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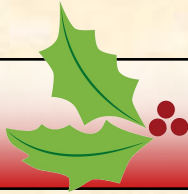
40 West Nicolai Street, Hicksville, NY 11801

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

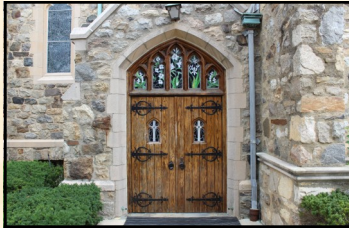


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The Good News



December 2024

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Worship Schedule

Sundays 9:00am

Traditional

Live Streamed on Facebook
and YouTube
In Person

Sundays 10:45am

Contemporary

Sunday School 9:00am



Dear Children of the Coming King!

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ during this season of Advent and Christmas.

As the crisp air of December fills our lungs and the twinkling lights illuminate our homes, we enter the sacred season of Advent, a time of expectant waiting and joyful preparation for the celebration of our Savior's birth. This is a season of reflection, repentance, and renewal as we anticipate the coming of our Lord.

Christmas is a season of joy. We celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who came into the world to bring salvation to ALL people and to dwell among all people!

... and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...

John 1:14

It brings me so much excitement to serve among you and see how our church and school have been a spiritual home and a blessing to so many families in our ever growing and changing community landscape. Seeing and serving in everyday activities for all age groups of our church community and beyond gives me so much joy.

There are still so many opportunities for you to celebrate this season together as Trinity family. Please check the holiday schedule on page 13 in this newsletter.

There is also a great matching grant challenge opportunity upon us matching dollar for a dollar up to \$25,000. If you are led by the Lord to support this initiative to support our ministries, please do so. Look for further details on page 14 in this newsletter.

Continued...



A Word from Our Pastor continued...



We also wrap up the year 2024 in a few weeks and a new year will be upon us.

I wish you all a Christ-centered season of Christmas and New Year 2025.

My family and I are sending you our Christmas and New Year wishes while looking forward to celebrate this special season with you all!

Your Pastor,

Johnson Rethinasamy

Serving the children of the King!



TRINITY ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

Trinity is currently putting together a committee for the 175th Anniversary of our church and 70th Anniversary of our school. If you are interested in serving on this committee please contact Donna Haines at dhaines@trinityhicksville.org.

IT'S TIME TO DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS!

Sunday, December 8 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!



ADVENT DEVOTIONS 2024

A printed Advent devotional booklet is available for the Trinity family located at the church entrances. In addition, the booklet was emailed to you on Wednesday (November 27) and is also available on Trinity's website. The devotions are from Lutheran Hour Ministries and they will cover the First Sunday in Advent through Epiphany.

Jesus-the Reason for the Season



"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet He did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Hebrews 4:14-16



During the Christmas season, there are so many different emotions that can be tied to it. For some, they are anticipating the joys of decorating, family gatherings, songs of cheer, and everything Christmas is known for. And for others, it is a reminder of the loved ones they have lost, maybe an inability to financially provide gifts for their family, or simply the brokenness of relationships in the past. But one thing I love about this passage is the reminder of God's calling on our lives to live with hope, encouragement, courage, and confidence.

May we be reminded of the true reason for the season, the birth of Jesus Christ. We have a high priest who not only sits on the throne of grace, but also can empathize with our weaknesses because of the life He lived. The season is a reminder that Christ came to earth, and from the birth that we celebrate this season to His resurrection, He faced trials and temptations that we face. He knows what it is like to be rejected and turned away. He was around those who suffer, consumed by disease and other ailments. He knows exactly the life which we face on a day-to-day basis. While knowing everything He was going to face and endure, He still became flesh. And rather than our trials and struggles being met with condemnation, through our faith in Christ we receive mercy, sympathy, understanding, grace, and hope.



So as we go throughout this holiday season, let's fix our eyes on the One who provides all those things. The true light of Christmas is the birth of Christ to be the Savior for our sins. That even in the midst of our endless battle with the flesh, in the seasons we are unfaithful to the times we have joy and excitement, may we remember the great high priest who we can approach with confidence that He will provide and be there with us every step of the way.

Prayer: Precious Savior, we turn to You today. Whether this season is one of anticipation or unending reminders of struggles we're facing, may we lean into the one thing that is constant and true. You are the true meaning of Christmas. May we experience the hope and grace that You provide and fix our eyes on Your faithfulness. Amen.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year!

Deacon Betsy Lazarek

Your Deacons

Betsy Lazarek

Donna Haines

Lynn Waldeck



Making Something Great, Even Better!

What makes a good hymn or carol? Well the words for sure, the texts of good hymns make us think. They make us think of God's love for us, how he sent His Son to die for us, Christ's triumph over death by his rising on Easter. They remind us of all of this and more. I feel a good text should make us think of all of this perhaps in different ways; different similes that make us understand or see these basics of the faith in even better ways, or ways we have never thought of before.

What then makes a good melody? It should be easy to sing, yet not so easy that it is simplistic, it needs to have a good shape, rising up and down, yet not being always too low or too high, so that all may participate. Under the melody, there needs to be a strong harmonization that makes it easy to sing.

We find all of this in our best Christmas carols, they tell not only of Christ's birth, but the reason why he came. They don't talk just about snow and animals, but also about cross and crown. The melodies are memorable, that's why we can sing them immediately when someone says the name of the title.

Yet as perfect as they can be, what can still make them better? Let's add a choir descant! Descants are melodies sung by a choir, generally higher than the melody, that can add the crowning touch to that already perfect hymn. If you have been attending Trinity for a while, you know that our choir descants often on some of our most loved hymns, "Crown Him With Many Crowns," "For All the Saints" and some of our new classics, "Thine the Amen" and "Voices Raised to You We Offer."

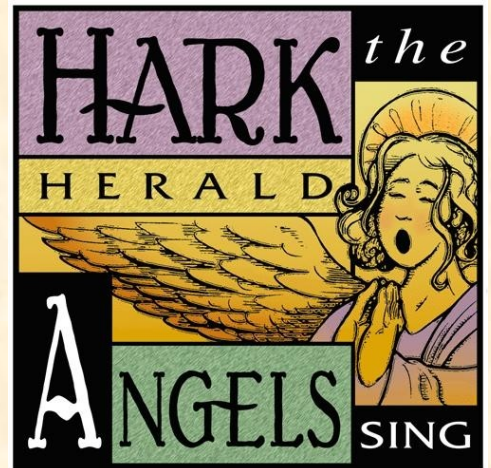
As wonderful as they are, none are more special than the ones we add for Christmas Eve. Where would "O Come All Ye Faithful" be without the choir sopranos and tenors descanting on "Sing Choirs of angels..." bringing the sound of the angels right into our church. That descant was written by English composer Sir David Willcocks (1919 - 2015), and is known, sung and loved worldwide.

Another descant loved so much here at Trinity, is sung while the church is dark, lit only be candlelight, on the final verse of "Silent Night," the descant written by minister of music, Charles Boehm.

As we worship this Christmas, listen for the descants of Christmas, let them remind you of the sound of the angels singing at Christ's birth. Here is a link for you to hear the descant for "O Come, All Ye Faithful" sung by the choir of King's College in Cambridge, England, where Sir David Willcocks taught for so many year.

<https://youtu.be/8ZYZER3JtZY?si=AMVHxuB98W4SMexA>

Henry DeVries,
Minister of Music



Outreach Ministry

Christmas is all about the children. I have heard this statement made hundreds of times every holiday season. Maybe you have heard it too. Christmas is all about the children is a catchphrase or slogan that the world uses to distract from the real meaning of Christmas. If Christmas is about children, then we can center the focus of the holiday on kids, Santa Claus, toys and presents. If Christmas is about children then we can also include Jesus, a cute, cuddly, newborn baby safely tucked away in his manger, surrounded by warm and fuzzy animals. It's a nice little fairy tale to tell the kids, to add to the wonders of childhood exemplified in the mystery of the Christmas myths and stories.

But Christmas is not primarily about the children. Christmas is about the love of God in Christ Jesus. Christmas is about the mercy and kindness of God shown to sinners, to wicked, selfish and ungrateful people who deserve only judgment and condemnation.

This is the love that the people of the world seek when they celebrate Christmas, only they don't know it. They are too preoccupied with putting up lights and elaborate decorations, or with purchasing and giving presents and gifts to loved ones, friends and acquaintances as well as toys for kids. They are rushing about to this and that party, overeating and getting drunk all in a vain attempt to feel love, to feel good about themselves, to forget the troubles they are going through.

Therefore as we celebrate His birth, as we spend time with family and friends, let us remember that Jesus came as a baby, meek and humble, yes. But He did not stay a baby. He came to die for our sins and now He is exalted at the right hand of majesty on high. How blessed we are because He has called us. Let us not forget to rejoice in the blessings and grace that the Lord has poured out on us we who are ordinary, undeserving sinners. He has regarded the low estate of His servants and exalted us. And this is the good news we ought to share with our unbelieving friends, relatives and co-workers at this time of year because of the opportunity Christmas affords us.

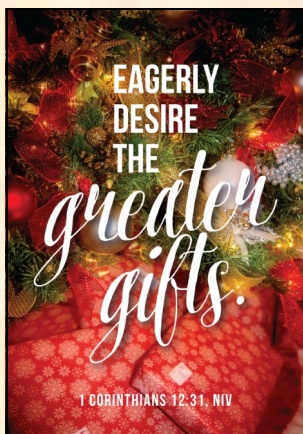
Deacon Anthony Cavaliere

From Trinity's Good News Newsletter, December 2018

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 15.



Repenting of “Yours” and “Mine”



Retailers have had their Christmas displays up since before Reformation Sunday. The kids have made their list and checked it twice, or three times or more. It won't be long before the tree will start shedding its needles, the stockings emptied, the gifts unwrapped, toys broken, and the too small or out of style clothes returned. Before we know it, the annual celebration of Christmas will be over.

But for the children of God, we know that the gift of Christmas doesn't ever end. Week in and week out, the Lord continues to shower His gifts on us. Every time the Lord gathers us to His house, and we are led to kneel at His table, the gift of forgiveness is repeatedly granted to us. It is nothing we deserve. It comes to us freely!

The fourth stanza of the stewardship hymn, “Forgive Us Lord for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) highlights both this gift and our response.

Teach us, O Lord, true thankfulness divine, that gives as Christ gave, never counting cost

To learn thankfulness is necessary. The parents of young children are well-versed in the fact that they must teach their children thankfulness. It does not come naturally. The spiritual genetics inherited from our parents allow us to think that the world revolves around us. When we receive something, there is an inward desire to think that we in some way deserve it.

But there is no way that we deserve anything we get from our Lord. We need that ongoing lesson from God Himself. Thankfulness toward God is worked in us by the Holy Spirit. God's Word works this thanksgiving in us. We need this weekly reminder that Jesus didn't consider “equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself” for us, to the point of death on a cross (Phil. 2:6). He didn't bat an eye. He paid the price! Our life of stewardship is one of daily and weekly thanksgiving inspired by the Lord Himself.

That knows no barrier of “yours” and “mine,” assured that only what's withheld is lost.

Because Jesus gave us everything and more, there can be no ownership. The child at Christmas is quick to claim that the newly gifted toy is “mine!” But as Psalm 24:1 asserts, “The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.” There isn't anything in creation that is ours. When we cling to and claim ownership of anything in creation, we are losing out on the continual gifts with which the Lord desires to shower upon us. Closed hands cannot receive anything new. We cling to the old and dead and miss the new thing that the Lord desires to do in and for us.

We are led to repent of the “yours” and “mine” and remove the lie that we have any ownership. In this we have the promise that God will continue to give to us. Not just at Christmas, but every Sunday at the altar in the Lord's house.



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

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.

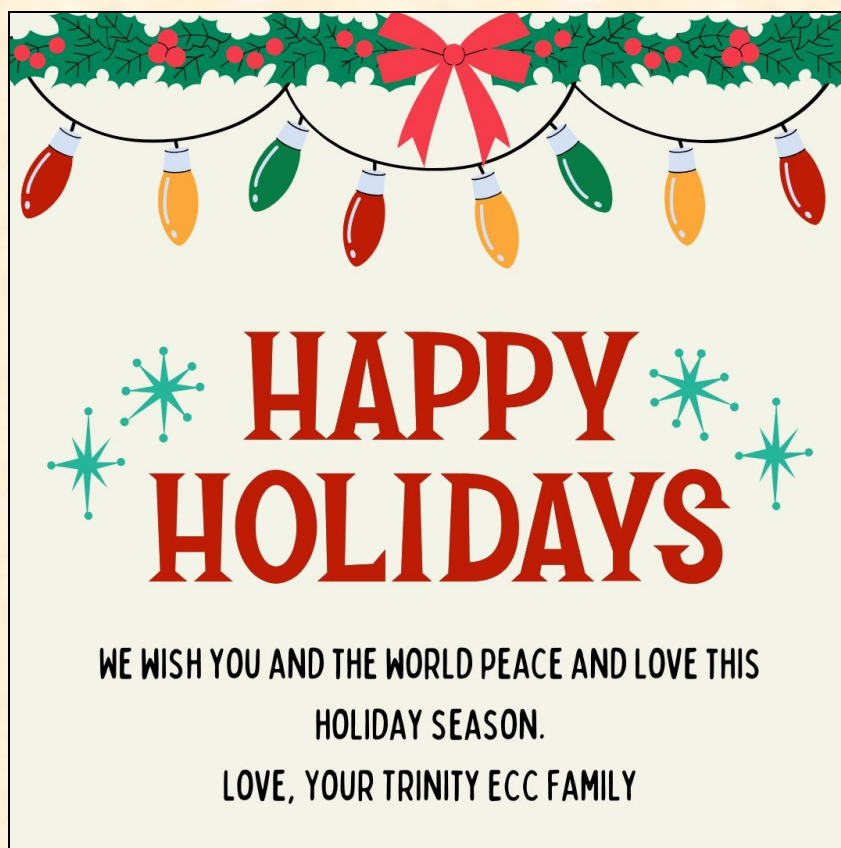
Early Childhood Center Update

December brings so much joy and cheer to ECC. We are excited for our Christmas programs, which will be held in the chapel. All are welcome to come and see it. The nursery programs are Monday, December 16 and Tuesday, December 17 at 9:30am. The pre-k classes will do a Living Nativity on Wednesday, December 18 at 9:30am, and our toddler class will have their program on Thursday, December 19 at 9:45am.

Back in October, during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, ECC had an ice-cream fundraiser to raise money to donate to Sloan Kettering for cancer research and to purchase electronics for ECC. We are excited to be able to donate \$150 to Sloan Kettering for the holidays from the money we raised. The remaining funds raised are being used to create a Mobile Technology Center for our ECC classrooms. With a portion of the funds raised, and through generous donations, ECC purchased three Amazon tablets to create our Mobile Technology Center. We are excited to roll it out for the classes to use in the new year.

From our families to yours, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Seleena Seemangal,
ECC Director



Trinity Lutheran School News

Dear Trinity Families,

December is quickly approaching. We have so many exciting events planned for this month. December 1, at 4:00pm, we had our very first church and school tree lighting in our courtyard. There was music, caroling, hot chocolate, and fellowship together. Our annual Santa breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, December 7 from 10:00am to 12:00pm. Come enjoy a delicious breakfast, holiday games, and get your picture taken with Santa!

Our kindergarten to grade 8 Christmas program is on Tuesday, December 10 at 7:00pm. Please join us as our instrumental band serenades us with Christmas music and our kindergarten to grade 5 students put on the musical "Silent Night: The Birth of a Carol" by Hal H. Hopson. The children have been diligently running lines and practicing their songs. Please come out and support them!

In His Service,
Jennifer Forte,
Principal



**TRINITY LUTHERAN
BREAKFAST
WITH
SANTA**

Enjoy the Breakfast and visit with Santa

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 7TH
AT TRINITY
10AM - 12PM**

Ticket: \$10 per person in advance
\$12 at the door

TICKET INCLUDES: DELICIOUS BREAKFAST,
PHOTO WITH SANTA,
AND CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

For more information:
SCHOOLOFFICE@TRINITYLI.ORG
OR CALL: 516-931-2211

The poster features a central illustration of Santa Claus with a white beard and red hat. To his right are two golden bells with red holly leaves. Below the bells is a circular graphic of a breakfast meal including an egg, toast, and fruit. At the bottom left is a green Christmas tree with white snowflakes and red and yellow ornaments. The background is red with white snowflakes and a yellow banner at the top.



Last month, we completed two successful fundraisers, the collection for veterans and the Pork Roast Dinner Drive-thru. A big thank you to our chairpersons for taking on the tasks and leading us: Josephine Kenney for the Veterans Collection and Jane Kramer, Kathy Krass, and Mary Jane DeVries for the Pork Roast Dinner. And let us not forget the other helping hands of our LWML sisters in Christ – thank you and we are very grateful.

Please check the LWML bulletin board for details regarding: LWML Nassau Zone Annual Advent Breakfast at Calvary Lutheran Church, East Meadow on December 7 and the Layette Item Collection for Lutheran Social Services throughout the month of December. On our January 5 monthly meeting after the 9:00am service (YSR), we will be sorting these layette donations. Thank you, Dolores Sartor, for being our chairperson for this event.

The LWML is hosting a “Happy Birthday Jesus” coffee hour on December 22 after the 9:00am worship service. We hope you can join us to celebrate *Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy* this Christmas.

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21

The LWML Board would like to say thank you to our volunteers. We are grateful for how you served so sacrificially this year. Whether it’s attending our monthly meetings, praying, serving coffee/food, mites, giving your time and expertise to this group, or any one of the countless other (usually unseen) tasks that keep our mission to serve others alive. We can't wait to see what we can accomplish together in 2025. Happy New Year to all!

Wishing a Blessed Christmas to you and your family,

Margherite, Robyn, Kathy, Faye, and Tina



Comfort Dog Ministry



The Comfort Dog ministry once again had a successful Trunk or Treat with over 200 in attendance and the Hare Family continuing their winning streak of First Place with the Flintstones. On Halloween, the teams took Abraham and Beloved for some trick-or-treat fun at Martin Luther High School. The first weekend of November, the remainder of the handlers attended the Spiritual First Aid Training hosted by Calvary East Meadow and led by Pastor Chris Singer from Lutheran Church Charities.

In the last few weeks, the dogs had several events outside their regular visits. We held Pinot and Puppies on November 22 at 7:00pm for an informal meet and greet of the Comfort Dog Ministry and to share memorable stories from visits. The dogs attended Pastor Yee's installation at Immanuel Whitestone, shop with a cop with the Project Thank a Cop, Fantasy Flight with United Airlines, Wreaths Across America, and finals week at Queens College with Pastor Yee. Our annual Cookie Walk fundraiser will be held on Sunday, December 8, between services.

In reviewing the schedule, the dogs will have logged in almost 600 hours combined for 2024. We are already looking to exceed that number in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Haines, *Top Dog*

Linda Hoerberlein, *for Church Council*



Lutheran Counseling Center



UPDATE FOR December 2024
NOW WITH SECURE, VIRTUAL COUNSELING
SESSIONS AVAILABLE FOR ANY NEW YORK RESIDENT

Prepared especially for LCC Congregations & Schools

Reflections for this Advent Season

By Betty Geiling, LCC Executive Director and Counselor

For many years, I was the Director of the Christmas Pageant and the Cherub Choir at my church. As the Fall approached, I would take a deep breath as I anticipated the enormity of the task in front of me. How do we reverently dramatize the birth of Jesus, learn a bunch of songs and readings in just a few short weeks? Frankly, no one really has time for a Christmas Pageant during Advent! It is a busy time of year! ***Don't forget this undertaking involves children – most of whom are under the age of six!***

In the world of Christmas Pageants, there is a predictable pattern. The pageant rehearsals begin with eager adults, full of ideas and plans, so hopeful that we can make this amazing. By mid-November, those same adults are exhausted and losing steam. Soon enough, things start to come together. The children know the songs, the narration is perfected and the costumes are in place. The adults have bonded, enjoyed the giggles and wiggles of children and start to recognize that we have shared a uniquely beautiful experience.

Undoubtedly, there is Divine intervention and glimpses of God in the mix of all this humanness. ***When you are really listening and watching a child will lead the way.***

I recall a little boy who was delighted to assume the role of one of the three kings. He walked down the aisle in his crown and robe bearing the shiny gold gift. He knelt devoutly in front of the manger with his hands folded. There was a nano - second tableau and then he took off back down the center aisle of the church running as fast as he could go. The teacher caught up with him and asked "What are you doing?" He answered in a serious, small voice – "sorry, my camel got away!"

Then, when you are really listening and watching a child will lead the way.

I invite you to reflect on these questions this Advent Season.

- What is it that gets away from us as we try to worship the Christ Child?
- What things ***real or imagined*** got away from me today as I try to serve and make a meaningful contribution to my family, church and community?

Sometimes we run due to the enormity of the roles we are asked to assume. We are not usually asked to assume the role of one of the three kings. Nonetheless, demanding roles as pastor, deacon, counselor, employee, employer, caregiver, parent, spouse, colleague and friend. Perhaps, we run due to the sheer messiness of this world. Grief, loss, broken relationships, work, depression, health crises, and finances are exhausting.

Advent can feel a bit like the weeks before a Christmas Pageant. There is ***A LOT*** to do. We are rushing, behind schedule and people are disappointing us or on our last nerve. ***I invite you to wait and listen for the Child.*** In the midst of all this, there is the Christ Child – our very human God. Our God who is wanting us to catch our camel and return to worship at the manger.

Elizabeth Geiling, PhD, LMHC, LPC, is LCC's Executive Director. Her counseling practice includes early childhood, adolescents, early, middle and late adulthood, and couples. Dr. Geiling is available for remote and in-person counseling at LCC's site in Bronxville. 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.

Advent and Christmas Happenings at Trinity!

We Invite You to Worship with Us This Christmas Season!



On Tuesday, December 10, 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 and YouTube.

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24

- 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, Wednesday, December 25

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

New Year's Eve, Tuesday, December 31

- 6:30 PM NYE Holy Communion Service (In Person and Live Streamed)
- 11:30 PM New Years Watch Night Worship Service (Bi-Lingual)

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!



Matching Grant Challenge

Make a Difference!

Dear Members and Friends of Trinity Lutheran Church and School,

Thanks to a generous donor, we have a challenge before us. For every dollar you give they will match it, dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000, effectively doubling the donation!

How It Works:

- 1. Donate:** Every donation you make will be matched, doubling the value.
- 2. Spread the Word:** Encourage friends and family to participate in this incredible opportunity
- 3. Make a Difference:** Your doubled donation will significantly enhance our ministries at Trinity (Tuition Support, Church Members Care and Support, Church Worker Wellness, Comfort Dog Ministry, and Future New Missions.)
Start helping us to better serve our community.

**Every \$50 you donate becomes \$100,
Every \$100 donation becomes \$200, and so on.**

**You can donate online, memo it to matching gift challenge,
use the QR code below or mail a check.**

**Join us in this challenge and watch your generosity go twice as far.
Together, we can make a lasting impact!
Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our mission.**

Sincerely,

Pastor Johnson Rethinasamy
**Trinity Lutheran Church and School
40 W. Nicholai Street
Hicksville, N.Y. 11801
www.TrinityHicksville.org
(516) 931-2225**



Please scan
to give
online



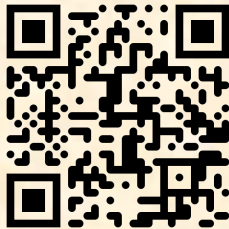
Good to Know Info!

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!

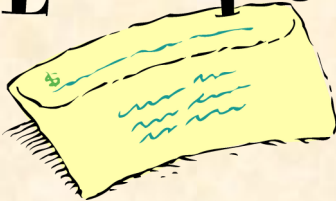
[Trinity Website:](#)



[Trinity Giving:](#)



Offering Envelopes



2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please pick up your 2025 offering envelopes outside the Multi-Purpose Room beginning December 15. If you give electronically you will not get envelopes. If yours are missing or you would like a set of envelopes please call Lynn in the church office at extension 230. Thank You.

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

Newsletter submissions and articles for the January 2025 edition of *The Good News* are due to the church office by noon on **Friday, December 20, 2024.**

Thank you!