



EST. 1850

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



December 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



As the only male Deacon here at Trinity, I, Anthony, have been given many responsibilities in this time of our pastoral vacancy. The major role I have assumed is that of visiting our shut-ins and administering communion to them. I am accompanied by another person, usually Linda Hoeberlein or one of our other deacons, Betsy Lazarek or Lynn Waldeck and sometimes by our deacon-in-training Donna Haines.



I find this task quite a blessing. I get to pray and to administer the sacrament. In addition, to having long conversations with our shut-ins. Sometimes I learn things about Trinity and past pastors and members that I had not know.

I like to think these visits are all divine appointments arranged by the Holy Spirit for the encouragement of the body of Christ. But last month, there was one unscheduled appointment He made that we were unaware of, though ready to handle.

During a visit to one of our sisters at Central Island Rehab, Linda and I got into a discussion with an elderly Jewish man who was there visiting his wife. We felt this interaction was fine since, as we discovered, the poor man must be quite lonely. It turned out, as he told us, that his wife was suffering from dementia. She has been there several months and he has visited her there for several hours each day, every day. He overheard us talking and wanted to share in our conversation. We guessed he has few people to talk with.

Continued...

Your Deacons

Anthony Cavaliere

Betsy Lazarek

Donna Haines, Deacon in Training

Peg Ruhs Lynn Waldeck

Deacon's Bench continued...

Initially, he was out to dazzle us with his credentials and knowledge. He did try to share his knowledge of Christianity which gave us the opportunity to share the Gospel with him, possibly the first time he has heard it in a coherent manner. However, he would have none of it. But at least we planted the seed. The Lord only knows how or if that seed will take root and grow. Please pray for him.

This season of Christmas we have the greatest opportunity to plant such seeds. We have an open opportunity to invite others to church, to learn about the true meaning of Christmas. It's not about Santa Claus, or shopping, or decorations, or even gift giving. It's all about Jesus who came into the world to show us the Father and to die for our sins.

1 Timothy 1:15: *"The saying is trustworthy and worthy of all acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners ..."*

So invite your relatives, neighbors, friends, their children, and even the strangers you meet to come to church to hear the word of truth this Christmas. You may be the Lord's instrument to lead them to faith in Him.

Deacon Anthony Cavaliere

Minister of Music

A Hymn for the Season – "Savior of the Nations, Come" (LSB 332)

The first week in Advent this year falls on December 3. Each year for the first Sunday of Advent, "Savior of the Nations, Come," (LSB#332) has been chosen by the LC-MS as the appointed hymn of the day. This hymn is an ancient hymn, written originally by one of the early church fathers, Ambrose of Milan (c. 339 – 397). Ambrose fought against an early heresy in the church, Arianism, which denied Christ's divinity, claiming Jesus was a creation of the Father, but not one with Him. The council of Nicaea declared this teaching heresy already in 325. Ambrose hymn, *Veni redemptor gentium*, sets forth his beliefs clearly that Jesus "is the Father's Son" and that "God the Father was His Source," preaching Jesus as one with the Father, and both God and man. Ambrose hymns were written to help teach the orthodox Christianity he preached.

Luther translated this hymn faithfully from Latin to German, (*Nun komm der Heiden Heiland* is its title in German, in 1523), adding only the last verse doxology and it appeared in the first Lutheran hymnal in 1524. Luther, a skilled musician, changed a few notes in the original chant tune and made it sing-able to his congregation.

This hymn, one of the great hymns of Advent, has been set in compositions by many composers from the Renaissance up through modern times, even appearing in the movie music for the 1948 film *The Red Shoes*. J.S. Bach, himself used the tune in no less than six of his compositions.

Here is a link to hear the hymn, sung with the congregation, as played by organist David Cherwien at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN.

<https://youtu.be/c-JMrPLQnQI?si=zyKcNw7StcuDrUIc>

Henry DeVries
Minister of Music



From the Board of Outreach

The state of violence and war Israel is probably one of the things many Christians are focused on these days. Many think that a world war focused on Israel is a precursor to the Return of Jesus. We even hear talk about the salvation of Israel as if God had a special plan for the nation of Israel and the Jews apart from the the Church which He indwells.

The Lord's return may indeed be imminent judging on the signs of the times, the chaotic state of social mores, and the widespread disregard for law and order. But it may surprise many Lutherans that we do not subscribe to the evangelical teaching on the salvation of Israel or the rapture. We teach amillenialism not premillennialism. To help us make sense out of world events and focus on God's word, we offer the following link to an article that appeared several years ago in the Lutheran Witness by Pastor Reed Lessing:

<https://witness.lcms.org/2006/whose-land-is-it/>

Here is a quote from that article:

When the New Testament is allowed to interpret the Old Testament, it follows that the 1948 state of Israel is not a prophetic realization of the Messianic kingdom of Jesus Christ. His kingdom is not of this world. (John 18:36). Furthermore, a day should not be anticipated in which Christ's kingdom will manifest Jewish distinctives, whether by its location in the land of Palestine, its capital in Jerusalem, its constituency, or its ceremonial institutions and practices. The Old Testament needs to be viewed in light of Jesus Christ.

For those interested in finding out more, see the LCMS response to the Left Behind series:

<https://files.lcms.org/api/file/preview/D3114ADE-2810-4826-841C-8953CC935AE2>

For those not able to access these files but who would like Anyone who would like to read a printed version of these articles, please contact Deacon Anthony in the Church office.

Deacon Anthony Cavaliere



Board of Youth

Trinity Youth Group 2.0 - More Faith, More Fun!

Get involved with Trinity Youth Group! If you have kids or grandkids - make sure to drop them off at events!

VOTY - ages, grades 1 though 5

JR and SR Youth - Grade 5 and up

If you want to help out or join the Board of Youth - email youth@trinityhicksville.org

Follow us on Instagram @trinityliyouth

Follow on Facebook @Trinity Lutheran Church Youth Group

Remember to check church bulletins, the Youth Board in the hallway and your emails to know what events are coming up! Email youth@trinityhicksville.org if you have any questions.

From the Board of Stewardship

As we enter the season of Advent and approach the end of the year, we ought to consider the importance of corporate Sunday worship. Christ gave up the riches of His heavenly Kingdom to come to earth, take on our sins, a ponderous and odious weight to be sure, and suffer the punishment for them so we might be able to enter the Kingdom of heaven. We who have faith should then be willing to surrender our time and energy for that Kingdom on Sunday rather than let other activities interfere. We need this as this world around us grows more chaotic and sinful.

In the Small Catechism, we find a shortened version of the Third Commandment: “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.” The full version is in Exodus:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Ex. 20:8–11)

Why did Luther shorten this commandment for the Small Catechism? Luther knew that all the details of the Third Commandment were part of the “shadow” of the Old Testament (Col. 2:16). Or as St. Paul puts it, there is “letter” in the Old Testament law and “spirit” (2 Cor. 3:6). The details of not working on Saturday were fulfilled by Christ. That part of the Sabbath regulation no longer applies. But the spirit of the law does remain: We need to dedicate sufficient time each week to hearing God’s Word and giving it honor and respect. Or as Luther sums it up in the Small Catechism: “We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.” We ought, therefore, commit ourselves and our children to joining with the Body of Christ in Sunday worship on a weekly basis.

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

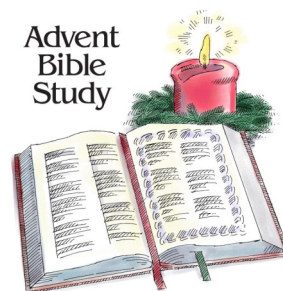
ADVENT DEVOTIONS 2023

A printed Advent devotional booklet is available for the Trinity family located at the church entrances. In addition, the devotions are posted on our website and daily on our Facebook page. You can also click this link to access them:



[Advent Devotions 2023](#)

The devotions are from Lutheran Hour Ministries and they will cover the First Sunday in Advent through Epiphany.



Advent 2023 Bible Study
“Keeping Christ in Christmas”
via Zoom

December 6, 13, 20 at 7:00pm
(Zoom info will be emailed each
Wednesday morning)

Trinity Lutheran School News



Dear Trinity Families,

It is hard to believe that Christmas is right around the corner. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to a number of Christmas events that we have planned. First, our Santa Breakfast will be on Saturday, December 9 from 10:00 to 12:00 noon. Please join us for a delicious pancake breakfast with all the trimmings. There will be games, crafts, and of course a chance to take a picture with Santa himself.

Second, our K to grade 5 students have their Christmas pageant, entitled, "What Child Was This?" on Tuesday, December 12 at 7:00 PM. This will be followed by our grades 4 to 8 instrumental Christmas concert. The children have been working diligently memorizing lines and learning new songs. They would love for you to join the audience and cheer them on. We hope to see everyone there!

In His Service,

Jennifer Forte
Principal



Early Childhood Center Update

It's the most happiness time of the year! ECC is excited for December and all that's in store. We will kick off the month with a tree decorating event where the children bring in an ornament that they made or have from home to decorate our ECC Christmas tree.

We also have a milk and cookies Christmas movie day during our holiday spirit week.

Lastly, we get ready for Christmas with our Toddler Christmas Program on December 15, and our Nursery and Pre-K Christmas Programs on December 18 and 19. The children will celebrate the birth of Jesus as they perform in Chapel and then they get a special surprise visit from Santa! There is so much love and excitement in the air.

From all of us in ECC, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.!

Seleena Seemangal,
ECC Director





Please Join us for



Santa BREAKFAST

DEC. 9TH



10AM - 12PM

Trinity Lutheran
Church and School

\$10 Per person in advance,
\$12 at the door.

Includes Hot Breakfast Buffet, Crafts,
and a Photo with Santa

NAME: _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE: _____ PAYMENT AMOUNT INCLUDED: _____

PAYMENT BY CASH OR CHECK ONLY: \$10 PER PERSON





The LWML Pork Roast Dinner held as a drive-thru on November 11 was a great success. We made 120 dinners and raised \$2,515.00. Thank you all who made donations, purchased meals or helped in our prep and deliveries! It took the help of many folks to get this to go as smoothly as it did. This year the process went off without a hitch! Practice over doing the packing of the meals and the drive-thru and delivery process over several years had really smoothed out the kinks. We couldn't really determine how many meals were given out as donations since some people brought meals to give out to neighbors and friends as well. This is a great source of outreach to our community, sharing the delicious meals and making them aware of Trinity and our programs.

Just a reminder that the Advent Breakfast is being hosted by Trinity this year on December 2. Please contact Helen (516-938-6914) if you wish to attend. No registration fee is involved. Just bring some non-perishable food as the in-gathering for the Blessing Box. The course of the day's activities will be a worship service conducted by Pastor Yee of Glen Cove followed by a light breakfast and a time of fellowship for the ladies. Hope to see many of you there.

The next LWML monthly meeting will be on December 18. All are welcome. We will be having a small Jesus Christmas party in the YSR and donations for the Blessing Box will be appreciated.

The LWML be will hosting the coffee hour on Sunday, January 14, 2024.

Everyone have a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

Blessings,

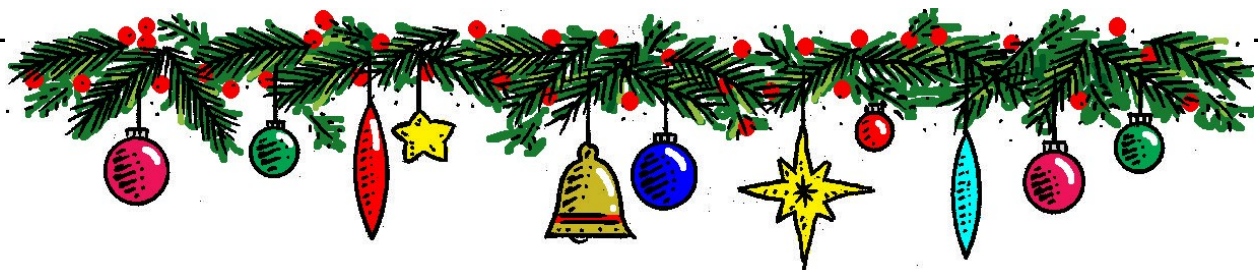
Helen Peter
Trinity LWML President



NewsLetter
DEADLine

Newsletter submissions and articles for the January 2024 edition of *The Good News* are due to the church office by noon on **Thursday, December 21, 2023.**

Thank you!



Comfort Dog Ministry



The Comfort Dog Ministry sponsored Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 28. Thank you to everyone that helped make it a huge success!

The Comfort Dogs are happy to announce the addition of two new handlers to the team: John Quinn will represent the Kare-9 Military Ministry and Tom Kern (Calvary, East Meadow) will represent the K-9 Police Ministry. Both gentlemen, along with Beloved and Laura Stengl, flew to training in Chicago the first weekend of November. This now permits both Beloved and Abraham to be tri-vested and represent all three ministries just in time for many upcoming events.

Upcoming events:

- December 1 - Regional Event with Lily Comfort Dog at Rutgers University
- December 2 - Both dogs go to National Guard Center in Farmingdale at the request of Pastor Travis Yee, who is a reservist and the Chaplain for the Tri-state area.
- December 9 - Shop with a Cop sponsored by Project Thank a Cop from 6:30am - 9am
- December 9 - Regional event - Fantasy Flight sponsored by United Airlines at Newark Airport from 11:30am - 3pm
- December 10 - Cookie Walk/Craft Fair at Trinity between services
- December 10 - Pastor installation at Calvary East Meadow at 3pm
- December 16 - Wreaths Across America at Pinelawn National Cemetery at 11am
- December 21 - Blue Christmas at Trinity Islip

Regular visits include Mill Neck Manor School reading program, Arbors Westbury, Bristol East Meadow, Central Island Rehab center, Alzheimer's Foundation, and Nassau County Day Program.

Donna Haines, Top Dog
Linda Hoeberlein, for Church Council





**Abraham and Beloved Comfort Dogs
invite you to**

A Christmas Cookie Walk and Craft Sale

A Comfort Dog Ministry Fundraiser!



Trinity Lutheran Church and School

**Sunday, December 10, 2023
10:00am – 12:00pm**



**Fancy Christmas
Cookies and Candies**

Wreaths, Homemade Decorations and much more!

Leave your holiday baking to us!
Many different varieties of delicious
homemade cookies and candies
to choose from for only \$10.00/pound!





UPDATE FOR December 2023
NOW WITH SECURE, VIRTUAL COUNSELING
SESSIONS AVAILABLE FOR ANY NEW YORK RESIDENT

Prepared especially for LCC Congregations & Schools



Twelve deep breaths to humble our hearts

By Rev. Forrest Parkinson, LMSW, LP

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. (Luke 1:46-50)

Who wistfully reminisces on the pure and simple memories of childhood Christmas? We recall all the joy and excitement - with a touch of greedy anticipation perhaps? And now, stress, news of war, illness and bereavement are all woven into our experience of the Christmas season. How can we recapture that simple joy when anxious pressure or grief colors our reality? We even dare to ask: Wouldn't our joy deny the suffering in our world? Can we rejoice in a world full of suffering and pain?

The season upon us was likely kicked off by Thanksgiving sermons on the theme "If you want to feel gratitude, give generously because we meet God in the giving and receiving of blessings." We then distract ourselves with the busy-ness of shopping and decorating and parties. While all that has a goodness, there can be emotional flatness, too. Mary's words, from the Magnificat, testify to a wholeness that includes adversity. She was a child of her age, and no doubt felt all the anxiety of the social censure entailed in her pregnancy. Even with the angelic voice echoing, what teenager wouldn't think "My parents will freak! My engagement and wedding day is ruined!" Yet, Mary's words "*myspirit rejoices*" do not deny the trials of life while she simultaneously feels God's "*favor*."

We can take our cue from those Thanksgiving messages by digging deeply into gratitude in our prayer time. Perhaps the classic "gratitude list" is a bit much to manage. As an Advent devotion, can we offer up a few moments quietly taking "twelve deep breaths?"

Each time, as we breathe in, can we search for a blessing?

Before we exhale, can we entertain the mix of feelings that naturally arise as we consider God's favor and humbly allow for the real pain and anxiety?

As we exhale, can we ponder how we might extend our blessing with compassion?

I am grateful for my family. I grieve they are scattered so I will not see grandchildren open their Christmas presents. I will visit a widower who is lonely, too.

To be whole and complete includes the trials of life. Humility is knowing and living life realistically.

Faith is trusting God's love in the mix. Breath in blessing, turn over our troubles to God and exhale compassion. Twelve times. Every day make this your practice.

Our counseling center wishes all the joys of this Christmas season, that you may be whole and complete and though compassionate love, lack in nothing. God is with us!

Rev. Forrest Parkinson, LMSW, LP provides secure telehealth counseling sessions for teens, adults, couples and families. For an appointment, call LCC at 1-800-317-1173 or e-mail us at <https://www.LCCNY.org>.

Misc. Information You Need to Know!



If you wish to sponsor one or more poinsettias to beautify our Sanctuary in celebration of the birth of our Lord, please fill out a memorial envelope, enclose payment and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Or you can email the church office at kmerz@trinityhicksville.org and then PushPay or mail your payment to Trinity. Price for each potted poinsettia is \$20.00 and the deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 17.

It's time to decorate the church for Christmas!

Sunday, December 10
following the 10:45 service

Families are welcome!
Children are welcome!

It will be a great time of fellowship as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior in this festive and enjoyable activity.

Please join us!



CALLING ALL TRINITY YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL GRADUATES!

On Sunday, December 17 the children will be singing a very simple Christmas preparation song at the 9:00am service. We would love to include our middle school graduates. This simple song can be easily learned by attending short rehearsal times, either at 10:10am this Sunday and next or right after the 9:00am service, meeting at the teacher's lounge. We miss you and would love to include you in welcoming Jesus!

Please pick up your 2024 offering envelopes starting December 17 outside the Multi Purpose Room. If you give online you will not get envelopes. Since more people give online we need less boxes of envelopes so you will have a new number for 2024. If yours are missing or you would like a set of envelopes please call Lynn in the church office at extension 230. Thank You!



We Invite You to Worship with Us This Christmas Season!

Advent 2023 Bible Study “Keeping Christ in Christmas” via Zoom
December 6, 13, 20 at 7:00pm

(Zoom info will be emailed each Wednesday morning)

On Tuesday, December 12, Trinity Lutheran School will present their
Christmas Program in the Gym at 7:00 PM.

Regular worship is on Sundays at 9:00 AM and 10:45 AM.
The 9:00 AM service is available live streamed via Facebook.

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

- 9:00 AM Advent 4 Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
6:00 PM Family Christmas Eve Worship Service
8:00 PM Christmas Festival Worship with Holy Communion (In Person and Live Streamed)
(Trinity Choir will be presenting their anthems at the 8:00 PM service)

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

- 10:00 AM Family Christmas Day Communion Service (In Person and Live Streamed)

New Year's Eve, Sunday, December 31

- 9:00 AM Christmas 1 Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
6:30 PM NYE Holy Communion Service (In Person and Live Streamed)

We recognize that this time of year is a very busy time for all of God's people.
We invite you to take a moment in the midst of that busy-ness to
worship God, who gives us every gift.

Come into His Sanctuary, take refuge and rejoice!

