you!

Phone: +1-331-645-0650 Email: pastorheshamshehab@gmail.com



Starting Sunday, January 5th, the Trinity Youth Group will launch a Little Caesars Fundraiser to raise funds for their summer mission trip and other events.

The sales period will be from January 5 - January 20.

Pizzas can be picked up in the church basement on Friday, January 31 at noon and 3:15 p.m.

These yummy pizzas are packaged for a family or for an individual.

They also have dessert kits and cookie dough.

Please see a youth group member or Rob Grady to order.

Human Care



Thanks to all that made the Vet donations a success.

We continue our homebound visitations. Thanks also to Sharon Wendte's Bible Class for the monetary donation to St. Matthew's soup kitchen.

We continue to serve at the soup kitchen monthly.

Pastor Iglesias gave us a dozen roses at our December visit.

They greatly appreciate any food donations.

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!

Change can be a good thing. We all go through changes. Students get new teachers every year, change grade level, and need to adapt to a different schedule. Parents may have many changes in their lives as well, such as moving or changing jobs. Some changes can be scary, but they are all tests from God to see how we can adapt.

POSITIVE changes are coming our way! Trinity is beginning a gymnasium renovation! We will begin with the sound system and speakers to improve our sound quality for programs and musicals. We had our CHRISTmas program last Sunday, and the sound quality was amazing. Many parents mentioned the difference that



they already heard. Next, we will be getting new mats for the walls under our basketball hoops. New paint will freshen the walls. The new mats and new paint will be finished over the two weeks of CHRISTmas break. Finally, we are working to get a new gym floor as well.

As mentioned, some of these changes have happened, or are in the process. Some of the changes may take some time and fundraising efforts. These are POSITIVE and wonderful changes to improve our building and the look of our gym.

Thank you for helping to make these changes possible. I hope you enjoy the gradual transformation of our gym!

In His Service,

Mr. DeWitt



New Member Welcome!

David Trick became an official member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Burr Ridge, on December 15th at the 11:00 a.m. service after being a member of Trinity Lisle for the last 14-15 years. He was born in Ohio and raised on a farm there as a Catholic by his parents Edward and Jacque (Korte) Trick.

When he and his beloved wife of 30 years, Susan, moved to Willow Springs, he wanted to find a church closer to home. An avid golfer, he is looking forward to next year's Golf Outing and perhaps using the Business Manager skills he is currently using at Littelfuse Inc. to helping with it and other aspects of our church's growth.

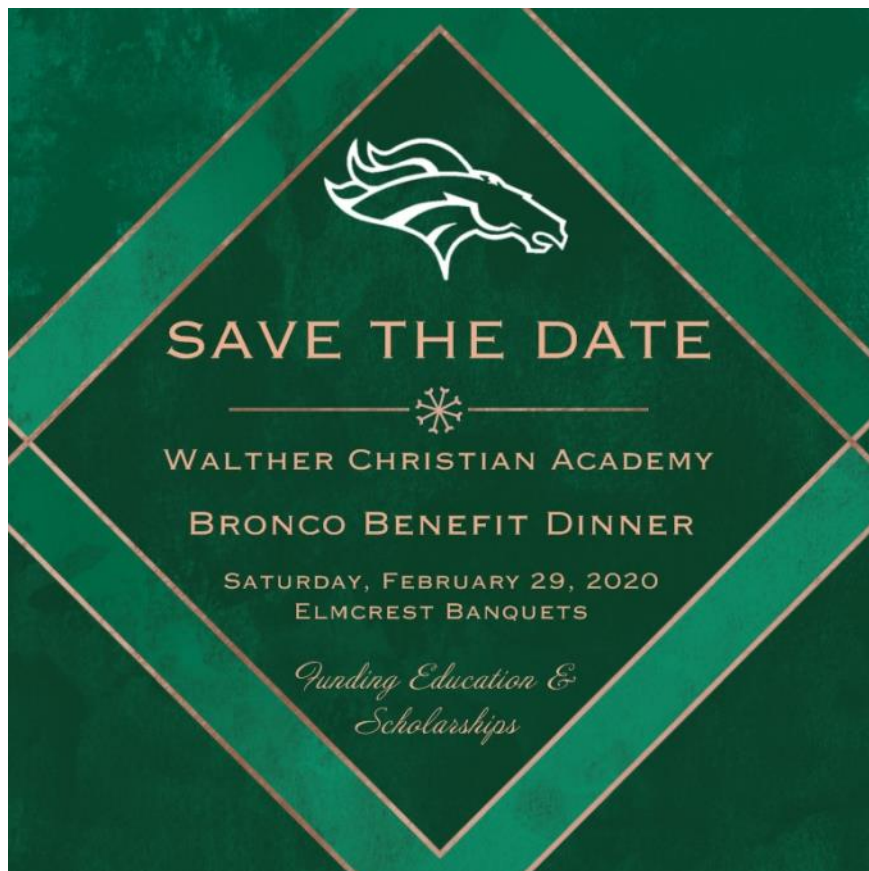
Proud father of Amber, Amy, and Andrew, David thanks God that they are all gainfully employed and graduated from college, as of the day before becoming a member. The religion of true Christianity with the right balance between liturgy and modern advances were very important to finding the right church and service for this family.

Pastor Bob's sermons helped as well in making the decision to make Trinity his new church home.



JOY Club

JOY Club will not meet in January. See you on February 20!





**TRINITY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH &
SCHOOL**

11503 German Church
Road
Burr Ridge, IL 60527

Church: (708)839-1200
School: (708)839-1444
Fax: (708)839-8503

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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

January Birthdays

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Kiley Mahoney | 13 Sheri Abernathy | |
| Kimberly Rediehs | D. David Lyall | |
| 2 Jayden Williams | Robert Wott | |
| 3 Sheryl Diamond | 14 Alex DeWitt | |
| Emma Hruska | 14 Payton Kohutynski | |
| Cindy Leicht | Karla O'Shea | Stephen Pahr |
| Nora Malina | 15 Charlotte Reschke | Jennifer Pomadchin |
| 4 Eva Borchardt | 16 Hope Bowling | Norm Tiedt |
| Heather Stephens | Georgetta Rediehs | 26 Margaret Benes |
| 5 Lorenzo DiBacco | 17 Marshall Allen | Deb Hammes |
| 6 Nicholas Polchan | Daniel Murray | 26 Roberta Wernli |
| Christina Rediehs | 18 Alan VanDahm | 27 David Kneller |
| Aurora Smith | 19 Julie Bergman | Karson Kurzeja |
| 7 Susan Zaccari | Kevin Collins | Julie Tyree |
| 8 Ryan Cohen | Lisa Collins | 28 Kelly Payne |
| Mitchell Giliano | William Cook | Mary Windzio |
| Ted Gogolewski | Mark Pasterik | 29 Jonathan Benstent |
| 9 Haley Dahlstrand | 20 Mark Winterroth | 31 Christina Drewniani |
| 10 Dolores Joiner | 21 JoAnne Buege | Brody Magnesen |
| Vincent Saculla | Beth Lyons | |
| 11 Burton Beyer | Debra Weisbecker | |
| Sandi Bulthuis | 23 Alexander Aluzas | |
| 12 Abigail Hruska | Jakob Pallisard | |
| Jacob Kearney | 24 Hope Salverredy | |
| Brooke Randolph | 25 Kylie Orrick | |



Congratulations to Trinity's JV basketball team and their coach, Steve Perakis, for an undefeated season!

Back Row: Varsity Coach Beto Elizondo, Aiden Hodor, Quinn Murray, Liliana Cyphers, Junior Varsity Coach Steve Perakis
Front Row: Melanie Vasu-Nunez, Gaby Vasquez, JT Bergman, Youyin Hung, Cole Perakis, John Perakis



Trinity's Varsity Basketball Home Games:

Thursday, January 23 at 4 p.m.

Tuesday, January 28 at 4 p.m.



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
Altar Guild: Joanne Stastny Sherry LaFlame Crista Childers Kris Fischer	Meeting areas: <i>(shown in parenthesis)</i> Ch = Church CR = School Conf. Room CL = Church Library TFH = Trinity Fellowship Hall	G = School Gym SK= School Kitchen CK = TFH Kitchen SL = School Library N = Narthex YR = Youth Room OP = Off Premises	1 Circumcision and Name of Jesus 7:30pm AA (TFH) 	2 1:00pm Ladies BC (OP) 6:30pm Praise Team (C)	3	4 8:30am Trustees Celebration 6:30pm Service HC
5 8:30am HC 9:45am BC & SS 11:00am Contemporary	6 School Resumes 6:30pm Elders (CR) 7:00pm Steve Imig band practice (CL) 7:00pm Adult Volleyball (G)	7 10:30am Gosp of Mark (CL) 6:30pm Gosp of Mark (CL) 7:00pm Adult Basketball (G) 7:00pm TLC (CR)	8 6:30 Men's BC (CL) 10:30am TLC (CL) 4:45pm Pub. Conf. (CL) 6:30pm Bell Choir (N) 7:30pm AA (TFH) 7:30pm Sanc Choir (Ch)	9 2pm School Dismissal 1:00pm Ladies BC (OP) 4:30pm TLC Wendte (CR) 6:30pm Praise Team (C) 6:45pm Fit for Life (CL)	10 7pm TLC Gustafson (OP)	11 8:30am Trustees Celebration 6:30pm Service HC
12 8:30am Worship 9:45am BC & SS 11:00am Contemp HC	13 6:30pm Ladies Aid (CL) 7:00pm Council (CR) 7:00pm Adult Volleyball (G)	14 10:30am Gosp of Mark (CL) 11:15am St. Matthews (OP) 7:00pm Adult Basketball (G) 7:00pm TLC (CR)	15 6:30 Men's BC (CL) 4:45pm Pub. Conf. (CL) 6:30pm Bell Choir (N) 7:30pm AA (TFH) 7:30pm Sanc Choir (Ch)	16 12:00pm TORCH DEADLINE 1:00pm Ladies BC (OP) 6:30pm Praise Team (C) 6:30pm School Board (SL) 6:45pm Fit for Life (CL)	17 End of 2nd Quarter	18 The Confession of St. Peter 8:30am Trustees Celebration 6:30pm Service HC
19 Life Sunday 8:30am HC 9:45am SS 9:45am Voters (CL) 11:00am Contemporary	20 	21 6:30pm Gosp of Mark (CL) 7:00pm Adult Basketball (G) 7:00pm TLC (CR)	22 6:30 Men's BC (CL) 10:30am TLC (CL) 4:45pm Pub. Conf. (CL) 6:30pm Bell Choir (N) 7:30pm AA (TFH) 7:30pm Sanc Choir (Ch)	23 1:00pm Ladies BC (OP) 4:30pm TLC Wendte (CR) 6:30pm Praise Team (C) 6:45pm Fit for Life (CL)	24 St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor 7pm TLC Gustafson (OP)	25 The Conversion of St. Paul 8:30am Trustees 9:00am Ladies Aid Financial Speaker Edward Jones (CL) 6:30pm Celebration Service HC
26 St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor 8:30am Worship 9:45am BC & SS 11:00am Contemp HC 7:00pm Altar Guild (CL)	27 7:00pm Adult Volleyball (G)	28 10:30am Gosp of Mark (CL) 6:30pm Gosp of Mark (CL) 7:00pm Adult Basketball (G) 7:00pm TLC (CR)	29 6:30 Men's BC (CL) 1:30pm TLC (CR) 4:45pm Pub. Conf. (CL) 6:30pm Bell Choir (N) 7:30pm AA (TFH) 7:30pm Sanc Choir (Ch)	30 1:00pm Ladies BC (OP) 6:30pm Praise Team (C) 6:45pm Fit for Life (CL)	31 12pm Pizza Pick Up (TFH) 3:15pm Pizza Pick Up (TFH)	Ushers: 8:30 am – Group 4 11:00am – Group 2