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# TRINITY LUTHERAN

C H U R C H   A N D   S C H O O L

40 West Nicholai Street, Hicksville, NY 11801

Rev. Dr. Johnson E. Rethinasamy, Senior Pastor  
Jennifer Forte – Principal   Seleena Seemangal – ECC Director



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## *The Good News*



**April 2024**

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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



### **The Body of Christ**



Have you ever thought about the phrase “the body of Christ? It can be understood in many ways. The first way that comes to mind is the actual flesh and blood that lived and breathed, walked and talked, laughed and cried, suffered and died, who was named Jesus.

The first man God created was named Adam, which means the man, my image, my likeness. His partner was named Eve, meaning mother, creativity. God created them and said he was extremely pleased. It was good! But God was gravely disappointed one day when Adam and Eve became ashamed of their bodies! God realized that he needed a body, so the Holy Spirit blessed a young virgin and the creative process began to form a body for Him, to be known to the world as Jesus.

Jesus was born, baptized, grew into childhood, then manhood, was tempted, bent with compassion, weary from toil, whipped, bound, spat upon, stripped, naked, crowned with thorns, nailed to a cross, died, then after three days, the body of Christ rose from the dead. This was the physical body of Christ.

A second understanding of the body of Christ is the Eucharist. Jesus said to his disciples, “Take and eat. This is my body.” He distributed the bread to his disciples on Maundy Thursday. The bread is the body of Christ, his resurrected body. The body of Christ is available to us here and now. Christ’s body enters our body so that we become one with the body of Christ.

The third and the standing of the body of Christ, is you, me, everyone who accepts the Lord Jesus, by faith, the body of believers, the church. There is no such thing as an individual Christian. We all are the body of Christ. All of us join together as the body of Christ to worship him and share his love with each other.

*Continued...*

## ***Deacon's Bench continued...***

And so when we hear the phrase “the body of Christ” let us consciously remember and bear the cross on which the body of Christ died for our sins. And remember that we feast on the body of Christ at the Eucharistic table, and become the body of Christ to others here on earth.

*Peggy Ruhs*

### ***Your Deacons***

**Anthony Cavaliere Betsy Lazarek**

**Donna Haines, *Deacon in Training***

**Peg Ruhs Lynn Waldeck**



## ***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 through 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](mailto: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](mailto:youth@trinityhicksville.org) if you have any questions.



**NewsLetter**  
**DEADLINE**

Newsletter submissions and articles for the April 2024 edition of *The Good News* are due to the church office by noon on **Thursday, April 25, 2024.**

**Thank you!**

**The King of Love My Shepherd Is LSB 709**

*What words do you turn to when you look for comfort in the worst moments of life? What hymns sing those words? It is no secret that the words to Psalm 23 are the go to text for people looking for comfort. There is a no more beloved and beautiful setting of those words than Henry W. Baker’s hymn “The King of Love My Shepherd Is,” first published in 1861. It has been sung at the funerals of commoners and princesses (e.g. Princess Diana in 1997). Why is it so popular?*



Hymns are marriages of text and tune and, when done well, they become a united expression of the Biblical Word and the voice of faith. That is truly the case here. In text and music we sing the blessed words that generations have turned to for comfort, encouragement, and hope.

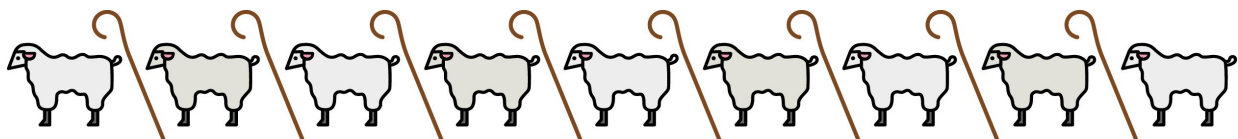
In the first stanza, the initial verse of the psalm, the Shepherd is given a name—the King of Love. The goodness and grace of this loving King never fail us. Where our intentions and works fail miserably, the Word and the promise of the Lord endure forever. Echoing the words of Paul to the Romans—“If God is for us, who can be against us” (8:31b)— the hymn reminds us that our confidence lies not in our good works but in the favor of our good and gracious Lord. With more than a simple paraphrase of the text, Baker amplifies the Biblical image. The quiet waters are filled with His life. The ransomed souls of the baptized children of God are given new birth in this living water and led to the rich pastures of His means of grace (the celestial food being a reference to the heavenly meal of Christ’s body and blood in the Holy Eucharist).

The third stanza became the final words of its author. Here is the core of the Gospel. In foolish rebellion our first parents exchanged the grace of God for an empty moment that hid only death. Yet we have a loving and gentle Good Shepherd who seeks His lost sheep, leaving even the ninety-nine to seek out and restore the one (Luke 15). The familiar stained glass image of Jesus the Good Shepherd carrying the lamb in His arms is here sung with the joyful voices of the lost restored to their eternal home.

In death the only comfort we can know is the presence of Him who died with us and for us but who lives now to lead and guide us to everlasting life. The cross is the staff of the Good Shepherd. The journey to eternity leads us to the Lord’s table, to the healing grace that overflows our cup and fills us with joy even in the midst of sorrow.

The Lord speaks; we listen. And then we respond. For the eternity of the never failing goodness of the Lord we will sing and pray and praise our Good Shepherd—first within the house of the Lord in worship, and then in the eternal dwelling place of God in heaven. We sing this hymn on Sunday, April 21, the Fourth Sunday after Easter, known as Good Shepherd Sunday.

Henry DeVries,  
*Minister of Music*



## *From the Board of Outreach*

### **Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty** by Gregory Seltz

*“Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be prolonged on the land which the LORD your God gives you.*

*“You shall not murder.*

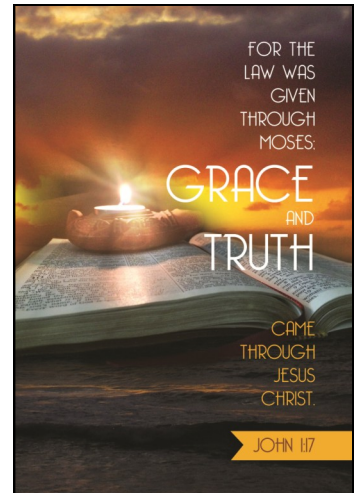
*“You shall not commit adultery.*

*“You shall not steal.<sup>16</sup> “You shall no give false testimony against your neighbor.*

*“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male slave, or his female slave, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”*

#### **WHEN DID GOD’S LAW BECOME MERE OPINION?**

When did greed, coveting, promiscuity, character assassination, violence, and intimidation become our “cultural values?” When did things like these even become entertaining to some? When did “virtue” become such a dirty word? Indeed, it seems that all too often vices have become virtues and virtues have been turned into vices. I realize that all of us are sinful and broken. I also know that it’s hard to have these conversations because the finger points back at each one of us. Furthermore, we must all admit that even our best efforts at living morally and virtuously fall short, often when we needed to be at our best. But all of that is not the same as saying that it doesn’t matter how we live. Admitting that we all fall short in living out our virtues is not the same thing as suggesting that virtue no longer matters! And the notion that the Laws of God, which are rooted in the reality of His creating and ordering of life for us, are outdated or unnecessary for our well-being, is both personally and culturally dangerous.



Amidst all of our present-day rationalizations, here’s a truth from Proverbs 6:16-19:

*There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.*

Godly virtue opposes all of these and a healthy society seeks to mitigate the worst abuses of them. But no society which celebrates what God detests can long endure. Lust, gluttony, greed, sloth (Does anyone even worry about being lazy today?), unrighteous wrath (Just because you are angry doesn’t mean you’re right!), envy, and pride not only undermine your life and mine, they can even undermine a nation.

It also doesn’t matter whether politicians or societal powerbrokers deem such things acceptable. No matter what the leaders of the day think or what popular opinion promotes, God’s Word and God’s ways will always prevail in the end. Jesus puts all of this in context when He says this to Pontius Pilate about the limits of earthly power, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above” (John 19:11).

Whatever is going on in your life, whatever seems to be going on in our communities or even our culture, remember that all things are ultimately in God’s hands. So let’s be committed to others in the communities in which we live. For the sake of the culture in which we reside, let us boldly proclaim the whole counsel of God, both His “No” and His “Yes,” for all of our good. God’s Law wasn’t mere opinion when he gave it to Israel, as in today’s reading from Exodus, and it isn’t now. For all who take it seriously, who are broken by its enduring truth and who then look to God for a salvation that doesn’t come by our works, there is forgiveness and salvation by His grace freely given in and through Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

In the midst of the brokenness of our culture and for the sake of our proclamation of God’s Good News of grace, the message of God’s righteous Law needs to be heard now and always. Who will rise to the occasion of proclamation? Could it be you and me? A virtuous people, motivated and empowered by faith, seeks to answer the call to speak God’s truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).

## From the Board of Stewardship

### Whose Is It Anyway?

If you have ever bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a “title search.” Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a preschool classroom during playtime and you’ll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, “That’s mine: I had it first.”

You can’t understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it:

You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Your neighbor’s possessions are *his*: you don’t have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership *to you*? Paul says, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God’s will: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since *you* belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.

This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.



### NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS FORMING

Are you interested in becoming a member of Trinity or wanting to discover the basics of our faith? A five week course is scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 7 in the YSR. Open to all who are interested in learning about the core Lutheran beliefs not just for those who are interested in becoming members. Contact Deacon Anthony at [ACavaliere@trinityhicksville.org](mailto:ACavaliere@trinityhicksville.org) or call the Deacons' office at ext. 229.

### Please Note:

The Reverend Dr. Johnson Rethinasamy has accepted the Divine Call as Trinity Lutheran Church and School’s pastor. Date of installation is June 30 and he will begin his full time ministry at Trinity at that time.



## Trinity Lutheran School News



Dear Trinity Families,

Spring is all about new beginnings and transformations. It's a season that symbolizes starting fresh and starting over. Students at Trinity have been using this time as an opportunity to strengthen their faith, as we prepare for Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. May the resurrection of Christ inspire your faith and renew your hope. We are encouraging our students to embrace his unwavering love, learn to forgive like him, and spread joy in our world.

Planning for our annual Wingo fundraiser is also underway. Wingo will be on Friday, May 3 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Wingo is a fun filled evening where families play Bingo, participate in raffles, and enjoy fellowship together. All proceeds will go to continue to make technology and curriculum upgrades for our school. We hope that both church and school families will attend.

In His Service,  
Jennifer Forte  
Principal



## Early Childhood Center Update



During this season of Lent, the children in ECC learn about the importance of being kind and good to one another. Through art, singing, and prayer, the little boys and girls learn that Easter is more than just Easter bunnies and chocolate eggs. The classes made beautiful crosses to decorate our school halls. Their artwork is displayed on their doors and throughout ECC. Parents were invited into school to celebrate the season



with us. The children went on Easter egg hunts and played games with their loved ones. Most importantly, the children sang songs for the season; a few of our favorites are "Love in a Box" and "Praise Him."

As we celebrate Easter, our children are given the opportunity to learn that it's okay to be sad, as everyone was when Jesus died on the cross, while reassuring them that no matter what happens, God is always with them and will always love them. We adorn our hallways and classroom with John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son so that whoever believes in Him shall have everlasting life."

Seleena Seemangal  
Director, Early Childhood Center



LWML President Helen Peter is out of rehab and adjusting to being in her own home. We give thanks to God that she continues to make progress at home with her mobility issues in using her arms and using her walker around the house. Her daughter Sue is staying with her.

Our Bagel Breakfast drive thru on March 9 went very smoothly this year thanks to the cooperation of our many helpers. We want to thank all the people who bought the bagel breakfasts or generously made donations so we could offer the bagel breakfasts to those who were unable to. We raised over \$1300.00 for our missions and gave out about a dozen meals to our shut-ins. Thank God for the blessings of the help from our workers for making our events so successful and for the generosity of our congregation and neighbors! Just a note of thanks to Jane Kramer and Kathy Krass for donating the cross keychain favors included with the bagel meals. They bought them at the LWML convention held in June 2023 in Milwaukee, WI. The theme of the convention was “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations.” Hence the mini flags attached to the keychain.

Here are some events coming up soon. LWML at Trinity Lutheran, Glen Cove is hosting the Nassau Zone Spring Rally on April 13. Registration starts at 9:30am. Rev. Travis Yee will be conducting a worship service at 10:00am and will present a program about the Army Chaplaincy. A light brunch and a time for fellowship will follow the presentation. They are having an in-gathering to benefit the soldiers from the 1174<sup>th</sup> Deployment Battalion located at Ft. Totten, Queens. Pastor Yee is part of the Reserve.

Some items they are looking for are individually wrapped packages of snacks such as candy/chocolate, cookies, nuts and granola bars etc. Hand warmers, small hand sanitizers, black pens, and electrolyte packets. I know hand warmers seems to be strange to ask for at this time of year, but they will use them in the colder weather. Collection bins for LWML donations will be put out for this. Please mark for Spring Rally. Please RSVP to Joni Mazer by April 6 at [jonimazer@gmail.com](mailto:jonimazer@gmail.com) or 516-320-4450.

Our own LWML project for April is a collection for our Trinity Blessing Box which is always in need of items. Collection of nonperishable food items, paper goods and toiletry items is much appreciated for the people in our neighborhood.

The LWML Annual High Tea event is coming up on May 4! Look for details in the coming weeks.

Blessings,

Faye Wong  
*Trinity LWML Secretary*



## Comfort Dog Ministry



*"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care."*

**– Theodore Roosevelt**



On March 16 the Comfort Dogs were joined by Lutheran Church Charities CEO Pastor Chris Singer. Pastor led a workshop at the Atlantic District's Festival of Workshops called "Until They Know We Care." Pastor impressively shared some graphics of the church and the community almost looking like the Grand Canyon. There is a giant gap in the middle. People in our communities don't know we care until we tell them. How many times have you told someone you care? It could be as simple as a hello or good morning. What about that family that just had a loss? It could be a home, a loved one or a job. In Pastor Chris' sermon that Sunday, he quoted Jesus as saying:

ing: "Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many."

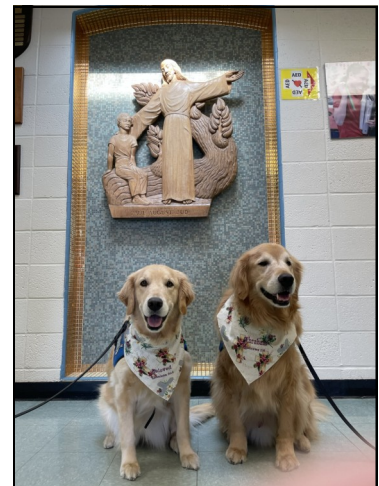
Every day the Comfort Dogs go out into the community to comfort and their ministry team is there to serve. We encounter all walks of life in various stages of their life and how we show up to help and serve these individuals only God knows. But we go where Jesus leads us to be.

So how will you let someone know you care? What can you do to check off that proverbially box on your driver's license that says "CHECK TO CONSENT HERE TO GIVE YOUR LIFE AWAY?"

What does that look like for you? How can we help?

Titus 3:14 - *Learn to devote [yourselves] to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives.*

Wishing you a Blessed Easter,  
The Comfort Dog Ministry Team





## ***Thrivent Choice Dollars UPDATE***

***This is an updated Thrivent Choice Dollars thank you which includes a month's worth of gifts that was missing in last month's "Thank you" along with the total adjusted to include what was gifted to our school.***



### **THRIVENT CHOICE® MAKES A DIFFERENCE! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

Thrivent's generosity programs are part of what makes Thrivent so unique. Since the Thrivent Choice charitable grant program launched in 2010, Thrivent has provided more than \$585 million to help thousands of enrolled 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations—including churches, camps, schools, seminaries, campus ministries and more. Through online personal donations and Choice Dollars®, the program helps clients and other like-hearted individuals to have a financial impact on the causes and nonprofits they care about. Trinity Lutheran Church and School has been blessed with Thrivent Choice Dollars last year – we received \$10,120.00 for the church and \$2,095.00 for the school – and we would like to thank those who have participated in 2023:

Catherine Breuer  
Warren Breuer  
Jon W. Crawford  
Henry DeVries  
Barbara Ann Gaynor  
Christian Gaynor  
Howard Graves  
John Haines  
Jane Kramer  
Louis Maters  
Richard Pfaender  
Laura Stengl

Barbara Strahan  
Audrey Tallman  
Dianne Uss  
Lynn Waldeck  
Richard Straub  
Kathryn Draves  
James Gerakaris  
Steven Anderson  
Joyce Rausch  
Janet FitzPatrick  
Charles Henle  
Marite Ellen Hennessey

Tom Perovich  
Dolores Sartor  
Amy Schildwachter Kuck  
Mark Schmotzer  
William E. Kuck  
John Doughty  
Josephine Kenney  
Catherine Breuer  
Warren Breuer  
Carolyn Demarest

Through Thrivent Choice, you can contribute to organizations and causes you care about – and influence how Thrivent distributes some of its charitable funding. While there are more than 36,000 enrolled organizations to choose from, we hope you prayerfully consider directing your choice dollars to Trinity Lutheran Church and School. There is a limited amount of time left to make a choice, so act fast - login today. Thank you in advance for your continued support of our ministries. You can also call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 and say "Choice Dollars" It only takes 2 -3 minutes. Or visit the website through this link: [Thrivent Choice Dollars Link](#)