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CHURCH  
516.931.2225  
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

Pastoral Vacancy  
Jennifer Forte – Principal   Seleena Seemangal – ECC Director



EST. 1954

SCHOOL  
516.931.2211  
TrinityLI.org

## ***The Good News***



**September 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



It's already September. Seems like this year is just flying by. The Deacons have been hard at work over the past summer, especially visiting the homebound and the sick, praying for them and bringing them communion. This fall we will resume teaching Sunday school and leading Bible studies. We ask you all to bring your children, grandchildren, and your neighbors children and grandchildren to church. And your neighbors too!



They all need to be blessed by the grace of our Lord Jesus who desires that all should come to faith in Him. This world needs Him so desperately.

We also ask for your prayers for Trinity Lutheran School, for our teachers, administrators, and students and their families. Trinity Lutheran School still stands as a place where children can be taught the truth about the world from the perspective of God's Word.

*Father, we pray that each child be surrounded by the full armor of God as he or she walks through the doors of school each day. We pray that they are kept safe from all danger. Please keep them safe from temptation and harm and always bring them home at the end of each day. Father, may Your kingdom come. From the students of our school, raise up a generation of believers who worship you in spirit and in truth. In Jesus Name, Amen.*

*Deacon Anthony Cavaliere*

### ***Your Deacons***

**Anthony Cavaliere**

**Betsy Lazarek**

**Donna Haines, Deacon in Training**

**Peg Ruhs**

**Lynn Waldeck**

## Minister of Music



With Covid now hopefully in the rear view mirror, I would like to get all of our choirs back up and running again. Except for Trinity Choir, start dates are still to be determined. We are trying to get enough interest in the Sounds of Praise and Trinity Handbell Choir to get things started up again. There will be a sign up for choirs in the bulletin in September, please fill it out for Sounds of Praise and Trinity Handbell Choir. If you haven't sung before but have an interest in the Trinity Choir please also fill out the form. All are welcome, please contact our Minister of Music, Henry DeVries, [hdevries@trinityhicksville.org](mailto:hdevries@trinityhicksville.org) or call him at the church number, (516) 931-2225, ext. 216 to get more information, or if you have questions.



Trinity Choir - Thursday, September 14, 8:00 pm – 9:30 pm  
Sounds of Praise (grades 2-8), 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm Thursday, start date TBA  
Trinity Handbell Choir, (Adult), 6:45 pm – 8:00 pm, start date TBA

Henry DeVries  
*Minister of Music*

## Trinity Youth Group

Trinity Youth Group 2.0 - More Faith, More Fun!



Trinity's youth groups are in full swing!

VOTY - ages 1<sup>st</sup> grade to 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Youth - ages 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade

Upcoming Events—Mark your Calendars!

Laser Tag - Sunday, September 17 from 12:30p - 2:30p

Helping Hands Sunday - Sunday, October 22 from 1:00p - 3:00p

Scavenger Hunt and Game Afternoon - Sunday, November 12 from 2:00p-4:00p

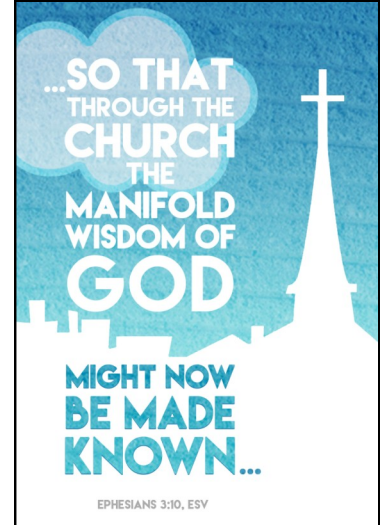
Lighting of the Courtyard Christmas Tree - Sunday December 3 from 4:00p-5:30p

Remember to check church bulletins, the Youth Board in the hallway and your emails to know what events are coming up! Contact Karen at [kapgar@trinityhicksville.org](mailto:kapgar@trinityhicksville.org) if you have any questions.

## ***From the Board of Outreach***

***"Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.'"*** (Mark 1:14)

These days, in the aftermath of pandemic and social distancing, many people have forgotten that the church of Jesus Christ is a sanctuary of hope and safety, as well as God's Kingdom on earth. The church is the only place we can go to find the real truth and encouragement that we need to endure and prevail through these chaotic times. This chaos results from identity politics as well the governmental fiats that sought to control the extent of the pandemic. This chaos is made even worse by the millions of self-proclaimed experts who inhabit social and broadcast media, all claiming to be right, all infallible authorities on all sorts of topics with conclusive answers to the nation's and the world's problems as well as the means to achieve happiness and unity. And yet, these self-proclaimed authorities have rejected the church, the repository of God's Word and Truth. They have disparaged God's Word and dismissed it as ludicrous and obsolete.



But the Church is the Temple of the Lord, a refuge and shelter from the storms and cares of life, as well as from a culture that has grown increasingly worldly, selfish, immoral, and violent. It is in church, in the assembly of believers, not the media, the marketplace, the public square, or academia that we meet with God by His Spirit, in His word, the sacrament of the altar, and the fellowship of the saints. Here we receive God's mercy. He forgives us our sins. Here we receive truth, strength, and hope to sustain us as we daily interact with this immoral and chaotic world.

The church should also be a sanctuary of mercy and hope to unbelievers as well. We are Christ's ambassadors, called to minister in the midst of an alien world for the interests of the Kingdom of God. We are to minister to the needs of the lost with what we received from our Lord. God is just and holy. He must punish sin. Yet God loves to extend mercy to people who do not deserve it. God Himself suffered the punishment for sin in the person of Jesus on the cross. He took our place because we human beings could never become righteous by our actions or deeds. All have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. God's love and compassion made up for our helplessness. So we ought to preach the gospel with an attitude of joy and thanksgiving as God uses us as His instruments of mercy.

*Deacon Anthony Cavaliere*

**NewsLetter**  
**DEADLine**

Newsletter submissions and articles for the October 2023 edition of *The Good News* are due to the church office by noon on **Monday, September 25, 2023.**

**Thank you!**

## Stewardship in the First Commandment

The greatest gift that Martin Luther gave to us was his Small Catechism. The word “enchiridion” is part of the original title of this work. This is the Greek word for “handbook.” The Small Catechism is a handbook of the Bible. All the basic knowledge that a Christian needs to understand the faith and live a godly life has been taken from the Bible and distilled into this beautiful little book of Christian piety.



Luther starts with the Ten Commandments.

The First Commandment: You shall have no other gods.

*What does this mean?* We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things. (SC I)

We have a God above us. He is the Lord God and we are not. He is Almighty and in control. He is righteous and good. And therefore, we should fear Him.

This God is our heavenly Father. He wants us to be saved. He does not want us to suffer His just wrath. He has provided salvation for us in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Our heavenly Father will never leave us nor forsake us. He has promised as much, and the Bible shows us that He always keeps His promises. So, we should trust Him.

In the Large Catechism, Luther explains how money and possessions form one of the greatest temptations against the First Commandment:

Many a one thinks that he has God and everything in abundance when he has money and possessions; he trusts in them and boasts of them with such firmness and assurance as to care for no one. Such a man also has a god, Mammon by name, money and possessions, on which he sets all his heart, and which is also the most common idol on earth. He who has money and possessions feels secure, and is joyful and undismayed as though he were sitting in the midst of Paradise. On the other hand, he who has none doubts and is despondent, as though he knew of no God. For very few are to be found who are of good cheer, and who neither mourn nor complain if they have not Mammon. This care and desire for money sticks and clings to our nature, even to the grave. (LC I 5–9)

These words of Luther should call us to repentance; sometimes, we live and act like we don't have a Father in heaven. We seek our comfort and peace outside of His gracious promises. But we do have a Father in heaven. He does love us. All His promises are true. And the Lord will surely provide. If that is our belief, then our outward lives will reflect our belief in our acts of generosity and mercy. We will see money and possessions not as gods but rather as tools for doing God's work.



Trinity Lutheran School is seeking a part time worker to assist with our after school program, PLUS (playing and learning under supervision). Duties include helping with homework, giving out snacks, supervising children during games and playtime. The hours are from 3:00pm to 6:00pm, Monday through Friday. Days are flexible. If interested please email Jennifer Forte at [jforte@trinityli.org](mailto:jforte@trinityli.org).



## ***Trinity Lutheran School News***

Dear Trinity Families,

This year we are excited to be celebrating our 70<sup>th</sup> year of providing Christian education to our families. Our Bible verse for the upcoming school year is from Ephesians 4:32. "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." This is a perfect verse to remind us all of how the Lord wants us to live our lives, with Him at the forefront of all we do. We have a number of events planned, starting with our annual church and school BBQ on August 31 at 5:00 PM. Throughout the school year we will also be creating a time capsule, creating a pollinator garden, and a school mural to commemorate our 70<sup>th</sup> year.

# BACK to SCHOOL



We are also finalizing new programs that we will be instituting next year to further enhance our students' learning experiences at Trinity. First, we will be expanding our band program. It will now be mandatory for all students in grades 3 to 8 to participate in instrumental lessons. Second, we will be creating a STEAM lab on our lower level. Here students will participate in a week-long STEAM, hands-on lab to further build on their knowledge of science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math. Each week different grade levels will have the opportunity to participate in these activities which will further diversify our academic offerings. We look forward to instituting these two new initiatives for our students in September.

In His Service,

Jennifer Forte  
*Principal*

## ***Early Childhood Center Update***

### **Greetings and Welcome Back to School!**

The Early Childhood Center teachers and staff are getting ready to welcome all the little children to Trinity for another great year of Preschool, Nursery school, and Toddler school. We look forward to seeing all the happy faces, filling our halls with joyful laughter, and welcoming into our classrooms very curious minds.

Trinity is blessed to have many dedicated staff members who go above and beyond each day for the children and families we serve. This year we are excited to introduce our first five day a week Toddler Half Day Program. We have wonderful activities planned for the children as we teach them about the love of Jesus and the skills they need to prepare for the future. We wish all the students and families a wonderful and joyous 2023-2024 school year!

Blessings,

Mrs. Seemangal  
*Director, Early Childhood Center*



## ***Additional TLS News***



Greetings Trinity Families,

We hope you are all enjoying a wonderful summer. Some of you may remember some of the upcoming plans that were shared prior to the end of the school year. We've been hard at work and wanted to provide an update on some of those plans.

We're very excited to say that the outdoor seating area that we began fundraising for with the hoodie sales in September has been completed. We have four extra large picnic tables under a beautiful sail cloth canopy for the students to enjoy.

Our Steam lab is still undergoing some changes but the room is starting to come together. We're all looking forward to seeing the hands-on learning projects that our students will be able to dive into in this new space.

We hope you enjoy the rest of the summer and look forward to seeing you at the start of school.

~The Trinity Team



"WHERE CHRISTIAN VALUES AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE PREPARE CHILDREN, MOTIVATED BY THEIR FAITH AND LOVE  
OF CHRIST TO LIVE PRODUCTIVE LIVES IN SERVICE TO OTHERS."

## ***Sunday School News***

**Calling All Christ's Kids!** Do you know anyone from 3 years old - 5th grade? Then you know someone we want to welcome to our Sunday morning program Christ's Kids. Beginning September 17 at the 9:00am liturgy, children will be invited to leave with our teachers following the Prayer of the Day to hear more about God's word with age appropriate activities. No registration necessary. For more info contact Roberta O'Connor - [rjoc3255@gmail.com](mailto:rjoc3255@gmail.com) 516 359 8783.



Hope everyone had a wonderful and fun summer. Here is a short list of the events to come:

Our annual garage sale is scheduled for September 9 from 9am-3pm to be held at Helen's house at 33 Winding Road, Hicksville. Hope to see you there!

The monthly meetings in the YSR resume on September 18, beginning at 10:00am. Jane Kramer will be reporting on the National Convention which she attended at the end of June in Milwaukee. There will be an evening meeting at Helen's for those wishing to meet at night.

Notices for the Bake-less Cake Sale Fundraiser will be going out in September. Please be on the look-out for that.

LWML Sunday will be held on October 8.

Fall Rally at the Life Church will be October 7. Services will be led by Pastor Vertrano. Details to follow.

And the Fall Tuscarora retreat will be from October 13-15. Registration will begin September 1. Call Helen Peter at 516-938-6914 for details and paperwork.

As a heads-up, we will be taking up a collection for the veterans for our October 16 meeting. The items for the Veterans Collection should be in by October 15. Bins will be setup for that. Here is a list of items that we will be collecting for:

Dove liquid soap, hair brushes and combs, shaving cream, Quad track razors, toothbrushes, shampoo-trial size, men's T-shirts-lg/xlg/2xl, sanitary napkins, small notepads, Stop & Shop food gift cards, unscented lotion, deodorant-med size, nail clippers-large and small, toothpaste-med size, denture adhesive and cleanser, men's underwear lg/xlg/2xl, women's underwear, ladies slippers, socks, and postage stamps.

Blessings,

Helen Peter  
*Trinity LWML President*



The Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study will resume on September 12 at 3:30pm in the Stammel Center. This study will be on the book of Acts. All are welcome! Contact Deacon Anthony at [acavaliere@trinityhicksville.org](mailto:acavaliere@trinityhicksville.org) for more details or if you have questions.

The Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study Group will begin meeting on Wednesday, September 13 at 9:30am in the Stammel Center, the week after school starts. If you are interested please call: Dolores Entenmann at 516-735-1508. We look forward to hearing from you! As we grow in His Word on our journey, won't you please join us?

The Tuesday Evening Ladies Zoom Bible Study will be starting up on Tuesday, September 19 at 7:00pm. For more information, please contact Linda at 516-987-8852.



# Comfort Dog Ministry



National Night Out



With Pastor Hopkins and Lizzie at the  
LCC K-9 Ministries National Conference



Abraham and Beloved  
for National Dog Day!



All together for a  
Pastor Installation







**UPDATE FOR August 2023**  
NOW WITH SECURE, VIRTUAL COUNSELING  
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Prepared especially for LCC Congregations & Schools

### LIFE TRANSITIONS: 'EMPTY NEST' REFLECTIONS

*By Dr. Elizabeth Geiling*



My heart is heavy tonight and sleep is not likely to happen. I used to sit in this room in the wee hours of the night to comfort and feed crying babies. It seems like yesterday. In a few short hours, we pack up the car and bring our fourth and last child to college. You see, she is our family's true baby. She is gentle and sweet and oh, so pretty. She has a nice way about her and I will miss her energy in the house. As the youngest, she went along for the ride more times than I care to admit. She was parented and loved by all and learned too early that the world didn't revolve around her.

When my children were little I used to tell them if they got lost to find a mommy with a stroller and she will help you find me. Over the years, "Find the mommies" has become a joke, a parting line at the airport. Nonetheless, in my opinion, this still remains solid advice.

For the first time in 24 years, I won't be involved in the day to day operation of any child's life. Did she eat? What time will he be home? Is there a big assignment coming up? Does she have clean laundry? Did we print that permission slip? This part of parenting is over – never to happen again for me or my children. How did I arrive here? I imagined myself a young, vibrant mother forever.

Is she ready for college? Did I forget to tell her anything important? Was our home a good enough launching pad for her to accomplish her dreams? What will stand in her way? I have lived this night 3 times before. The parental self – evaluations are brutal. By October, they gradually shift to the feeling that we can manage this transition. But, as they go, there is always a lingering sense of regret.

Parenting is filled with "if only ..."

Remember, this is my fourth child going to college. I have no illusions about the herculean parenting task that lies ahead of me. I will be needed, and needed in ways that will stretch my person and parenting skills to the breaking point. Big kids, big problems, no doubt, no kidding.

College is the parenting version of planned obsolescence. Some features of the day to day parenting tasks disappear completely to make room for the parenting upgrade required to navigate the young adult years.

As she leaves our house, my advice remains the same, "when you are lost, find the mommies and they will bring you to me." I am here, always. But beginning tomorrow, the mommies she encounters will have a new role. In most situations, they will not bring her back to me, but away from me. There will be new mentors that will help us separate and change the course of her life in ways that we can only imagine. Another day, another week, another month, I will have the words and perspective to sugar coat this. But, not today.

It is morning now and some are waking to load the car. It is time to go.

*Elizabeth Geiling PhD, LMHC, LPC, Her work experience includes counseling for college, community and school related concerns for individuals or groups. Her counseling practice includes early childhood, adolescents, early, middle and late adulthood, and couples. Call the Lutheran Counseling Center at 516-741-0994 or 1-800-317-1173 or e-mail us at [Center@lccny.org](mailto:Center@lccny.org) for more information or to set an appointment.*



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### EMPOWERED!

**by Rev. David Elseroad, D.Min., LMFT, Pastoral Psychotherapist**



It's September, and students of all ages are headed back to school, preschool on up to graduate school, as well as night classes and self-improvement courses, too. Many will also begin or continue their "schooling" in therapy. Therapy (or talk therapy or counseling) can perhaps best be understood as education, a learning about one's self. If education, a quest for knowledge and skills so central to life today, is also a quest to know the self, so, too, is therapy, in a much more focused and intentional way.

People come to therapy with all sorts of concerns—anxiety, depression, anger, relational and family issues, mood swings, addictive behaviors and many others. But as these concerns are discussed, the individual's sense of self that underlies them emerges—a self that is invariably barely known, or denigrated or dismissed, or kept hidden away. You may discover that you don't really know yourself, or that you don't really like yourself, or that you don't have much confidence in yourself. Many a client complains of being "stuck," going around in circles and getting nowhere, of not being heard or heeded, of not accomplishing anything, of not living the life that they want.

Personal empowerment begins with the self. At its most basic, empowerment means "becoming powerful." Everyone has strengths and weaknesses (aka "growing edges") and a range of skills used in everyday situations, but often people remain unaware of, or undervalue, their self and its abilities. Empowerment is about looking at who you are and becoming more aware of yourself as a unique individual. It involves developing the confidence and strength to set realistic goals and pursue them with determination. As we discover and reflect on our values, skills and goals in our counseling conversations, and as we adjust our behaviors in order to achieve our goals, we grow in self-awareness, self-esteem and self-confidence. We get "unstuck" and "get somewhere"!

Being "enabled" involves outside control; it is the antithesis of "empowered." It is true that a newborn baby can only be enabled to survive. But the wise parent brings a child from a place of enablement into maturity as an empowered human being. Empowered people are able to care for themselves in relational community; are aware of self and others; create their own goals; want to change and believe they can; and act on choices freely made with all the consequences, risks and rewards that follow. "You will receive power..." (Acts 1:8) is a promise from God that we can embrace. Knowing ourselves free and valued before God, and through the special "education" that therapy avails, we can say with St. Paul, "I can do all things through Christ who empowers (strengthens) me" (Philippians 4:13). On that empowerment ladder, whatever our goal, we'll own it, initiate it, build it, maintain it and grow it!

*Rev. Dr. David Elseroad is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with LCC. He sees couples, as well as teens, adults and families, at LCC's Manhattan, Bronxville and Mineola. Contact Lutheran Counseling Center at 516-741-0994 or 1-800-317-1173 to set up an appointment, or visit us at <https://www.LCCNY.org> for more information or to set an appointment.*