



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

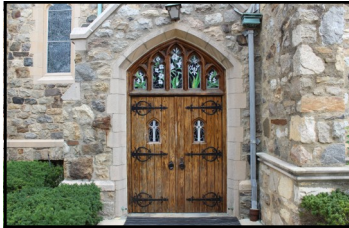
Rev. Dr. Johnson E. Rethinasamy, Senior Pastor  
Jennifer Forte – Principal   Seleena Seemangal – ECC Director



EST. 1954

SCHOOL  
516.931.2211  
TrinityLI.org

## *The Good News*



**November 2024**

### *Inside this Issue*

From the Pastor..... Page 1  
 From the Pastor *cont.* ..... Page 2  
 Deacon’s Bench..... Page 3  
 Minister of Music ..... Page 4  
 Board of Outreach..... Page 5  
 Board of Stewardship ..... Page 6  
 Trinity Youth News .....Page 7  
 Board of Properties ..... Page 8  
 Sunday School News ..... Page 8  
 ECC Update..... Page 8  
 TLS News ..... Page 9  
 LWML News.....Page 10  
 Comfort Dog Ministry.....Page 11  
 Lutheran Counseling Center....Page 12  
 Good to Know Info!..... Page 13

### ***Worship Schedule***

Sundays 9:00am

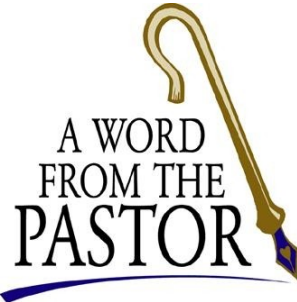
Traditional

Live Streamed on Facebook  
and YouTube  
In Person

Sundays 10:45am

Contemporary

Sunday School 9:00am



Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of the church year, we have a number of special occasions to celebrate: All Saints Day, All Souls Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving. These observances remind us of our rich heritage

as a Christian community and call us to reflect on the many blessings we have received.

**All Saints Day** (November 1) is a day to remember and celebrate all the saints, known and unknown, who have gone before us in faith. We give thanks for their example and their prayers.

**All Souls Day** (November 2) is a day to remember and pray for our loved ones who have died. We grieve their loss, but we also know that they are with Jesus and we look forward to being reunited with them one day.

**Election Day** (November 5) is a day we have the privilege to exercise and express our basic right to vote for our choice as a citizen of this great land! Let there be “We the People” from you casting the ballot. The rest is in God’s hand. God bless America. Land that we love.

**Veterans Day** (November 11) is a day to honor and thank all those who have served our country in the armed forces. We pray for their safety and well-being, and we thank them for their sacrifices.

**Thanksgiving** (November 28) is a day to express our gratitude to God for all the blessings we have received. We gather with family and friends to share a meal and give thanks for our many gifts.

*Continued...*



## ***A Word from Our Pastor continued...***

**Advent** (November 27 - December 24) is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ. We reflect on the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah and we look forward to His birth at Christmas.

As we celebrate these special occasions, let us also be mindful of those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Let us reach out to the poor and the needy, and let us pray for peace in our world.

I am grateful for each of you expressing “Pastors Appreciation” to me and my family. Thank you all who organized the International luncheon and a “trivia” about your pastor!

May God bless you and your loved ones during this special time of year.

In Christ,

*Pastor Johnson Rethinasamy*



### **ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE**



Our annual Food Drive for our food pantry, Blessing Box, and Lutheran Social Services starts this week. We coordinate this food drive along with the school’s National Junior Honor Society. Please donate canned fruit, vegetables and beans, boxed potatoes and stuffing, rice, pasta, sauce, cereal, oatmeal, soup, cookies, peanut butter and jelly, paper goods and personal care items. Please place items across from Pastor’s office.

### **THANKSGIVING BASKETS**

We will be sending grocery store cards to those who are in need for Thanksgiving. If you would like to help, please send in grocery store or Target cards (Attention Lynn). If you would rather send in a donation for us to purchase cards please mark it for food baskets. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



### **CHRISTMAS ANGELS**



Each year our “Christmas Angel” program provides gifts for children or seniors in our congregation and community. For some, this is the only way some parents can give the “magic of Christmas” to their children. The “angels,” along with instructions will be at a table in the hallway between services on Sunday, November 10. Gifts will be due back to Trinity by November 24. Any questions or if you know of someone we can help or would like an “angel” please call Lynn (x230) in the church office or email her ([lwaldeck@trinityhicksville.org](mailto:lwaldeck@trinityhicksville.org)).



**“Give thanks in all circumstances...”** 1 Thessalonians 5:18 NIV

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and so I've been thinking about gratitude a lot lately. What is it? When should we show it? What does God say about it?

Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, “Give thanks in all circumstances.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18) Most read that verse and think it is rather nice. So, we take one day out of 365 to be thankful and then go about our day. In reality, most of us are thankful for very little.



Notice the Bible doesn't command us to *feel* thankful in all circumstances. Instead, it commands us to “give thanks in all circumstances.” When I begin to turn to God in a difficult situation, even if I don't feel like it, many times the blinders fall from my eyes and I begin to see glimpses of His glory.

I struggle to see glory in tragedy, but I still can praise God because I know He is there. Gratitude changes the lens through which we see the circumstances in our little slice of time. Thanksgiving changes our perspective despite broken dreams, broken relationships, tumultuous circumstances, and unfulfilled longings.

**As you praise God for who He is and thank Him for what He's done, your perspective of Him grows larger and your problems grow smaller.**

As a result, you will experience a deeper sense of intimacy with God as the emotional gap between what you know to be true and how you feel at the moment closes.

My friends, when we stop complaining and grumbling and begin speaking God's love language of gratitude, our perspective will change as well. We will begin seeing moments of sudden glory through the lens of praise and thanksgiving—glory moments that were there all along but hidden from the blinded eye.

On many occasions in the Psalms, David complained about his circumstances (Psalms 42; 57; 62). But more often than not, about midway through David's laments, he begins praising God for who He is and thanking God for what He's done. And you know what happens? Suddenly David starts feeling better! Life isn't so bad after all! His problems grow smaller as his perspective of God grows larger, and he begins to see God's glory shining through the situation.

Today, make a list of ten things you are thankful for and share them, because life isn't so bad after all as you let God's glory do what it does best.

Wishing you a wonderful day of thanks and praying it becomes more than just one day.

Giving thanks for you,  
Betsy, Donna and Lynn



**Your Deacons**

**Betsy Lazarek  
Donna Haines  
Lynn Waldeck**

## *Minister of Music*

### "WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD" *LSB 785*

What a blessing to be able to write a devotion on...‘blessings!’ Another year has passed since we celebrated Thanksgiving, 2023 and certainly there is much to be thankful for. But we don’t simply wait for the holiday to come around again to express our thanks to God. Every day is a celebration of thanksgiving for God’s unlimited blessings to us!

The hymn text, “We Praise You, O God” was written by Julia B. Cory who lived from 1882 to 1963. The story surrounding the writing of this hymn is relatively straight forward. In 1902 J. Arthur Gibson, the organist at Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City, asked the author to create a new hymn text (using the rolling Dutch tune KREMSE) which could replace the traditional Thanksgiving hymn “We Gather Together.” Two weeks later “We Praise You, O God” was completed. It was sung on Thanksgiving Day in that congregation and has been popular throughout the nation ever since.

Let's focus, though, more on these words that were clearly penned from a truly grateful heart and which have served generations of grateful people who struggle with how to properly be thankful for the many blessings that are showered on us all.

What strikes me as I read the hymn text is the focus on God. “We Praise YOU...;” “We lay it before YOU...;” “YOUR holy name...;” “We worship YOU...;” “we bless YOU...;” YOU have been...(with us in trial and tempest); “YOU will not forsake us...;” “and with YOUR help...;” “With YOU, Lord, beside us...;” “YOU will not forsake us...;” “to YOU, our great Redeemer.

But the writer, Julia Cory, also calls for a response in our lives: “in grateful devotion our tribute we bring...;” “we lay it before you...;” “we kneel and adore you...;” “with voices united our praises we offer...;” “gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise...;” “to YOU, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!”

When the challenges of everyday living tend to divert our focus from God, we can often be reminded to refocus our attention by saying the words of this hymn. When we forget to be grateful for our blessings, we can remember to say the words of this hymn. And aren’t many of our hymns a reminder to do the things which we tend to forget? As we sing these words with “voices united” this year, let us take them to heart, not just on Thanksgiving, but the other 364 days as well.

Henry DeVries  
*Minister of Music*

### **ORGAN RECITAL at TRINITY**

On November 24, at 3:00pm, members of the Nassau and Suffolk chapters of the American Guild of Organists will present a recital of organ music at Trinity. The focus will be on music from the movies. All are invited to attend and the admission is free. Stay tuned for more information. Trinity’s Walker organ is continually being sought out for recitals and for organists to see. Recently a group from the Lithuanian Philharmonic Orchestra who were visiting the United States on a concert tour came to visit Trinity just to see and hear our organ.



## Board of Outreach

In our chaotic times, we believers have a calling to fulfill. We can extend God's mercy and love to those who don't deserve it. God loves whomever He wishes, and not in response to human merit. He grants mercy and forgiveness to man based on the finished work of Christ, the labor of His love, on Christ's merit, not ours.



**...YOU SHALL  
LOVE YOUR  
NEIGHBOR AS  
YOURSELF...**

LEVITICUS 19:18

We have a great opportunity for love, it is what all humans seek, but few find. We can tell them that they can find what they seek only in the Lord Jesus. We can lead people to Him. We can demonstrate God's love by befriending those who have been victimized by a brutal and merciless society, which if we think about it, is just about everyone. We can communicate the law of God with love, so that people will not be afraid to approach Him in repentance. We have the opportunity to be healing vessels overflowing with God's unconditional love.

Maybe some of you feel you would rather not love people who are unlovely, sinners, or those who have views or lifestyles that you find disagreeable. Maybe you want to see them punished. If so then think about this: the sinful lifestyle is its own punishment. It brings no eternal joy, no overwhelming ecstasy, no true happiness. It afflicts people with the misery of insatiable desires and unquenchable longings that burn as hot as the fires of hell. Such people need to be pitied for they are living in overwhelming darkness and pain and face an eternity of the same. I would not wish this even on the vilest and most exasperating persons I know.

Maybe you feel you are incapable of loving people. Maybe you feel that love is too difficult. The effort, pain, and expense involved yield few if any short- or long-term rewards, at least in this life, in proportion to the amount of time that must be devoted to it. It is difficult to love and painful. God knows this but He continues to love. He can enable us to do the same. He has given us His Holy Spirit whereby we can love in the strength of the Lord, as we surrender our wills to Him. Jesus is the source of God's unconditional love. He is the one who can enable us to love.

*Deacon Anthony Cavaliere  
November 2020, The Good News Newsletter*



**November 11  
2024**

### **The Consequences of Shallow Thankfulness**

Can you imagine a Thanksgiving dinner without turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and pumpkin pie? I know I can't! To not have these on the menu, or worse, to run out of them with the family around the table, would be a culinary sin of epic proportions. An attempt to serve bratwurst and hamburgers in place of the standard fare would ring hollow and seem totally inappropriate and out of place. It isn't that the food would be bad; brats and burgers are pretty tasty. But not for Thanksgiving — they just don't go together!

This month, as we continue to walk through the stewardship hymn, "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788), we turn our attention to verse three. Here, William Watkins Reid, Sr., the man who penned this text, draws attention to some things that do not go along with faithful, thankful stewardship.

Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise ...

We see this often with small children. They greedily snatch the candy out of a grandparent's hand, savagely destroy the wrapper, and attempt to stuff the entire delicacy in their mouth in one bite, only to have a parent say, "Tell grandma thank you." This is followed by the pro forma thanks that is uttered between chocolate chews. It isn't really thankfulness; it is simply checking a box to keep mom or dad off their backs.

We never really outgrow this either. Our shallow thankfulness takes the form of feigned humility when praise is being offered. We are thankful that our admirers noticed and called us out: "Look at me! Aren't I special?" No thought at all is given to the fact that the Lord was the One who gave us the ability and opportunity for accomplishment. Our false blush is really only masking our selfish, credit-seeking gain. Once again, we find ourselves idolatrously thanking ourselves.

For words that speak at variance with deeds ...

What carries more weight: words or action? The steward who gives voice to the Gospel in the Divine Service but then lives like a pagan in the world does great damage, not only to others but to the Gospel itself! This is the consequence of failed stewardship. It is idolatry that separates the steward from the Lord.

Worse yet, it also impacts others negatively. When the failed steward is the reference point outside the Christian community, there are those who want no part of being Christian or following the Christ they claim. We see this play out in the impact of overt political activity among Christians based on governing policy as opposed to fidelity to the Word of God. When our lips and our lives are out of sync, like what used to happen with old movie projectors, the impact isn't funny — it obscures the Gospel!

Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways unmindful of a broken brother's need ...

Our creature comforts often become an obstacle to faithful stewardship. This is true of both individual and corporate stewardship. Financial stewardship is often limited by our desire to be comfortable and have the latest toys and gadgets. Congregational stewardship is often limited by the desire to focus on what is best for the congregation as opposed to how resources might be best stewarded to reach the community with the Gospel.

When we see someone in need, or broken by the world, we often look at them as freeloaders. We admonish them to get a job. We insist that they learn our language, learn our customs, and make them their own. But this gets in the way of seeing every human being the way that Jesus sees them. Remember, that broken person is one for whom Jesus went to the cross to die and rise. When we are unmindful of these needs, our shallow thankfulness also stands in the way of the Gospel.

This stanza reminds us of the challenge we face. Our hearts are master idol-makers. Our shallow thankfulness threatens our souls and hinders others from seeing Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Stewardship is serious business. It is a task for which we were created. In our sinful failings, we are never relieved of these duties. In our Baptism, we are restored to be stewards of the Gospel. Our faithful stewardship is all about that Gospel.

Forgive us when our thanks are shallow, O Lord! In this month of Thanksgiving, grant us the grace to offer heaping helpings of this stewardship so that others may see Jesus!



# Jr. Youth

**6TH THROUGH  
8TH GRADE**



**NOV. - DEC. 2024**

## Quick Calendar

### FUEL

November 8th  
7:00-9:00 pm  
Youth Room

### FUEL

November 22nd  
7:00-9:00 pm  
Youth Room

"Nightmare Before  
Christmas"

Christmas Party  
December 13th  
7:00-9:00 pm  
Youth Room

For questions  
regarding FUEL  
please email  
[youth@trinityli.org](mailto:youth@trinityli.org)

## Upcoming Events

### FUEL

We hope you'll join us for some fun and fellowship at FUEL. The more people come, the more fun we have. We'll have snacks, play games, and enjoy our time together.

Cost \$2

FUEL is open to ALL Church and School children in grades 6-8.

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

Since we missed out on a Halloween Party this year, let's combine and have a "Nightmare Before Christmas" Party.

Feel free to "Christmas Up" your Halloween costumes for a Christmas Party with just a bit of Spook too.

## **Board of Properties**



**Please join us on Saturday, November 30 at 9:00am to spruce up our campus for the winter. We have some spent flowers to remove and a few leaves to rake up. We may also spend some time in the lower courtyard adjacent to the school.**

## **Sunday School News**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER**

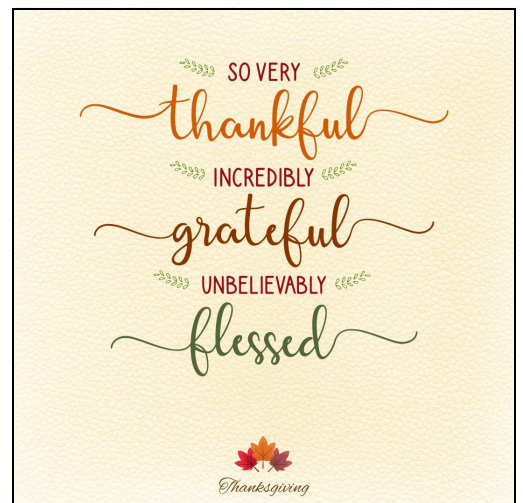
On November 17 the Sunday school will be offering handmade refrigerator magnets to the congregation. A freewill offering will be taken to benefit Mountainview Lutheran Church in Linville NC which was damaged in the hurricane. For more information speak to Roberta O'Connor.



## **Early Childhood Center Update**

Trinity's ECC is very thankful for all the blessings we receive. This month the children will get a visit from the Hicksville Fire Department and they will learn all about fire safety. We will continue to teach the children about kindness and being good to each other. For Veteran's Day, the children will make Veteran's Day cards and the cards will be distributed to Veterans at our local VA and VA Hospital. As we prepare for Thanksgiving, the children will learn a new thankful prayer this month: *"Thank you God for this new day, in my school to work and pray. Please be with me all day long. In every story, game and song. May all the happy things we do make you, Our Father, happy too."* For Thanksgiving, we will all sit together to enjoy a Thanksgiving feast. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Seleena Seemangal,  
ECC Director





## Trinity Lutheran School News

Dear Trinity Families,

October has been an exciting month for students at Trinity. We began the month by raising funds for breast cancer awareness. Our wear pink event sponsored by our National Junior Honor Society, took place on Friday, October 4. We were able to raise \$345 and all proceeds went to support cancer research.



Our students also participated in a number of field trips this month. Kindergarten and grade 1 went to White Post, grades 3 to 5 attended a trip to Fire Island Lighthouse and Coast Guard Station. And finally, our middle schoolers enjoyed a trip to Sagamore Hill.

Our first PTFA (Parent Teacher Friends Association) fundraiser has begun. We partnered with Miss Chocolate to offer our families a variety of delicious cookie dough, cheesecakes, pies, crumb cakes, cinnamon buns and other holiday gifts for the whole family. Fundraisers like these help our PTFA to raise money for our school. Last year, we were able to raise enough money throughout the year to upgrade our teacher, staff, and computer lab computers!

Trinity ended the month with a focus on bullying prevention, as we celebrated Unity Day, which promotes kindness, acceptance, and inclusion to prevent bullying. We celebrated by having the students participate in anti-bullying activities and by wearing orange to show support for this movement. This color is associated with safety and visibility, making an impactful statement, that bullying is not acceptable, and that all students deserve to be safe in school, online, and in the community.



In His Service,

Jennifer Forte,  
*Principal*



We remember the sainted of our Trinity  
congregational family since All Saints' Sunday 2023

CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE

November 1, 2023 to October 31, 2024

Debbie Crawford      Erika Joy Gargan      Deacon Peg Ruhs  
Pastor John Hopkins      Deacon Anthony Cavaliere      Timothy Jud



We now have some final figures from the Garage Sale Fundraiser held on September 7 and 8 at the Miller's house. We raised a total of \$1,038.00 with \$41.31 for mites. We collected a total of \$1,079.31 from this event. That was a great first fundraiser for this new board! The amount we raised for Helen Peter's honorarium totaled \$715.00. A huge thank you to everyone who donated to this! Helen was very much surprised by the turnout, the lovely celebration during Coffee Hour, the guest speakers and the monetary gift raised. She was very happy to donate that amount to the charities of her choice.

We don't have the final amount raised from the September Bake-less Cake nor the LWML Sunday mites collection since donations are still coming in. So please continue to put these in the offering plate since we are still collecting.

On September 28, twelve (12) members from Trinity attended the Fall Rally at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bethpage. The ladies brought chewable children's vitamins as the in-gathering for the Gbarnga Lutheran Mission in Liberia. They enjoyed a worship service followed by a delicious continental breakfast. There was a pretty good showing of participants from Trinity. And a shout out of thanks to the ladies at St. Paul's for hosting this!

During the weekend of October 11- October 13, nine (9) of our members attended the Tuscarora Retreat in Pennsylvania, along with Abraham Comfort Dog. We heard from people reporting back that they had a fantastic weekend there. It was a great time of Christian fellowship and the ladies also had free time to explore the area and to pursue other activities of interest such as a visit to a local winery or do some meditation yoga activity.

Just a reminder that pickup for our Pork Roast Drive-thru is Saturday, November 9, from 11:00am - 1:00pm.

Looking ahead, we will begin our annual collection for layette items in December so please pick up an item or two at your convenience. Items needed: Baby clothing 3-6 months and 6-24 months, new or gently used. Sleepers with feet, ones-ies, 2 piece pant sets, socks, sweaters, mittens, stretchies with feet, baby towels, quilts, small stuffed animals, bottles, dishes and feeding utensils. Collection boxes will be set up prior to this.

Trinity New Hyde Park is hosting their Annual Women's Breakfast at 9:00am on November 9. There is a registration cost of \$20 and information can be found on our bulletin board.

Our next monthly meeting will be November 3 in the YSR after the 9:00am worship service.

Blessings,

Faye Wong,  
*LWML Secretary*



# Comfort Dog Ministry



Comfort Dog Ministry invites you to a night of Puppies and Pinot. We realize we have so many stories with some of the visits we have done and yet we really haven't shared the true picture of what this ministry does outside of our church. Please come for an evening of light wine and cheese as we share some photos and the stories that go with them. It will also be an opportunity to get to know the dogs and team, ask questions and just enjoy some fellowship!

Join us for a night of Pinot and Puppies

November 22, 2024  
7pm

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Youth/Senior Room  
40 W. Nicolai St  
Hicksville, NY

Please RSVP to [Comfortdog@trinityhicksville.org](mailto:Comfortdog@trinityhicksville.org)

Join us for a night of stories and memories and get to know the dogs and the team.  
**All Welcome.**



- 1st Place The Hare Family
  - 2nd Place John Haines
  - 3rd Place The Kassinger Family
- Great job everyone! Can't wait until next year!



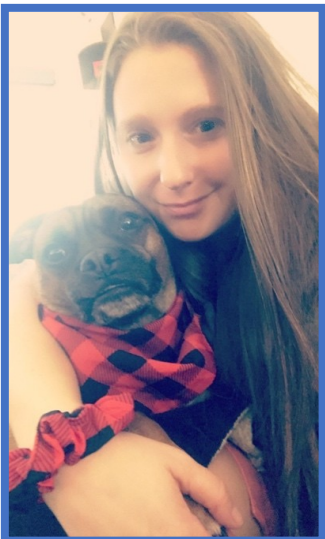
## Losing a Pet

By Danielle Eisenberg, LCSW, LCC Counselor

A topic sometimes overlooked is the grief of losing a pet. I will never forget the pain I felt when I lost my beloved dog Snuggles. As a therapist, I often encounter people who also lost pets, and hear of the hole it leaves in their hearts. Combining psychotherapy with Christian faith can offer a comprehensive approach to healing – I know it did for me.

Psychotherapy provides a safe space to express feelings and memories associated with the pet, while being guided through the stages of grief.

Processing sorrow, guilt, anger and all of the other mixed emotions are critical in healthy healing. Tools such as journaling, art therapy, and creating a memorial can be instrumental in honoring the pet's memory and facilitating emotional release. Support groups for those who also lost pets can remind us we're not alone. Far too often those who are hit hardest by lost pets neglect therapy and suffer needlessly for it.



Christianity offers additional comfort and hope. The Bible speaks of God's care for all creation, including pets, and how all life is cherished by Him. Scriptures such as Psalm 34:18, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit" provide solace, reinforcing God's presence in times of sorrow. Prayer too can be powerful, helping connect us to God's comforting presence. I personally found the support of my church community and pastor to be invaluable.

While therapy provides a safe place to process loss, Faith provides a hope comfort and strength unattainable elsewhere. This holistic approach respects both the psychological and spiritual dimensions of grief. Ultimately, the journey through pet loss is deeply personal. I hope this article will help those who felt similar loss to me and stand as one more memorial to my beloved Snuggles.

*Danielle Eisenberg, LCSW, counsels' adults for anxiety, depression, women's issues and grief/loss and is a couples' counselor. For an appointment or for more information, 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).*

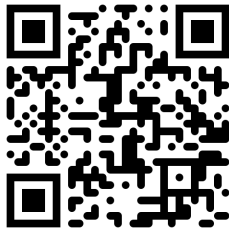
## Good to Know Info!

### LIVE STREAM and MULTI-CASTED WORSHIP SERVICES

Our live streamed worship services are simultaneously streamed to both YouTube as well as Facebook. Therefore, you can choose to watch the Live Stream on either site. Trinity's channel on YouTube is @TRINITYHICKSVILLE The Direct link to the live stream on Facebook is [FBLive.TrinityHicksville.Org](https://www.facebook.com/FBLive.TrinityHicksville.Org) The Direct link to the live stream on YouTube is [YTLive.TrinityHicksville.Org](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTLive.TrinityHicksville.Org) We hope this additional platform will accommodate the many assorted devices in use. "Like & Subscribe!"

**TRINITY QR CODES** QR codes (or Quick Response codes) are two-dimensional codes that you can scan with your smart phone. The code contains information, usually a site address, and once you scan it, the code connects you with a resource on the web. Below are Trinity's two codes, one is for a direct link to our church website and the other code will take you to Trinity's PushPay screen for making your offering or giving a monetary gift. Give them a try!

[Trinity Website:](#)



[Trinity Giving:](#)



NewsLetter  
**DEADLINE**

Newsletter submissions and articles for the December 2024 edition of *The Good News* are due to the church office by noon on **Friday, November 22, 2024.**

Thank you!