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TrinityHicksville.org

TRINITY LUTHERAN C H U R C H A N D S C H O O L

40 West Nicolai Street, Hicksville, NY 11801

Reverend John Hopkins – Senior Pastor
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The Good News



January 2023

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Worship Schedule

Sundays 9:00am

Traditional

Live Streamed on Facebook

In Person

Sundays 10:45am

Traditional—1st and 3rd Sundays

Contemporary—2nd and 4th Sundays

Sunday School 9:00am



New Year. New Beginnings?

January 1st. New Year's Day. A day people make new resolutions. A day for new beginnings.

Perhaps it is a day to start a new diet? A day to do better or change something in your life that you want to do differently. Have you ever been successful in doing that?

I tried making a new resolution one year. Dieting. Well. That didn't work. It lasted for a while... until the Super Bowl game was played. That has always been a fun day for my family. Didn't matter if my team was in the game or not, it was a game we all would sit down together and enjoy. Really, it was a day for nachos and lots of other appetizer type foods that we don't eat any other time of the year. I thought I could be disciplined and eat just a little. Well, that soon went out the window along with the resolution.

When you break the resolution, do you ask yourself, "Do you wait and try again next year? Or do you try again the next day? Or forget it?"

What if your resolution was about being a better person? Something in yourself that you wanted to change. A better attitude. Trying to control your tongue. Maybe it was about being more faithful in worship and keeping God number one in your life. What do you do then, especially when you break that resolution?

Fortunately, when it comes to our relationship with God, He always has us as His priority. He is always there for us. And when it comes to breaking resolutions, He never does. Just like Scripture says, "Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever." That is a good thing. Because that means that His love for us never changes. His desire to forgive us never changes.

So.... when we break that resolution about being a better servant of God, He always gives us another opportunity to change. The biblical word for that is repent. God's desire for us is to repent whenever we have need to. To change whenever it is appropriate.

Continued...

Pastor Hopkins' Message, continued . . .

Therefore, we don't have to wait until the next New Year or the next day to make a new resolution, we can do it right there on the spot. We ask for forgiveness and we get it, right then. That is the amazing kind of love God has for us. So don't wait to work on that relationship with God. Do it right now. He gives you the opportunity to do it every moment of the day.

Great is God's love for you. It is all about Jesus, He makes it possible to have a New Beginning, every day.

Therefore, don't wait. Do it now. And in the process, you will find that you will indeed have a Happy New Year!

Serving the Lord with you,

Pastor Hopkins



To our Trinity Family,

Our prayer for you this day is that God continues to bless you every day throughout the New Year!

From Pastor, Donna and Jacob Hopkins

Proof of Light



On January 6 Christians celebrate Epiphany, when the Magi came to worship baby Jesus. Epiphany, which means an appearance or manifestation, symbolizes the first recognition of the Savior by non-Jews. Because Epiphany also is a reminder that Jesus came as the light of the whole world, its symbols include light, candles and a star.

How did the wise men know — and how do we know — that Jesus is the light of the world? As preacher George Buttrick said, "It would little avail to ask how we know. That would be like asking how we know that Beethoven's 'Hymn to Joy' is joyous. If a man were to say, 'It is not joyous to me,' he would not condemn the music; he would tell only his morbidness. There is no logic to establish an axiom, for an axiom is the basis of all logic; and the soul of Jesus has axiomatic truth. Jesus is light, and there is no proof for light except light itself."

Deacon's Bench

Well, here we are in a brand-new year - 2023! Christmas, 2022, is behind us. All the lights, the opening of presents, family gatherings, Christmas church services, are all just a beautiful memory. But I hope we haven't already forgotten the reason for the season: Jesus. We need to keep Him in our hearts all year round - not just at Christmas, but every day! We need to share Him with those who don't know Him - people who didn't have a Christmas. There *are* people who don't know Jesus, people who desperately need a Savior, people who feel they have no hope. Do you have a testimony you can share with someone who needs God's loving Grace in their lives?

There's a song, "My Jesus," by Anne Wilson, that really says it all for me. I was once in this dark place and my Jesus saved me! Here are the lyrics:

... Are you past the point of weary?
Is your burden weighin' heavy?
Is it all too much to carry?
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus

Do you feel that empty feeling?
'Cause shame's done all its stealin'
And you're desperate for some healin'
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus

... Who can wipe away the tears
From broken dreams and wasted years
And tell the past to disappear? Oh
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus

And all the wrong turns that you would
Go and undo if you could
Who can work it all for your good
Let me tell you about my Jesus

... Who would take my cross to Calvary?
Pay the price for all my guilty?
Who would care that much about me?
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus, oh

... He makes a way where there ain't no way
Rises up from an empty grave
Ain't no sinner that He can't save
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus

His love is strong and His grace is free
And the good news is I know that He
Can do for you what He's done for me
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus
And let my Jesus change your life
... Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah, amen **Amen**
Let my Jesus change your life

He changed my life! And I know He changed yours too! So, in this New Year share what He has done for you with someone who needs to hear the wonderful story of God's salvation through Jesus!. Share the love of God and say: "Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus and let my Jesus change your life!"

Have a Happy and Blessed New Year! *Deacon Betsy*



Your Deacons

Doug Brosky

Anthony Cavaliere

Betsy Lazarek

Peg Ruhs

Lynn Waldeck

January 1 - A Service of Lessons and Carols

How can we possibly sing all of those wonderful Christmas hymns, when there are only twelve days to sing them, and only two of those days are Sundays? As Lutherans we want to keep singing, it is our tradition, how else can we continue to celebrate the Incarnation in song? Well, that's easy, Lessons and Carols of course!



On January 1, in place of our regular communion service, we will have a single service of Lessons and Carols, which will trace the saving power of God's promise of redemption from the Old Testament prophecies through the Christmas story.

What exactly is a Lessons and Carols service? There is actually a specific format for this service of nine lessons, and a history to the service. It began in the late 1800's in England where the Right Reverend Edward White Benson, Bishop of Truro, held the first service of lessons and carols on Christmas Eve in 1880. He was concerned about the amount of alcohol consumed in the local pubs and wanted to give the people an alternative to spending Christmas Eve in the pub.

Singing carols in church at the time was something of a new idea, Christmas music was separated into hymns, which were acceptable in church, and carols, which had a more secular nature, which were not permitted in church. As the line between what is a hymn and what is a carol became more obscure, carols were permitted in worship around this time. Even though the idea had been around, the traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols gained its popularity in the format used by King's College in Cambridge. The Rev. Eric Milner-White, chaplain of the college, was just back from a military chaplaincy during World War 1 in 1918. The savagery of the war, and what he had seen, affected him deeply. He wanted to establish a special Christmas gift for the city of Cambridge, where they could mourn the loss of the young men killed or injured in the war, and also to establish a service where the simple beauty of Christmas could shine through and attract those who may have lost their faith by either serving in the war, or seeing the atrocities of it.

Going back to the order of service first done in Truro, Rev. White established the service that we will use on January 1. The service is beautiful in its simplicity, it is done without sermon, or communion. The traditional nine lessons begin in Genesis and trace God's promises to his people; the lessons take us through the Annunciation by Gabriel to Mary, and then the Christmas story, complete with Wise Men. It ends with John's wonderful prologue to his Gospel.

The King's service is usually done with choir singing anthems as well as some congregational hymns/carols. On January 1, we will all be the choir as each lesson comes with a carol that ties in to it. It has been said that the simplicity of this service reminds us that no matter how much humans can mess up the world, God has a plan of redemption for it.

In Cambridge, the chance to see this service in person is very difficult, people have been known to sleep overnight outside waiting for a chance to get in. Though the thought of having a line to get into church is nice, you do not need to reserve a seat to sing all of your favorite Christmas hymns and carols. For those curious about the King's College service, here is a link to the complete 1992 service, others may be found on YouTube as well.

<https://youtu.be/hNg6Nv1Ey8Y>

Henry DeVries,
Minister of Music

From the Board of Outreach



It's almost three years when the pandemic rules forced us to keep our distance, and our church service was streamed live over the Internet. Only our intrepid Pastor, his loving family, and our stouthearted organist were present in the church building. Several weeks later, when we did meet in person, church fellowship was quite less than ideal.

One aspect of fellowship that disappeared was our Coffee Hour. But now it is up and back in full swing. Different ministries and church boards as well as families, opt to host this vital aspect of our congregational life. Yes, coffee hour. It is a significant part of church fellowship. While we all gather at the table of the Lord to share in a common meal, the body and blood of Jesus, coffee hour continues and enhances that fellowship. It is also a great time to welcome and greet new visitors and old friends.

The church coffee hour is a venue for the Holy Spirit to work. Coffee hour is more than small talk. Sure, on the surface the conversation may appear to be of the cocktail-party-type, including, unfortunately, gossip, but generally there is a lot more going on. Congregants are spiritually nourishing one another with words of prayer, consolation, and encouragement. One of the most encouraging things is just being present, being there. It uplifts our spirits which tend to sag in the midst of our troubled world.

And let us not forget that the coffee hour is a means of outreach, a time to greet new comers and visitors and make them feel welcome. When my wife and I first began attending Trinity 10 years ago, we felt like outsiders. Until John and Nancy Haines invited us to coffee hour. We sat and talked for what seemed like an hour, asking and answering questions, learning the basics about the beliefs and life of the church. Because of their kindness we stayed and became members. We must extend that kindness to our visitors so that they may experience the love and kindness of Jesus through us.

So come to coffee hour and be blessed and be a blessing!

Deacon Anthony Cavaliere

Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year ♪ Happy New Year

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

Newsletter submissions and articles for the February 2023 edition of *The Good News* are due to the church office by noon on
Tuesday, January 24, 2023.

Thank you!

From the Board of Stewardship

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

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

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

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

The Lord will both supply and increase what we need to give to the church for its work. This work God does in us will enrich and bless us in every way. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help take stock of our giving in years past and change what needs to be adjusted, improved, or done away with altogether.

First, we should attend the Divine Service to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. If we've not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God's Word, to receive forgiveness and feast on the rich food of our Lord's body and blood for the eternal benefit of our body and soul, we need to repent and come receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn't want our money. He wants us.

Second, pray for the Lord's help. Our right as a Christian is to speak with our Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully.

Third, consider what the church is and does. The church is a place of mercy. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward neighbors. Each of us is a member of the church, of God's family. Thus, we are not only recipients of God's mercy, but bearers of that mercy. We spread mercy through the generous giving of our income to support the work of the church in the world.

Fourth, take stock of our current giving in light of the New Testament's teaching on supporting the work of the church. Are we giving our first fruits, or does God get what's left over? Are we giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are we giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, or ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church's work. Are we relying on God's promise to provide and increase what we need to do His work? If not, we need to repent. If God gave us His only Son, will He not provide us all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it.

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

Deacon Anthony Cavaliere

A Word from the Principal



It is hard to believe that the New Year is upon us. As we begin 2023, we have a number of exciting new afterschool activities planned for our K to grade 8 students. Beginning in January, students in grades K to 5 will have the opportunity to partner with the Long Island STEAM group (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math). They deliver unique hand-on science experiences for children. Their science programs are as entertaining as they are educational.

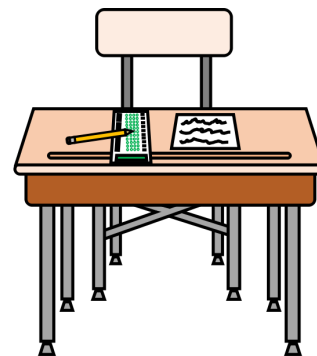
Additionally, our middle school dance team begins their season in January as well. Students will learn different styles of dance, as well as how to choreograph routines.

Students in grades 1 to 8 will also be taking the Terra Nova exams during the week of January 16. This assessment tool will help us to better serve our students, allowing us to see their strengths and weaknesses. This will help us to better shape our curriculum to meet their needs.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year!

In His Service,

Mrs. Jennifer Forte
Principal



Early Childhood Center Update

Happy New Year! Trinity's ECC is excited for the second half of the school year. We finished up 2022 with three very successful Christmas programs. The children sang songs and spent time with Santa. Each child got a wonderful gift from Santa, made Christmas crafts with their family members, and enjoyed cake. We were excited to welcome parents into the school to share in this joyous time. We are excited for all the upcoming events that ECC has in store for this new year!

Blessings,

Seleena Seemangal
ECC Director

Happy New Year!



Trinity Lutheran School's Early Childhood Center's Christmas Program December 2022

LWML News



Hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year! Now back to work for 2023 ...

For the meeting coming up on January 16, LWML will be collecting layette items for Uniondale and Appalachia as we've been doing for years. All these items are so greatly appreciated by those new moms in need. We are blessed with much but so many of our neighbors are in need of basics for their little ones, precious in the eyes of our Lord.

Items: Baby clothing 3-6 months and 6-24 months new or gently used. Sleepers with feet, onesies, 2 piece pant sets, socks, sweaters, hats, mittens, stretchies with feet, baby towels, quilts, small stuffed animals, bottles, dishes and feeding utensils. I am mentioning sizes 3-6 months and 6-24 months specifically since these places are in need of a variety of layette sizes. Especially needed are quilts, sweaters and hats.

A big thank you to everyone who donated for the veteran's collection and to the 80th LWML Anniversary sock collection! During our monthly meeting held on November 21, we collected 178 pairs of men's and ladies socks, well exceeding our goal of 80 pairs, as well as assorted items for the veterans. 100 pairs of socks were delivered to the Mary Brennan Inn in Hempstead in December and the rest of the socks and other items collected for the veterans were delivered to the Veterans Medical Center in Northport.

I want to give you an update of our recent fundraising efforts now that we have some final figures. The Bake-less Cake Sale that started in September raised \$1,198.00 this year. Thank you to Dolores Sartor for spearheading this Bake-less Cake Sale fundraiser!

We've collected \$551.00 in mites for November. The mites collected are from our LWML Sunday push and the regular mites from our members. Thank you to everyone who gave so generously!

Save the date for the LWML Bi-annual National Convention to be held this year in Milwaukee, WI on June 22 to June 25, 2023. The theme is "Celebrate the Lord of Nations." Details will follow when available.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that the LWML is continually collecting cancelled stamps. There is a box on the table in the Narthex labeled for this. Stamps are to be trimmed to leave about 1/8" of the envelope. No bell or flag stamps please, since those don't have much value for collectors. Funds from sold stamps will go to the Interpreter's Fund for the Deaf AD LWML.

Blessings,

Helen Peter

Trinity LWML President



Comfort Dog Ministry



Thank you to all of the bakers and Santa's helpers for making our annual Cookie Walk successful! There were delicious cookies and treats to satisfy almost anyone's sweet tooth. Thank you for baking and thank you for buying!



On December 3, Beloved enjoyed having Breakfast with Santa hosted by the school, while Abraham attended "Shop with a Cop," thanks to an invitation by Project Thank a Cop. Agencies from all over Long Island and New York City were in attendance.

On December 17, the Comfort Dog Ministry invited the congregation to join them in the humbling event of laying wreaths at Pinelawn National Cemetery for the *Wreaths Across America* event.



On December 20, Abraham was supposed to have surgery to repair a torn ACL on his left hind leg. However, a rash infection on his skin that was discovered when they shaved him in preparation. It's in the area of the surgery so to minimize risk of further infection they stopped. He will be on some pretty strong antibiotics and the surgery is now rescheduled for January 2. The recovery time will be 3 months. In that time, Beloved will be filling in on Abraham's regular visits. Fortunately, timing couldn't be better as this time of year visits tend to slow down. We have heard several positive comments about the surgeon we are using, so Abraham is in good hands.

The Comfort Dog Ministry wishes all of you a blessed New Year!

