

Trinity Torch



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February 2020

I hope you are enjoying a blessed Epiphany season this year. Epiphany is a season that the world does not recognize, so it has moved on, and rather quickly, from Christmas to Valentine's Day.

February does bring that special day of love into focus. February 14 is the anniversary for many engagements and marriages. Are you one of them? If so, congratulations! I hope that you have a wonderful celebration this year – because marriage is really taking a hit in our society.

Even in the Lutheran Church, it seems that we have forgotten, or even pushed aside God's Word, in order to live our life the way that we want to live it. People want to be happy at all costs – and we can't let God get in the way. Consider the Sixth Commandment: You shall not commit adultery.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

It is essential for Christians today to understand and confess that God created us to live faithfully as male and female by respecting His purpose for sexual activity within the context of marriage. What do you think? Is marriage between a man and a woman held in high regard today?

Marriage was created by God as the lifelong union of a man and a woman for their mutual help and joy and for the procreation and nurturing of children. A man and woman enter into marriage by the public promise to live faithfully together until death. It is a proven fact that those who live together before marriage have a greater divorce rate than those who do not (see other articles in this Torch on the subject). But it is also a fact, that those who live together before marriage, are breaking the Sixth Commandment, are grieving the Holy Spirit, and are indeed living an unrepentant, sinful life.

I know the difficulties that young people face that often lead to living together. They take a look at all of the divorce around them, and they want to make sure that their marriage is for a lifetime – so they test their relationship by living together first. They are facing unprecedented debt as they finish college and desire a better financial situation before they get married. They want to start their career, pay down debt, and save for a wedding – which in the USA averages around forty-two thousand dollars!!!

I think we have sold our kids a lie that their life has to be "perfect" before they get married. It is a lie to think that you have to have a career on track, a house, a dog, college debt eliminated, etc., before you get married. And it is a lie that you need a \$42,000 wedding. There is a joy, of going through the struggle of life, as a young married couple who seek to honor God in what they say and do. This is simply what it means to live the Christian life. We deny our self, take up our cross, and follow Jesus. It looks different than the world. You may not have everything – but you have the one, needful thing – you have Jesus.

I pray that we can live our life with Jesus together.

In Christ,

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

February 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 (February 4, 11, 25) 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 (February 4, 18, 25) 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 February 12 and 26. We usually meet the second and fourth Wednesday, and any fifth Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in the Church Library. On February 26, we will meet following the Lenten Lunch.

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 February 13 and 27 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 February 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 again in March.

The Ninth Commandment

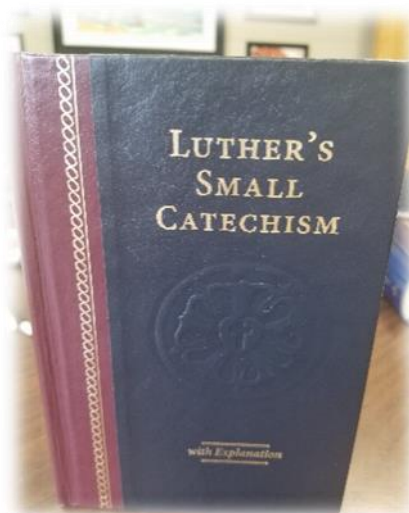
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

The Central Thought:

God created us to be content with the gifts by which He sustains our life. As Christians, we seek to live a life of contentment by giving thanks for the daily blessings that God provides for us and our neighbor.



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY FROM THE BOARD OF YOUTH MINISTRY!

The Little Caesar's Pizza Sale was a success, and we appreciate everyone's support. Pizzas will be delivered, sorted, and picked up on January 31. If you placed an order and did not pick it up, please see Rob Grady, and he will let you know where to pick up your order. Again, we appreciate your support!

On Saturday, January 25th, the Youth went Downtown for Ice Skating. Fun was had by all!

February 26 will begin the Youth hosted Lenten lunches following the morning Lenten services. Soup, grilled cheese sandwiches, and dessert will be served each week for the six weeks of Lent.

The Mission Trip is about 6 months away. PLEASE KEEP BUILDING YOUR ACCOUNTS!! This is the time when you have many opportunities to work events and offset the cost of your trips!

OUR ANNUAL PLANT SALE is May 9, 2020. This fundraiser will kick off in mid-March. Order forms will be available at that point, and orders will be due by Easter Sunday. Plants will be delivered on May 9th at 6:30 a.m., when we will unload the truck and sort orders. All orders must be picked up by 10:30 a.m. This is our biggest fundraiser, and the youth will not want to miss out on this point opportunity.

Remember Youth Bible Class on Sunday morning in the Youth Room or school conference room. Bible class is held every week and begins at 9:45 a.m. We have great discussions! Hope to see you there!

Blessings!

The Board of Youth Ministry



Can you defend your faith?

Bethany Lutheran in Naperville will host Dr. Adam Francisco from Concordia University Irvine on **February 1 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** 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. This event is for all youth and adults, junior high and older. Students, bring your parents!

To register online, go to <https://bethanylcs.org/>, choose the "Visit Church" link, then wait for the scrolling picture to advance to the "Apologetics Conference" or click the following link: <https://bethanylcs.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/365215>. You may also contact Jody Taylor at 630-853-4432.

Most Americans Think Cohabitation Is Fine, But That's Not What Social Science Says

A new Pew Research Center study shows more Americans both cohabit and find cohabitation acceptable than ever before. But cohabitation actually hurts people, especially kids.

By Peter Sprigg

A nineteenth-century humorist once warned that a bigger problem than knowing little is “to know so many things that ain’t so.” Well, Americans know “many things that ain’t so” about cohabitation and marriage.

A new Pew Research Center study shows Americans both cohabit (“live with an unmarried partner”) and find cohabitation acceptable more than before. But other research shows this is unwise. Here is what the Pew Research Center found.

More young adults have cohabited than have married. Pew’s analysis in the summer of 2019 of the National Survey of Family Growth found that, for the first time ever, the percentage of American adults aged 18-44 who have ever cohabited with a partner (59 percent) exceeded the percentage of those who have ever married (50 percent).

It should be noted, however, that the current living arrangements of adults of all ages still show a strong preference for marriage: 53 percent of American adults are currently married, while only 7 percent of adults are currently cohabiting (although cohabitation has risen from only 3 percent in 1995). These findings may either reflect that many people cohabit first and then marry, or that cohabiting relationships are less stable and thus much shorter than marriages.

A majority of Americans (69 percent) say that “it is acceptable for an unmarried couple to live together even if they don’t plan to get married.” They may assume that they can decrease their chances of a bad marriage and increase their chances of a good one by giving the relationship a cohabitation “test run.”

Sixteen percent say cohabitation is acceptable only if the couple plans to get married. Just 14 percent hold a view consistent with a biblical sexual ethic, that cohabitation with an unmarried romantic partner outside of marriage is “never acceptable.”

This widespread approval of cohabitation may be the result of the public believing “things that ain’t so.” The Pew poll demonstrates that public holds some perceptions of cohabitation that are at odds with previous empirical research (not covered in the Pew report) on cohabitation outcomes. Here is what many Americans believe, contrasted with the reality shown from existing research.

A plurality of Americans believe cohabitating before marriage yields more successful unions. Nearly half of Americans (48 percent) believe that couples who live together before marriage “have a better chance of having a successful marriage.” This view is even more prevalent among young adults aged 18-29 (63 percent).

Another 38 percent of all Americans say cohabitation “doesn’t make much difference” on marital success. Only 13 percent of Americans believe cohabiting couples have “a worse chance” of having a successful marriage.

The reality: Couples who cohabited before marriage are more likely to divorce. Cohabitation’s effect on marital success has been empirically tested, and the results are clear: couples who cohabit before marriage are more likely to get divorced, not less.

A 2018 article published by the Institute for Family Studies said this “premarital cohabitation effect” is so well-known, “It has a long and storied history in family science.” Contrary to popular belief, cohabitation is not “practice” for marriage. Instead, it is “practice” for lacking commitment, keeping one’s options open, and focusing on the short-term rather than the long-term. Such attitudes are antithetical to a successful marriage and may increase the risk of marital failure.

Most Americans believe cohabitating couples raise children just as well as married couples. Pew also surveyed people’s opinions about cohabiting couples raising children, and 59 percent of Americans declared that cohabiting couples “can raise children just as well as married couples.” Again, the younger respondents were most likely to have a favorable view of cohabitation: among adults aged 18 to 49, 67 percent agreed cohabiting couples do just as well, while 32 percent said: “Married couples do a better job raising children.”

The reality: Children of cohabitating parents face higher risks of negative outcomes. The Pew survey’s question focused on the perceived parenting skills of the couple rather than the actual outcomes for the children. The actual outcomes are notably worse for the kids.

While Americans are optimistic about the ability of cohabiting couples to raise children, a study published by the American College of Pediatricians in 2014 reported that children whose parents cohabit face a higher risk of: “premature birth, school failure, lower education, more poverty during childhood and lower incomes as adults, more incarceration and behavior problems, single parenthood, medical neglect and chronic health problems both medical and psychiatric, more substance, alcohol and tobacco abuse, and child abuse,” and that “a child conceived by a cohabiting woman is at 10 times higher risk of abortion compared to one conceived in marriage.”

Much of what Americans believe about cohabitation is factually incorrect. If Americans knew the truth about the risks and consequences of premarital cohabitation, perhaps they would be less likely to approve or practice it.

2020 HONDURAS MISSION TRIP



Our Mission Trip this year is
June 23rd - July 1st.

The price for the trip is \$1300.00 per person. We have 25 airline tickets reserved and you can hold a spot with a deposit of \$700.

For More information, and to receive your information packet, see Pastor Bob. We will be traveling back to Buenos Aires and finishing the last classrooms, along with all the programs we normally provide: medical, dental, eye care, haircuts, clothing, vacation bible school, arts and crafts, evangelism, feeding the children, and sharing the love of Christ.

We would love to have you join us on our 2020 Mission trip to Honduras.



Mid Week Lenten Services at 10am and 7pm

Ash Wednesday - February 26

Mid Week Services - March 4, 11, 18, 26 April 1

Palm Sunday - April 5 at 8:30am & 11am with HC
at both services

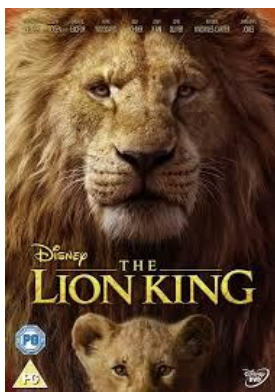
Maundy Thursday - April 9 at 10am & 7pm

Good Friday - April 10 at 10am & 7pm

Saturday Easter Vigil - April 11 at 6:30pm

Easter Sunday - April 12 at 6:30am, 8:30am & 11am
with HC at all services

The Board of Family Life invites you to a
Family Movie Night featuring "The Lion King"



The movie will be shown in the church library
area beginning at 7:00 p.m. on February 21.

Refreshments will be provided by the
Board of Family Life.

Feel free to bring sleeping bags.
You can still wear your PJ's.

JOY Club

Join us on **Thursday, February 20**
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.



PIZZA! PIZZA!

Pizzas will be available for
pick up in the church base-
ment on Friday, January
31st at noon and 3:15 p.m.

CANDY BAR BINGO

SATURDAY, MARCH 21



10:30 A.M. - 12:15 P.M.
Trinity Lutheran Church Basement

LUNCH (PIZZA) WILL BE SERVED FROM 11:45 A.M.-12:15 P.M.

BINGO WILL START PROMPTLY AT 10:30 A.M. COME A LITTLE EARLY TO PURCHASE YOUR BINGO CARDS.

THE COST FOR THE EVENT IS \$5.00 PLUS THREE FULL-SIZED (NOT KING SIZED) CANDY BARS.

THIS IS A FUN EVENT FOR ALL. TELL YOUR FRIENDS.

Since we need to purchase food for lunch, we would appreciate it if you would sign up for Candy Bar Bingo and place the slip found below in Rob Grady's door compartment by March 8.

Name: _____ Age _____

Friend's Name _____ Age _____

Friend's Name _____ Age _____

Friend's Name _____ Age _____

Uncoupled: Divorce and the Crooked Road to Recovery

By Rev. Chad Bird
www.1517.org

One of the first steps in recovering from a broken marriage is to find ways to heal the divorce that's happened within our own souls.

One of the things no one told me when I was going through a divorce was that I was about to experience multiple divorces. Not only would my wife and I be torn asunder, so would many friendships. And not only many friendships, but also a long list of future plans, dreams, securities, and peace. By the time all this chain-sawing in two of what had once represented my unified life was over, I was a man divided and divorced on the inside as well.

People complain about how easy it is to get a divorce these days. Yes, legally and formally that might be true. But personally, spiritually, and psychologically, it's an absurd lie. Divorce is anything but easy. It was for me, as it is for many, the most gut-wrenching, life-altering, pain-filled experience one can endure.

Yet it does happen, of course, as do many terrible events in the lives of sinners trying to live together with sinners. So as with other terrible events, we must learn how to live on the other side of them, to find beauty once we've crawled through the ugliness.

One of the first steps in that recovery is to find ways to heal the divorce that's happened within our own souls. As a guidepost for that journey to recovery, I suggest we turn to what might seem a rather odd place: to a wisdom saying of a famous rabbi who was an old man when Jesus was a young boy. His name is Hillel. And his well-known proverb is this: "If I am not for myself, who is for me? But if I am for my own self only, what am I? And if not now, when?" Let's look at each of these phrases in turn.

If I Am Not for Myself, Who Is for Me?

In the months (and even years) following my divorce, there was no trouble pinpointing my worst enemy. It wasn't my ex-wife, her lawyer, or the friends I'd lost. My worst enemy was me. Divorced on the inside, divided in my own soul, I seemed unified only in my propensity to choose actions that only worsened my condition.

I've seen firsthand the same tendency in others, especially in the immediate aftermath of a divorce. For some, hooking up with a string of people becomes the drug of choice to dull the ache of loneliness. Others seek solace in rapidly emptying bottles of liquor, venomous daydreams of revenge, brainwashing children against the other parent, starving themselves or gorging themselves, and a long list of other destructive and dangerous actions that lead only to more hurt—not to mention a deepening cancer of the soul.

"If I am not for myself," Hillel says, "who is for me?" Your parents, good friends, siblings, fellow Christians—they can offer you advice, try to steer you away from such behavior, but eventually it comes down to this: if you're not for yourself, as Hillel says, who is for you? If you're so hellbent on being your own worst enemy, then you'll constantly be undermining other people's attempts to help you.

To be "for you," however, does not mean engaging in self-centered behavior. It's the exact opposite of selfishness. To be for yourself, especially following a divorce, means facing the cold, hard truth about yourself head-on. Admitting that you're screwed up on the inside. That you need help from outside. That your soul is in a million pieces. And there is no do-it-yourself program to glue the shards of your broken life back together. God and God alone can do that.

The most crucial step to recovery, in other words, is the admission that you can't recover yourself. That confession is the best way to act "for you." But the Lord can—and will. In fact, he works best with broken people, who have come to realize that the Savior broken on the cross is the one who stands ready and willing to heal them into wholeness again. His strength shines brightest through the cracks of weakness in our souls.

But If I Am for My Own Self Only, What Am I?

When the Lord brings us to realize that we are our own worst enemies, that to be for ourselves is to face the truth of our brokenness, and to turn to him for healing, then he also begins the crucial process of turning us toward others, even those who have hurt us. Divorce from a spouse, and the divorce within our own souls, all too often creates a deadly three-way marriage within us between Me, Myself, and I. We say, "I'm sick and tired of living for others; it's high time I live for myself." That very modern, American-sounding philosophy might seem like a welcome change, but it was coined in the pits of hell itself.

If you are for yourself only, what are you? A narcissist. A worshipper of your ego. And, in the end, a sad and lonely sinner whose only companion is his own sin.

So, God goes to work on us to bend us outward. He forgives us, and in that forgiveness, teaches us how to forgive others. To forgive those who walked away in our darkest hour. To forgive fair-weather friends. And, yes, to forgive our former spouse. This doesn't mean a full restoration of those relationships (though that might happen in some cases), but it does mean letting go of the oozing, rotten corpse of anger and resentment we've been cradling in our bosom. It means that when we look at the crucified Christ, we don't see just the man who died for us but also the man who died for them. We didn't deserve that grace; and

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neither did they. But that's the whole point of grace, isn't it? It can't be earned. It's a gift given not to the deserving but the undeserving, those whom God dearly loves.

We find in each other a blurry but true earthly icon of the God who is love.

And the Lord bends us outward to others, as well. He places hurting people in our path that we can help, just as others have helped us. We show each other our scars, weep together, and find in each other a blurry but true earthly icon of the God who is love. The Lord employs us as his hands to wipe away the tears of others, his eyes to see those in need of mercy, and his feet to walk with them through the darkness.

If I am for others, what am I? I am the one in whom the Spirit is at work to be the conduit of his love to others. I am, what is often called, a "wounded healer." Freedom will be found not in a life revolving around oneself, but in a life entrenched in responsibility for others.

And If Not Now, When?

I don't care if you just got home from court, if you and your spouse split up a week ago or a year ago, the best time to take that first step toward healing is today. Yesterday is gone, tomorrow is uncertain, but today is the day the Lord has made for you. If not now, when?

In my life, years went by as I wallowed in self-pity, indulged in destructive passions, and made horrible decisions that worsened my condition and radically slowed my healing. I missed a thousand "todays" as I kept saying "tomorrow."

Today the Lord is by your side, with a hand of healing stretched out. Note those hands. See the marks of the nails. That is the only resumé you need of his will to save, to rescue, to forgive, to heal, and to bend you outward into a vessel of his love for others.

Take that hand. The crooked and winding path of healing he will lead you on will hurt, yes, but will also make you whole. It will be long, yes, but the destination is worth the journey. And you will lose yourself, yes, but you will find the Lord is hard at work recreating you into an image that reflects his own. And all along the way, you'll find that the God by your side is the one and only sure and lasting treasure that gives meaning and purpose to your life.

Evangelism

Witness Forum in February has changed from the First Sunday in February to Sunday, February 9th at 6:30 p.m. All future meetings will be held on the First Sunday of Every Month.

Our Fellowship Luncheon will be held after the 11:00 a.m. service on February 23rd.

We look forward to seeing you!



Premarital Cohabitation Is Still Associated With Greater Odds of Divorce

by Scott Stanley

A new study published in the Journal of Marriage and Family finds that the "premarital cohabitation effect" lives on, despite what you've likely heard. The premarital cohabitation effect is the finding that those who live together prior to marriage are more likely, not less, to struggle in marriage. It has a long and storied history in family science.

Michael Rosenfeld and Katharina Roesler's new findings suggest that there remains an increased risk for divorce for those living together prior to marriage, and that prior studies suggesting the effect has gone away had a bias toward short versus longer-term effects. They find that living together before marriage is associated with lower odds of divorce in the first year of marriage, but increases the odds of divorce in all other years tested, and this finding holds across decades of data.

A number of relatively recent studies suggested that the premarital cohabitation effect has gone away among cohorts marrying in the last 10 or 15 years. Rosenfeld and Roesler pay particular attention to a report from the National Center for Health Statistics by Copen, Daniels, Vespa, and Mosher in 2012, which suggested there was no increased risk associated with premarital cohabitation in the most recent (at the time) cohort of the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG; 2006 – 2010). Reinhold came to the same conclusion in 2010, and while not cited in the new study, Manning and Cohen reached the same conclusion in 2012, incorporating data from as late as the 2006 to 2008 cohort of the NSFG.¹

While all of these studies used the NSFG, Rosenfeld and Roesler had **longer-term data** for the most recent cohort they study (up to 2015). **Contrary to these prior conclusions, they found that there remains a clear link between premarital cohabitation and increased odds of divorce regardless of the year or cohort studied.** (In all these studies, the focus is on first marriages.) Read the rest of the Article online by searching the title and author above.



THE BOARD OF FAMILY LIFE
 INVITES YOU AND YOUR FAMILY TO ATTEND
 THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT
 SATURDAY, APRIL 4
 9:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Start your weekend by joining us for a lovely Easter Egg Hunt and Continental Breakfast with entertainment featuring "Ben's Bubble Show".

After breakfast, the children and adults will come together in the School Gymnasium where we will have an Easter Devotion followed by entertainment by "Ben's Bubble Show".

Finally, the children will head outdoors (weather permitting) and get ready for what we think is the best Easter Egg Hunt, which consists of over 2500 eggs! Everyone will go home with candy! This year we are even hiding coupons for gift cards in some of the eggs. If it rains, we will still have the hunt in the school gym. The Hunt will begin around 10:30 a.m.

Invite your friends and neighbors! Don't forget to ask grandparents! This is a fantastic family event! Mark your calendars and sign up for this event soon!

Cost for this event is as follows:

\$5.00 PER PERSON

\$20.00 Maximum for immediate Family (Parents and Children)

The cost includes breakfast, the entertainment, and egg hunt. Please prepay no later than March 22. Make checks out to Trinity. All we ask is that you pre-register and prepay in order for us to purchase food.

Please submit the following in the envelope by the poster in the school lobby or church entrance area. Hope to see you there!

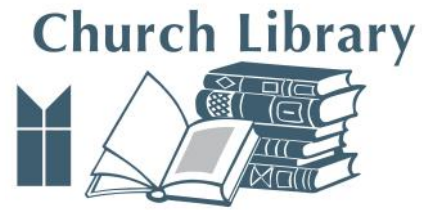
Name: _____

Adults Attending: _____ Children Attending: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

This month the library has a Double Feature!

First, for anyone who attended Dr. Adam Francisco's Apologetics Workshop at Bethany Lutheran in Naperville, and is looking to continue working on that discipline, the library has resources. As 1 Peter 3:15 states, "**always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.**" The library has excellent books to assist.

Some of those featured include:



Clearing a Path for the Gospel: A Lutheran Approach to Apologetics by Arthur Eggert & Geoffrey Kieta

Clearing a Path for the Gospel addresses numerous apologetics issues facing the Lutheran church in the twenty-first century.

The Reason I Believe: The Basics of Christian Apologetics by Allen Quist

In The Reason I Believe, Allen Quist presents a basic fact-based defense of Christianity. He offers a wealth of compelling evidence for the truthfulness of Christianity, to equip Christians to confidently respond to common objections to their faith.

Always Be Ready: A Primer on Defending the Christian Faith by John Warwick Montgomery

In this easy-to-read, beginner's guide to Christian apologetics, scholar and apologist Dr. John Warwick Montgomery lays the groundwork for why the case for Christianity is factually and historically compelling as well as how we should defend the faith.

These, and several others, will all be featured through the end of February.

For the "techies," in addition to many audiobooks that exist (digital downloads can even be done through your local library's digital apps), a free course on apologetics can be taken at <https://www.1517.org/courses/introduction-to-apologetics?token=118>. Secondly, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26th.

Lent is a season of preparation to observe the Christian's most exciting annual celebration – Mankind's greatest problem ever... Solved! Your greatest problem ever... Solved!!

Our two ancient ancestors walked with God. This special communion ended when they pridefully rejected God's authority, seeking to "be like God." Gone was the holiness. Man was forever separated by sin from our loving, but Holy, God. Instead of being born, as God intended, in perfect righteousness and holiness, we are born apart from God, disobedient and sinful, and without hope. But God, in His great mercy, did not leave us without hope. He sent His Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins and restore our relationship with God. Lent is a time to recognize that mankind's greatest problem, fatal separation from God, has a solution: the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our redemption. Lent is a time for doing things that increase our awareness of God's great mercy given to us in Christ Jesus. It is a reflective time to strengthen our faith.

To do this, some Lenten practices include:

Increased time spent reading the Bible. (This is a great time to read through John.)

Fasting / deprivation of earthly desires to help us focus on God's mercy in Christ.

Acts of love/charity for neighbors

Increased study of Luther's Small Catechism (or reading the Large Catechism)

Meditating on hymns

Times of solemn reflection and repentance

For your edification, these resources will be available now and throughout the Lenten season:

An Explanation of the History of the Suffering and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ by Johann Gerhard

This classic work is a must-read during Lent. The 24 sermons draw upon the Old Testament prophecies and show how they find their fulfillment in Christ.

He was Crucified by Gerard Stanley

This beautiful book offers reflections of a medical doctor on the physical and mental anguish Jesus endured in the hours leading up to His death. A free study guide is even available from www.CPH.org

Thy Kingdom Come - Lent and Easter Sermons by David H. Petersen.

With over sixty sermons spanning Pre-Lent, all forty days of Lent, and the Sundays after Easter, this book serves as an excellent daily devotion.

The Christ of the Gospels by William F. Beck

The life and work of JESUS as told by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John presented as one complete story in the language of today.

Bearing the Cross: Devotions on Albrecht Durer's Small Passion by Carolyn Brinkley

This combines the great artwork of Albrecht Dürer's Small Passion, gems of hymnody, and Holy Scripture into faith enriching devotional vignettes. You will be escorted from Genesis to Revelation in a personal, intimate journey with Christ.

Sacred Meditations by Johann Gerhard

Johann Gerhard's 51 meditations immerse the you in Christ, bringing you through trial to glory, through anguish to peace, through doubt to certainty, through confession to absolution, through cross to resurrection. This classic work of Lutheran spirituality reminds us all that the Word of God is living and breathing, changing not only how we think or live, but even who we are.



Hope Lutheran Church



aging care
connections

Because Aging Well Matters

Seniors Lunch N More

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



Varieties Music is a family group. They write and perform multi - genre music that appeal to all age groups. They have always had an appreciation for the arts and enjoy showcasing their work with those around them. They are always writing and working towards bringing something fun for the listener.

A nutritious meal of Chicken Salerno w/extra sauce which consists of potatoes, chicken, sausage, mushrooms, and onions, Green beans, Garlic bread, Pineapple and Milk will be provided by Salerno's Pizzeria and Sports Bar in Hodgkins.

When: February 12, 2020
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 Jan. 20 through 12pm on Feb. 11. 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.**



Greetings from Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid

Trinity Ladies Aid met Monday, January 13. Our new Board members were inducted and hosted our fellowship. We were treated to pizza, salad, and a huge selection of sweets. Our meeting was called to order. A significant amount of time was spent on our Treasurer's Report. All numbers were in from a very busy and profitable last quarter of 2019. Adding these numbers to our current balance was quite impressive. "While 90% of our funds are spent on our own Trinity causes, 10% (or more) is set aside for outside charities and mission projects." That is a quote taken from our mission statement. Last year, funds spent on Trinity causes include the Elevator Lift Fund, Back to School Clinic, Tabitha Fund, Youth Group and Joy Club to name a few. Outside charities and mission projects are Iglesia Luterana San Pablo in Aurora, St. Matthew Church in Pilsen, and CareNet. Additionally, a \$350 donation was given to Pastor Bob with T.R.I.P. cards bought from our school, for the purchase of underwear to be donated to a Veterans of War organization or medical center of Pastor's discretion.

Following discussion, a motion was made, and unanimously passed, to give the church \$10,000 to be used as needed. Since our meeting, the need of furnace repair/replacement was recommended. We are blessed and grateful to be able to support our church's financial needs. Many thanks to the ladies of this organization for their hard work and dedication, and the support of our church leaders, church groups and members, friends and families, in our fundraising endeavors.

We will be hosting a Lenten Dinner on Ash Wednesday, February 26, before the evening worship. Please watch the announcements for details.

Our next meeting will be Monday, February 10, 6:30 p.m. Please join us. We extend a warm welcome to women of all ages to "Come serve the Lord with gladness!"

Live Simply...Eat Simply

By Rev. Mark Bussert, Director of Stewardship

This is the second in a series of articles which extend the concepts of our recent Annual Stewardship Emphasis, "Live Simply." Each article includes a "30-Day Challenge" for you to consider. These challenges may: 1. Make your life simpler, and/or 2. Save you money, and/or 3. Practice good stewardship of the environment.

The 30-Day Challenge for February is, **for 30 days, make all of your meals at home.**

Before you stop reading because you know this is utterly impossible – there are some exceptions: when you're travelling, for example, or when you're at a social event, or in an emergency (like having to spend extended time with someone in a hospital).

Why prepare your meals at home? Mainly, it saves A LOT of money. Also, it's way healthier. According to sliceofkitchen.com/eating-out-vs-cooking-at-home-statistics/, Americans eat out 5.9 times per week; on average, restaurant food costs 5 times as much as home-cooked food; eating fast food 2-3 times per week increases the chances of coronary disease by 80%...and the list goes on.

Just about everybody likes eating out. And in households where there is no "stay-at-home mom" (or dad), work-day stress often leads to the spur-of-the-moment decision to "grab something" at a carry-out place. So, reducing the eating-out habit requires a bit of determination and planning. If you are employed (and thus have a meal away from home), it may also require allowing yourself an extra 10 minutes in the morning to prepare a lunch.

Many people find it's good to spend a little weekend time preparing for the week – making a casserole, perhaps, or a pot of soup, that can serve several meals quickly by reheating. Also, plan your menu and do your grocery shopping on the weekend so you have what you need when the time comes and you don't fall prey to "there's-nothing-to-eat-let's-go-out."

Can you cheat on this "30-Day challenge?" Of course you can! This isn't a police state, and the purpose of this isn't to make you feel guilty or like a failure! Rather, it's to give you a new goal, and a learning experience.

Want to participate? You can do it "on your own," or, fill out the tear-off below and put it in the hot pink box in the narthex.

----- "

Yes, I will be part of the 30-Day Challenge for February, "Make all of my meals at home."

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Human Care



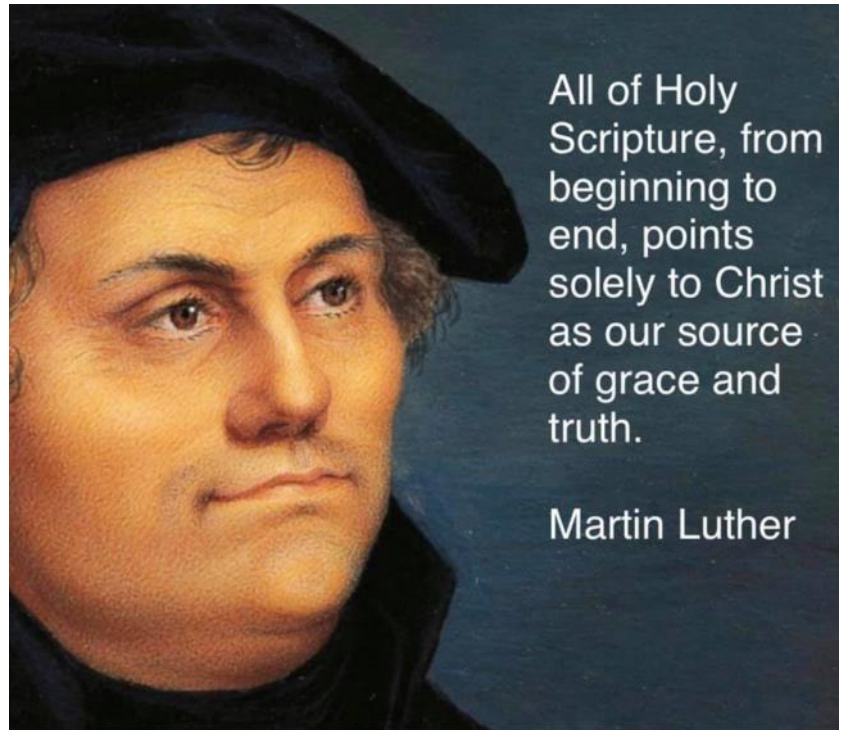
Many thanks to Ladies Aid for the donation to St. Matthew's Soup kitchen.

Websites regarding donations to those affected by Australia wildfires:

Salvation army Australia -
SalvationArmy.org.au

wildlifevictoria.org.au

Have a blessed month.



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!

Do you know any families looking for a wonderful, family-friendly Christian environment for their child? Do you know someone that is looking for a low teacher to student ratio? Trinity has a couple opportunities headed your way!



On January 27 & 29, from 9:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m., Trinity Lutheran School will be hosting two Open House events. We will be giving tours of our school to new families. Please share with anyone you know that may be interested in a wonderful educational opportunity for their child(ren).

Our students and parents love Trini-

ty, and we want you to spread the word! Tours are available anytime during school hours. Call and make an appointment with the office if these dates don't fit into your schedule, (708)839-1444 x222.

Re-enrollment and enrollment are just around the corner, and we want you to be prepared for it. Just a reminder, we give \$500 back on your tuition for every student that you refer to us! Talk about a great opportunity to teach more young people about Christ!

In His Service,

Mr. DeWitt



New Member Welcome!

Ursula Zuehlke joined Trinity on December 22nd. She is sister to Charlotte Reschke and aunt to Christa Childers. Ursula grew up in Chicago around McKinley Park. She currently lives in a townhouse in Justice.

Working as a Health Claims Processor for the company WCEDI, LLC, Workers Comp Electronic Data Interchange which is located in Arlington Heights, she often gets to work from home. Ursula is trying to get healthy, and not be a Workaholic.

She is attending Sunday Bible Study, and hopes to join choir soon. She also loves to sing. Music is a big part of her life.

Ursula feels comfortable and peaceful with Pastor Bob's Sunday messages. "I can learn a lot from Pastor", she says. She feels very close to God saying, "God has a plan for me and will take care of me" and "keep your trust in God".

Such a great message for the new year!
Welcome Ursula! It was great interviewing you.

Sue Voelz



WALTHER
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

**Tickets are now on sale for the
2020 Bronco Benefit Dinner!**

On Saturday, February 29th at 6:00 pm come spend your Leap Day with the Broncos, supporting education and scholarships at Walther Christian Academy.



The party is at Elmcrest Banquets in Elmwood Park, and the occasion is supporting academic excellence at Walther's Christ-centered, diverse learning community. Hear our story told through speakers and student performers. Enjoy an excellent meal, drinks and fellowship. Participate in our auction and support our scholars. Tickets, sponsorship opportunities and more information can all be found [HERE](#). Don't delay; buy your tickets today! And if you can't make the benefit, you can always considering sponsoring a teacher's ticket, putting an ad in our program or donating an auction item [HERE](#) or by just making a contribution to our Annual Fund [HERE](#). Come join us and help make it a night to remember!

If you are not viewing online, please visit walther.com



**TRINITY
LUTHERAN
CHURCH &
SCHOOL**

11503 German Church
Road
Burr Ridge, IL 60527

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

Email Addresses:

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adewitt@mytsonline.com
rgrady@tlbr.org
rbordak@tlbr.org
csecretary@tlbr.org
lvasquez@tlbr.org
heggert@tlbr.org

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



February Birthdays

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 Vanessa Metrik | 10 David Straub | |
| 2 Robert Gallegos Jr.
Blake Lund | 11 Ray Rampage
Laurie Verba | |
| 3 Andrea Vazquez
Martha Vazquez | 12 Nolan Ward
Madeline
Schoenberger | 24 Emily Feiler
Sarah Gentile
Danielle Gogolewski
Marisa Melillo
Randy Swanson |
| 4 Louis Hruza
Frank Mika
Cynthia Wunglueck | 14 Marisa Kopping
Elsee Young | 25 Kim Freese
Leslie Grady
Heidi Lehenbauer
Katy Orrick
Betsy Werling |
| 5 Linda Bakalyar
Nancy Bordak
Jake Bulhuis
William Cook Jr.
Judy Grady | 15 Joyce Rotermond
16 Kimberly Valentino
17 Livia Metrik
Ciara Taheri | 27 Deanne Kulis
Gail Probst
28 Jackson Crispin
Christina Kabel
Joseph Kaminski
Sharon Wendte |
| 6 Sue Voelz | 19 Randy Ball
Annabelle Owen | 29 Dale Borchardt |
| 7 Hannah Barnett
Patricia Hutcheson
Marjorie Krueger | 20 Lorenzo DiBacco
Rita Rafinski
21 Glenn Fritschel
Judy Jung | |
| 8 Sandra Kozlowski
Alexis Murphy | 22 Michelle Bouchard
Peter Rodzen | |
| 9 Phyllis Pasterik | 23 Ryan Murray
Wyatt Schiller | |
| 10 Jennifer Cohen
Abigale Ernst
Ashlyn Gasparas
Laurie Kassen
Romy Richards | 24 Bob Bordak | |





Trinity's Varsity Basketball Home Games:

Friday, February 7 at 4 p.m.
Tuesday, February 11 at 4 p.m.
Friday, February 14 at 4 p.m.
Monday, February 24 at 4 p.m.

No entry fee - Join us for the excitement!



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.®

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Don't lose your 2019 Thrivent Choice Dollars! You must designate your choice by March 31. Designate yours to Trinity today by clicking on the Thrivent logo. Log in to Thrivent.com and scroll down to the Thrivent Choice section.


Please contact Kevin Jensen at 630-607-4049 with question about Choice Dollars or any Thrivent related questions.



2020

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
Meeting areas: <i>(shown in parenthesis)</i> Ch = Church Sanctuary CR = School Conference 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	Altar Guild: Jan Baranek Spring Kneller Kim Valentino Mary Windzio	Ushers: Feb 2 & 9: 8:30 – Group 11:00 – Group Feb 16 & 23: 8:30 – Group 11:00 – Group			1 8:30am Trustees 6:30pm Celebration Service HC
2 The Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord 8:30am HC 9:45am BC & SS 11:00am Cont Worship	3 6:30pm Elders (CR) 6:30pm School Board (SL) 7:00pm Adult Volleyball (G)	4 10:30am Gosp of Mark (CL) 6:30pm Gosp of Mark (CL) 7:00pm Adult Basketball (G) 7:00pm TLC (CL)	5 6:30am Men's BC (CL) 4:45pm Pub. Conf. (CL) 6:30pm Bell Choir (N) 7:30am AA (TFH) 7:30pm Sanct. Choir (Ch)	6 2pm Dismissal 1:00pm Ladies BC (OP) 6:30pm Praise Team (Ch) 6:45pm Fit For Life (SL)		8 8:30am Trustees 6:30pm Celebration Service HC
9 8:30am Worship 9:45am BC & SS 11:00am Contemp. HC 1:00pm Vow Renewal Lyaill 6:30pm Witness Forum (CL) 6:30pm Youth Group Prnt Mtng(YR)	10 6:30pm Ladies Aid (CL) 7:00pm Adult Volleyball (G)	11 10:30am Gosp of Mark (CL) 11am St. Matthews (OP) 7:00pm Adult Basketball (G) 7:00pm TLC (CL)	12 6:30am Men's BC (CL) 1:30pm TLC (CR) 4:45pm Pub. Conf. (CL) 6:30pm Bell Choir (N) 7:30am AA (TFH) 7:30pm Sanct. Choir (Ch)	13 10:30am Holy Folders (CR) 1:00pm Ladies BC (OP) 4:30pm TLC Wendte (CR) 6:30pm Praise Team (Ch) 6:45pm Fit For Life (SL)	14 12:00pm TORCH DEADLINE	15 8:30am Trustees 6:30pm Celebration Service HC
16 8:30am HC 9:45am BC & SS 11:00am Cont Worship 6:30pm Open Youth Room (YR)	17  No School/Offices Closed 7:00pm Adult Volleyball (G)	18 6:30pm Gosp of Mark (CL) 7:00pm Adult Basketball (G) 7:00pm TLC (CL)	19 6:30am Men's BC (CL) 4:45pm Pub. Conf. (CL) 6:30pm Bell Choir (N) 7:30am AA (TFH) 7:30pm Sanct. Choir (Ch)	20 11:30am JOY Club (TFH) 1:00pm Ladies BC (OP) 6:30pm Praise Team (Ch) 6:45pm Fit For Life (SL)	21	22 8:30am Trustees 6:30pm Celebration Service HC
23 8:30am Worship 9:45am Altar Guild (TFH) 9:45am BC & SS 11:00am Contemp. HC 12:00pm Fellowship Luncheon (CL)	24 St. Matthias, Apostle 7:00pm Adult Volleyball (G)	25 10:30am Gosp of Mark (CL) 6:30pm Gosp of Mark (CL) 6:30pm Bell Choir (N) 7:00pm Adult Basketball (G) 7:00pm TLC (CL) 7:30pm Sanct. Choir (Ch)	26 Ash Wednesday 6:30am Men's BC (CL) 10:00am Worship 11:00am Lenten Lunch (CL) 11:45am TLC (CR) 4:45pm Pub. Conf. (CL) 7:00pm Worship 7:30am AA (TFH)	27 1:00pm Ladies BC (OP) 4:30pm TLC Wendte (CR) 6:30pm Praise Team (Ch)	28	29 8:30am Trustees 6:30pm Celebration Service HC