

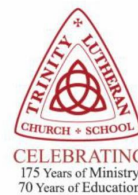


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TRINITY LUTHERAN C H U R C H A N D S C H O O L

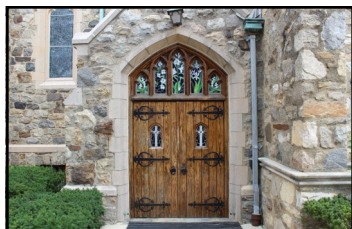
40 West Nicolai Street, Hicksville, NY 11801

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



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The Good News



February 2025

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Worship Schedule

Sundays 9:00am Traditional
 Live Streamed on
 Facebook and YouTube
 In Person

Sundays 11:00am Contemporary
 Live Streamed on
 Facebook and YouTube
 In Person

Sunday School 9:00am



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is February! Love is in the air!!
 Thank God, love is not up in the air!!
 It needs grounding! So God sent Jesus!

This time of the year, it is a great reminder to us that love and compassion is the very center of our Christian faith and witness. Lust hijacks the core meaning of love and dilutes its sacredness!

Thanks be to God for Bible passages such as 1 Corinthians 13. This is a great edification for Christ’s followers to better understand the four letter word: L-O-V-E.

Each of us may be going through many things. It may be connected to your job, relationships, health setbacks, employment, loneliness, age factors, hardships, wedding, finances, separation and many things. God’s love for you is woven through the ups and downs of your life.

You matter to God! God hears your every spoken and unspoken thoughts.

As we move closer to the season of Lent (Beginning March 5), we are reminded of our need for repentance and God’s abundant grace rooted in God’s love!

By the way, as Super Bowl frenzy is also in the air, I am sending prayers for your team to win!

Love is more than just a feeling; it is an action. As Christians, we are called to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. This love should be evident in our words, actions, and attitudes.

We have a newly started Service of Prayer and Healing. We gather from 7:00 – 8:00pm on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Join us if you can. If you have a prayer request, send it my way.

In Christ’s Love,

Johnson Rethinasamy
(Your Pastor)





Failed Resolutions, Numbers and Structure



It's February now, which means that more than 80 percent of people who made New Year's resolutions have either failed to maintain them or abandoned them altogether. And even if you're not someone who tries to make an official resolution, many people still look with hope on the new year, feeling energized by a fresh calendar that presents fresh opportunities.

The problem for so many, however, is when that initial enthusiasm wears off – when you're forced to wake up on a cold February morning to go to the gym or when somebody brings you donuts from your favorite shop – your aspirations for a healthier lifestyle seem to fade with every passing temptation. Maybe illness gets in the way and your aspiration for perfect weekend attendance at church has gone by the wayside, or you've had to deplete your new savings plan already because of unexpected expenses. Even those without resolutions have perhaps found that their desire for this year to be different seems like a silly ambition already.

The thing that unites all of these is that enthusiasm alone doesn't yield positive results. If wishing for change was all it took, we would all be changed already. Those few people still going with their 2025 goals – less than 20 percent – *how do they do it?* How do they keep going?

At this point in the book of Numbers, Israel has made a habit of turning away from God. And in chapter 25, they continue that trend: they start worshiping the Gods of the local people and follow them instead. Instead of allowing the people to lose their identity as the people of God and throw the mission to the Promised Land completely into chaos, God does what God has been doing since Genesis 1: making order out of chaos. The following chapters of Numbers show God counting, organizing and creating structures to help accomplish the mission. People were allocated land based on the size of their groups, the clans were united according to their ancestors and therefore given clear identity, and the inheritance structures were made to include women and siblings, not just firstborn sons (yes, the book of Numbers was progressive).

As we seek to be the people God made us to be, don't consider it a failure of God if our problems are not magically fixed. Instead, create lasting structures around the changes you would like to see, following this example of God in the Bible.

The last piece: involve God in this process. If something is important to us, it is also important to God, but we can also listen for discernment as we seek to align ourselves with God's kingdom. Prayerfully, diligently, we can make changes in ourselves and our world.

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11

Deacon Donna Haines



Your Deacons

Betsy Lazarek

Donna Haines

Lynn Waldeck

February 2 – The Presentation of Our Lord

If I were to say what happens on February 2, most of you would say Groundhog's Day. However, I would say, The Presentation of Our Lord! This year, the day that the church sets aside for this celebration falls on a Sunday, and we get to celebrate it! That makes me very happy, because what a festival day it is! What is the day that we call The Presentation of Our Lord? It is the day, 40 days after Christmas, that Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the temple, as prescribed by Jewish law, as told to us in Luke 2. There the baby Jesus is seen by the prophet Simeon, promised by God not to die before seeing the Messiah and the prophetess Anna. On seeing the baby, Simeon sings the ancient song of the church that we call the Nunc Dimittis, "Lord, now let your servant depart in peace," a hymn we continue to sing each week after communion.

The observance of this festival dates back to the earliest days of the Christian church, having been celebrated in Jerusalem already in the fourth century, making it almost as old as the celebration of Christmas itself. In England, it marked the end of the Christmas season, and the greens and decorations for Christmas would be removed. In many traditions, it is often called Candlemas, because during this festival the candles that would be used for the coming year in the church would be blessed, some being distributed to the congregation as well, who would form processions into the town with these candles, remembering Simeon's words that Christ is a "Light to lighten the Gentiles." The connection to Groundhog's Day is also not coincidental, as an old English saying says: *If Candlemas Day is clear and bright, winter will have another bite. If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain, winter is gone and will not come again.* The Pennsylvania Dutch brought Groundhog's Day to America, which was purposely celebrated on the Feast of the Presentation. We can see the connection to light in the two celebrations, light being a central theme of the Presentation.



This day, a highlight of the Epiphany season, will bring us back to the infant Jesus, and on February 2 a little Christmas will be back at Trinity. We will have not only hymns for the Presentation, but some Christmas hymns as well. Trinity Choir at 9:00am will proclaim the words of Simeon, the Nunc Dimittis, in a beautiful setting by early 20th century Irish composer, Charles Villiers Stanford. As a congregation, we will sing Simeon's words as well, using the words of Luther in his hymn based on Simeon's words, "In Peace and Joy I Now Depart," which was published in the first Lutheran hymnal in 1524, a hymnal that just celebrated its 500th anniversary. You don't have to put up a Christmas tree or take out all of your Christmas decorations again to celebrate the Presentation, but if you haven't taken them down yet, you can say that you were following ancient church custom. Christmas will be back, at least for one day in February at Trinity. Merry Christmas! Here is a recording of Stanford's Nunc Dimittis in C that Trinity Choir will sing:

https://youtu.be/_XYhFfE2shI?si=X4gFWk-PQzOO9MbS

Henry DeVries,
Minister of Music

“Christ’s Life, and Love, and Light”

Open our eyes Lord to see Your love’s intent,
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height
May thankfulness be days in service spent
Reflection of Christ’s life, and love, and light. (LSB 788)

As stewards enter the month of February, it is fitting that we look at the last stanza of the stewardship hymn, “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788). It is in these words that we see that the heart of stewardship is indeed love. Love has flowed from our Lord to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ. This love is then to flow from us to others. Being a conduit of love is really the central task of what it means to be a steward. The Lord entrusts us with His love that reconciles us to Himself, so that we might be stewards of the Gospel reconciliation that is freely given through us to those around us.

If we don’t see this love from God to us, then through us, to others, our eyes will be closed not just to the needs of those around us. They will also be closed to the very heart of the Gospel itself. This is why the hymnist prays that the Lord would “Open our eyes, Lord, to see Your love’s intent, To know with minds and hearts its depth and height.”

Only when we are immersed in God’s Holy Word, washed in Holy Baptism’s life-giving water and fed on the holy, precious, body and blood of Jesus in the Holy Supper, will the Spirit be able to open our eyes to see the Lord’s loving intent for us, and those we know and love. Sin blinds us. It makes us think that we are the center of our world, and our pleasure is the key.

In the Word, the Lord shows us the depth and height of His love. The depth of that love is what moved Him from His throne in heaven into our world. There He would don our human flesh, walk the dusty roads of Palestine, and set His face toward Jerusalem. Once there we get to see the height of His love, as He is elevated on a Roman cross to die a death that we deserve. But that would not be the end. He would be lowered into a tomb for three days. On that third day we then see the heights of love ascended to in His resurrection. This resurrection is already ours too!

The depth and height of this love poured out on us by the Holy Spirit then is distributed through us to others. Christ’s servant love is shown in our servant love. The hymn utters the prayer of every Christian steward:

May thankfulness be days in service spent
Reflection of Christ’s life, and love, and light.

This is the task for which stewards were originally created. Bearing the image of creation and redemption, we reflect Christ’s love to those around us. The light of Christ shining through us to others is the true stewardship to which we are called. It takes place in our homes. It is lived out in our workplaces and classrooms. As we bear the life, love and light received in Word and Sacrament, we carry it out in service to our neighbor and for the glory of God!

Forgive us, Lord, when our stewardship of thankfulness is shallow or lacking! Fill us with Your life, love and light! Not just for us, but through us to those we know and love, that they may know Your life, love and light for them!

Early Childhood Center Update

Introducing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education in preschool classrooms lays the foundation for critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity from an early age. Young children are naturally curious, and hands-on STEM activities foster exploration, experimentation, and a love for learning. By engaging in simple science experiments, building structures, and exploring technology through interactive play, preschoolers develop essential skills such as observation, reasoning, and collaboration.

A great example of this was our **Preschool Snow Ball Castle Building STEM Challenge**, where children designed and built structures to enclose their polar bears inside. Through this fun and engaging activity done during our January Arctic Animals lessons, they explored engineering concepts, tested different materials, and learned about stability and balance. This challenge encouraged teamwork, perseverance, and creative problem-solving - key skills that will benefit them in all areas of learning.

Early exposure to STEM concepts not only prepares children for future academic success but also nurtures innovation and adaptability - key traits in our ever-evolving world. Investing in STEM education at the preschool level ensures that young learners grow with the confidence and curiosity needed to become tomorrow's problem-solvers and innovators.

Registration is now open for Trinity's Early Childhood Center for the 2025-2026 school year. Our goal is to provide children with a strong foundation for a lifetime of learning.

Seleena Seemangal,
ECC Director



HAPPY
Valentine's
DAY

Trinity Lutheran School News

Dear Trinity Families,

At the end of January, we celebrated Lutheran Schools Week. It was the perfect time to showcase our students. We began the week by having our 2nd and 3rd grade students sing in church at the 9:00 AM service. We also had our Honor Society middle school students assist with ushering, and designing the bulletin cover for the service. During the school week, students participated in various dress down days such as: Pajama Day, Positive Vibes Day, Dress Your Best, Hero Day, and Sports Day. Classes designed crosses showing their favorite Bible verses, pastors from other Lutheran churches in the area joined us for chapel, and at the end of the week, we even had the opportunity to have relay races for our K to 8 grade students. It truly was a fabulous week.

This February our students will be working on projects centered on Black History Month. We are excited to see who they will showcase for us, as they share their projects on our morning announcements each day.

In His Service,

Jennifer Forte
Principal





We are off to a busy start for 2025. The LWML had our layette collection from mid-November through the month of December. A big thank you to everyone who donated items for the New Life Center. And also many thanks to the children from the ECC program who did such a wonderful job with their collection of baby items. The ladies sorted and bagged the items during our January meeting and Dolores Sartor took the collection to the center. Thank you Dolores for taking care of delivering the collection to the center!

We have scheduled our quilting event to be on February 15 at 9:30am at Helen's house. Please bring a needle with a large eye and a pair of scissors. Some of the jobs involved in this quilting process are the tying of quilts, cutting of squares and ironing of the squares. Please don't feel intimidated if you don't sew. There are many jobs where we can use your help! Please check us out and enjoy some fellowship time while helping out. Also ladies, bring something to eat for lunch.

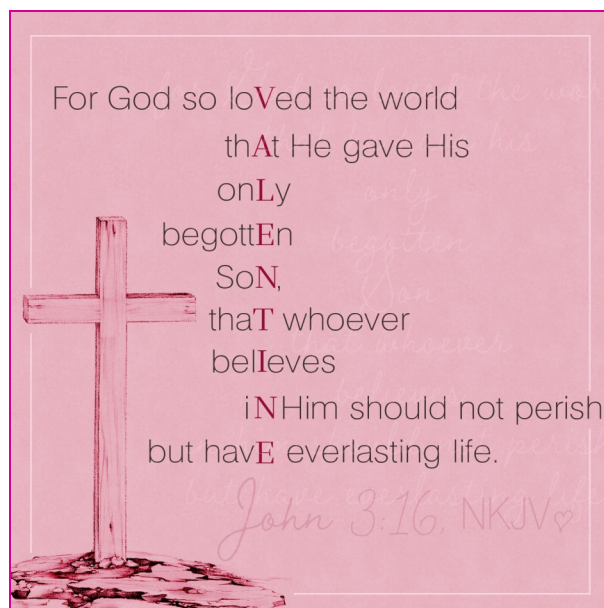
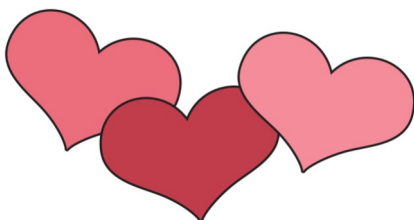
Also, in February before Lent begins, LWML will be putting together another fundraising event! We will host a Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast on March 1 from 9:00am-noon. It is open to family and friends for \$15 per person. There will be raffles, activities, music and more. Please check Trinity's News and Notes and the LWML bulletin board for more details. Hope to see you there!

Wishing you a Happy Valentine's Day!

Let all that you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 16:14

Blessings,

Faye Wong
LWML Secretary



LWML PRESENTS
MARDI GRAS
PANCAKE BREAKFAST
FUNDRAISER 2025



RAFFLE BASKETS
PHOTO BOOTH

DRESS IN YOUR BEST
PURPLE/GREEN/GOLD

BEAD TOSS
MUSICAL CHAIRS

MAKE YOUR OWN MARDI GRAS MASK & JAZZ BAND
Saturday 9AM TO TRINITY LUTHERAN
MARCH 1ST NOON CHURCH
40 W. NICHOLAI ST.
CAFETERIA/MULTIPURPOSE
ROOM



SCAN QR CODE FOR DIRECT PAYMENT TO LWML

\$15 per person *children under 3 are free

FUN FOR ALL AGES – BRING A FRIEND!

CONTACT LWML CHAIRPERSON DENISE MILLER
TEXT 516-458-2749 EMAIL d33orange@yahoo.com

* All children under 18 years must be accompanied by an adult at all times

Comfort Dog Ministry

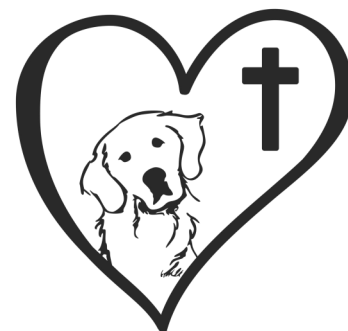


03/02/2025 - Our Savior, Albany
 03/06/2025 - Alzheimer's Foundation
 03/07/2025 - Astoria Lutheran School
 03/09/2025 - Bristal Bethpage
 03/10/2025 - Arbors Jericho
 03/11/2025 - Central Island
 03/12/2025 - Bristal Garden City
 03/13/2025 - Somerset Gardens
 03/13/2025 - Alzheimer's Foundation
 03/15/2025 - Festival of workshops
 03/17/2025 - Bristal Westbury
 03/19/2025 - Daybreak
 03/20/2025 - Mill Neck Manor School
 03/20/2025 - Bristal East Meadow
 03/21/2025 - Abraham to Brownies
 03/24/2025 - Arbors - Islandia
 03/24/2025 - Bristal Westbury
 03/25/2025 - Central Island
 03/27/2025 - Alzhemier's Foundation

Happy Birthday!

Abraham

Come join us for a pawty
 February 16, 2025
 after 9 am service.





UPDATE FOR February 2025
NOW WITH SECURE, VIRTUAL COUNSELING
SESSIONS AVAILABLE FOR ANY NEW YORK RESIDENT

Prepared especially for LCC Congregations & Schools

Do You Value Yourself Enough?

Rev. Dr. Ronald Lehenbauer, D.Min, LMFT, LCC Staff Psychotherapist

I'm guessing that many of us don't value ourselves enough. Someone may be thinking, "I doubt that! I know lots of people with big egos who seem to value themselves too much." Or someone else may be thinking, "God doesn't want us to self-righteously overvalue ourselves. God wants us to be humble and confess our faults and sins." But I'm thinking that God wants most of us to value ourselves more.

There's no doubt about how much God values each one of us! The whole Bible and countless verses in it testify to that foundational truth. God, our Creator, who created us in God's own image, says, "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands." (Isaiah 40:15-16) Jesus, of course, is the ultimate proof of how much we are valued by God. Before his suffering and death for us Jesus said, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love" (St. John 15:9).

This is the core value that every human being is born with. You are precious, unique, of infinite and eternal and unchanging value, good, beautiful, lovable, and full of potential. And nothing and no one can take your core value from you, or diminish it the least little bit (see Romans 8:35-39). But we can get out-of-touch with our core value – lose sight of it – who we are as a child of God. And that can get us into a lot of trouble.

When we lose our temper or have a burst of anger ... or when we strike out at our spouse in the midst of a highly emotional argument ... or when we lose control of an addiction of one kind or another ... or when we are feeling depressed or feeling over-anxious about something ... or when we're feeling very resentful toward someone whom we feel has mistreated us ... those are all signs that WE ARE NOT VALUING OURSELVES ENOUGH.

Anger, anxiety, and other out-of-control negative emotions and thoughts are often automatic coping defenses our human minds use to help us cope with core hurts we are experiencing. Those core hurts (like feeling powerless or not-good-enough or unlovable or shame or worthless, etc.) are too painful for us to feel very long. Believing these core hurts obviously means that we are devaluing ourselves. They separate us from our core value. So our minds – to help us handle our core hurts – automatically protect us with those negative thoughts, emotions and behaviors – often called a "fight or flight" response. And too often those responses are not in our best interest or helpful in our relationships.

The solution is to learn how to self-regulate our emotions. Easier said than done! But it is possible to train our minds to automatically go to our personal core value when our core hurts are triggered. And that automatically takes us to a place of healing and compassion – for ourselves and toward others.

I've learned about what I'm sharing here from Dr. Steven Stosny, a well-known psychologist who has treated over 6,000 people with anger, resentment, and other relationship problems. He has developed a therapeutic process which can train our brain to self-regulate our emotions in this way. I use it myself and help others to learn it. Many have found it beneficial. It includes creating a personal Core Value bank for yourself. As you make withdrawals from time to time, the marvelous thing is that the balance never goes down from this bank. (You may want to pick up one of Dr. Stosny's many books, like "Soar Above: How to Use the Most Profound Part of Your Brain Under Any Kind of Stress".)

Most of us don't want our lives centered around our core hurts and negative thinking and emotions – a weak mode-of-self. We want our lives centered in our God-given core value – a power mode-of-self. One of our goals at the Lutheran Counseling Center is to assist individuals, couples and families, learn to do just that.

Ronald Lehenbauer, DMin, MDiv, LMFT, is a NY state licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, providing counseling for adults and couples. 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.



CELEBRATING
175 Years of Ministry
70 Years of Education

Jr. Youth

6TH THROUGH
8TH GRADE



Jan. - Feb. 2025

Quick Calendar

FUEL

January 10th
7:00-9:00 pm
Youth Room

FUEL

January 24th
7:00-9:00 pm
Youth Room

Romans and
Christians

FUEL

February 7th
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.

ROMANS AND CHRISTIANS

Join us for a fantastic Trinity Tradition! Romans and Christians is a combination of manhunt and a scavenger hunt. Participants must follow clues leading them all over the building while avoiding capture by the Romans. You won't want to miss this event!

Trinity Fellowship Club (TFC)



The Trinity Fellowship Club



Invites you to a

VALENTINE'S
DAY

Friday Night

6:00 pm

February 14th



Cost

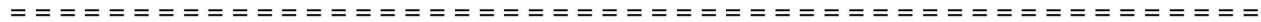
\$10

per person

Join us for fellowship, games and pizza as we share the love of Jesus on this special day of love. Singles and couples are invited to join us in the festivities. We will be ordering pizza **according to the popular vote** so be sure to check off your favorite on the sign up sheet.

The word love is mentioned many times in the Bible; please bring a scripture on love to share with the group as we honor the author of love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. No bringing Joh 3:16, that is too easy, we all know that one. Let's do a little searching.

**ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED
NO AT THE DOOR ADMITTANCE**



Yes I would like to attend the pizza party on February 14th at 6:00 p.m. Cost \$10 per person.

NAME: _____

OF PEOPLE ATTENDING: _____

PHONE # _____

PIZZA PREFERENCE - check one (1). We will order according to popular vote.

Plain pizza

Pepperoni pizza

Broccoli pizza

White pizza



**JOIN US FOR A
BASKETBALL
GAME!**

**Friday, March 28th
7:00pm**

Nassau Coliseum

Tickets \$25

Questions:

Email rstainkamp@trinityli.org

Ordering link below, or scan the QR Code
<https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Trinitylutheran25>

Doors open at 6:00 for families and Kids to
enjoy various activities courtside before
the game starts.

We will also be participating in the
Halftime High Five line, where kids will get
down on the court to welcome the players
back to the game.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

PRAYER & HEALING

Service

EVERY 1ST AND 3RD
THURSDAYS @ 7PM

COME LET US PRAY

February 6 & 20, 2025
7 PM to 8 PM



Trinity Lutheran Church and School,
40 West Nicholai St., Hicksville, NY 11801

More details at
trinityhicksville.org

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Sunday, February 9th, 2025

Bring a can of soup to church
to be placed in the winning
team's box

All cans to be placed in the
Blessing Box after results
are tabulated

Philadelphia Eagles?? Kansas City Chiefs?? Who will it be?? Well here's your chance to pick your favorite by bringing a can (or CANS!) of soup to church on February 9 and placing them in your favorite team's box. The real winner will be those who are in need and will benefit from the cans of soup made available to them in Trinity's Blessing Box.



Go Eagles!


Go Chiefs!





TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

40 West Nicholai Street, Hicksville, New York 11801



EVERY MONDAY
@ 6 PM

FREE
English as Second
Language
Classes

Join this program to learn English
language with professional educators
in your community !

trinityhicksville.org

Call - 516-931-2225 EXT 229



SCAN TO KNOW MORE

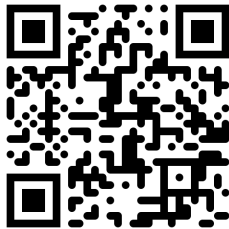
Good to Know Info!

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:](#)



TLS UNWANTED GIFT DRIVE

Now that the gift giving and receiving season has slowed, if you're like many of us you may have received some gifts that you are not quite sure what to do with. If you're looking for a way to clear out those thoughtful but unwanted gifts we have the perfect solution for you! The Trinity PTFA is starting an unwanted gift drive to help you repurpose those appreciated gifts that need a new home. Items should be new and may be of any type, just please no food items. We'll create themed baskets from the donated items. You can drop your unwanted gifts off in the school office. All donated items will be held for our annual WINGO fundraiser. Thank you!

NewsLetter
DEADLINE

Newsletter submissions and articles for the February 2025 edition of *The Good News* are due to the church office by noon on **Monday, February 24, 2025.**

Thank you!