



CELEBRATING
175 Years of Ministry
70 Years of Education

EST. 1850

CHURCH
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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

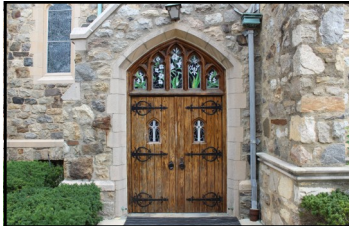


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The Good News



January 2025

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Worship Schedule

Sundays 9:00am

Traditional

Live Streamed on
Facebook and YouTube
In Person

Sundays 11:00am

Contemporary

Sunday School 9:00am



“Look to Abraham, your father, and to Sarah, who gave you birth.
When I called him he was only **one man**, and
I blessed him and made him many.”

Happy New Year!

At the New Year Watch Night Service at Trinity, my first homily for the new year was based on the above Bible verse from the book of Isaiah. God's promises to the Trinity family has been true to this very day as we are getting ready to celebrate our 175th year of ministry and 70 years of providing Christ-centered education. God has called us to be a blessing to MANY!

As we gather at the dawn of a new year, I extend my warmest greetings and blessings to each of you. May the peace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you and your families in abundance.

As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded of God's faithfulness and loving care. Through trials and triumphs, Jesus' presence through His Word and Sacrament has been our constant companion. As a community of Jesus we give thanks for the opportunities to live out our sacramental Christian living.

I also want to introduce and welcome our new vicar, Ajil Kumar Christopher Raj and his family among us. Keep him and his family in your prayers as he is prayerfully looking to begin new outreach opportunities around us.

Thank you for your prayers, presence and support during our “Making a Difference” campaign with our matching dollar donation opportunity. Your stewardship response has spoken so well. We have exceeded the matching dollar donation. To God be all the glory.

I am excited to serve among you during such an exciting time as this.

Your Pastor,
Johnson Rethinasamy

Deacon's Bench



*Lynn,
Trust Me. I have everything under control.
Jesus*



Wouldn't it be wonderful to get a card, open it and this is what it says!

That is how I'm trying to start 2025. We forget the Bible is this card. We are told to trust, not worry and turn everything over to God. At times it is easier said than done. How many of us lay awake at night worrying? But our worry and lack of sleep will not change anything. Jesus has our back!

As you stand with your back to the old year and look forward to the new one, you can have hope in the promises of God. You will certainly face both trying and joyful times ahead, but you can rest assured that He "*will never leave you nor forsake you.*" (Joshua 1:5) That promise is enough to celebrate the new year ahead!

Lord, in this new year help me to remember your promises and who you are, and you are always in control. It is because of you that I can have hope, because you are faithful.

May the New Year bring you joy, peace, and blessings!

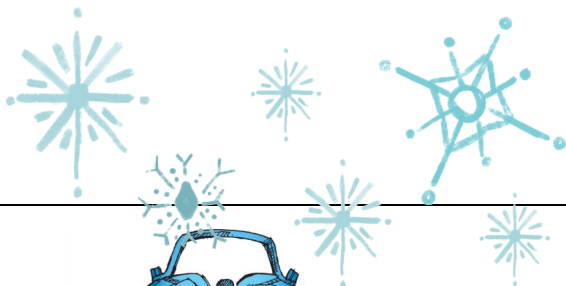
Deacon Lynn Waldeck

Your Deacons

Betsy Lazarek

Donna Haines

Lynn Waldeck



NEW WORSHIP TIME!

LATE SERVICE TIME CHANGE

Please make note that as we go into the new year, our 10:45am worship service will now be held at **11:00am** beginning Sunday, January 5, 2025.



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.



O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright LSB 395

I am excited, because this year we will be celebrating the festival of the Epiphany, normally observed on January 6, on Sunday, January 5. What is Epiphany and the Epiphany season that follows? Epiphany is the celebration of the coming of the Wise Men to see Jesus. Epiphany comes from the Greek word for “to be visible” and can mean the shining of a light, or a manifestation or revelation. Christmas was about Jesus as fully human—a baby son born to Mary and laid in a manger. But Epiphany is about a Jesus who is also fully divine—the Son of God. Epiphany is one of the oldest of church festivals, along with Easter and Pentecost. It had its beginnings in the third century, (Christmas was not a church festival until the 5th century). This season is where we hear so many facets of Christ’s Godliness, each facet reflecting the light of his divinity – His Baptism, His miracles and His Transfiguration.

One of the Epiphany hymns that we will be singing on January 5 is “O Morning Star How Fair and Bright.” (LSB 395) It is known as the “Queen of Chorales” because of the majesty of its text and tune. Its message of hope in the face of death is incomparable. (By the way, there is a King of Chorales as well - “Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying,” (LSB 516) also by Nicolai, but that’s another newsletter article to come.)

When Philipp Nicolai wrote the words and melody to this hymn, in 1597, he was a German Lutheran pastor in the city of Unna in Westphalia, Germany. While there, the city was hit by a scourge of plague that took the lives of more than 1,300 of its citizens. This widespread death so close to home impacted Nicolai in a profound way. It has been noted that more than once up to 30 graves were dug for those claimed by the rat-and-flea-borne menace, and these were laid to rest within the sight of his house, which overlooked the graveyard.

From this catastrophe, which must have struck terror in the lives of anyone near its march, Nicolai found inspiration in four different scriptures. One of these came from Zechariah's prophecy in Luke 1. Here is John the Baptist's father, filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking exuberantly about Jesus, after being silenced by the angel Gabriel for his previous unbelief. In Luke 1, beginning at verse 76, Zechariah sings,

"And you, Child, will be called the Prophet of the Most High; for You will go before the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

How comforting the words of Zechariah must have been to the hymn-writer. All around him, encroaching nearer, death was spreading over the city. Left and right, Nicolai's parish members were being claimed by this horrific disease, dying terrible deaths as their organs failed and their bodies shut down. And in the middle of this devastation, God's Word speaks. The Promised One has come; His arrival brings the knowledge of salvation, the forgiveness of sins, and a light to those who sit in darkness. Each of the hymns six verses speak to Christ being with us, giving us life. As his parishioners lost their lives, Nicolai’s hymn reminded all that, Christ gives life; he is with us today, tomorrow and every day. Is there anything more comforting than to know our Savior is always with us?

*What joy to know, when life is past, the Lord we love is first and last, the end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace, transport us to that happy place beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!*

The hymn will even be included in the Trinity Choir anthem for the day, “Canticle for Epiphany” by Paul Weber. Here is a link to hear the anthem:

<https://youtu.be/NM0bsY-SQ2M?si=hhwi8LzdJ80c1F6W>

Repenting of “Feasts that Know No Fast”

Fresh off the Christmas season and the retail frenzy that accompanies it, January brings a shot of frigid air into the lives of the people we know and love. This is not a meteorological statement either. While it is true that January is one of the colder months for those in North America, the cold front blast that hits us is the full force of credit card spending that fueled the retail frenzy. The bills for the gifts, the parties, the food and the travel have now come due. The credit card makes things convenient, but it also requires more discipline than many can muster. When the bills come in January for December’s celebration, it really puts a damper on things.

Congregations often make the same mistake in stewardship. We often charge forward in doing what we always do or starting new endeavors without counting the cost. But at the end of the month, or the end of year, when the bill comes due, the red ink on the congregational balance sheet smacks the people in the face like a stiff north wind in January. We hunkered down. We circle the wagons. We start to panic. The work of the Gospel suffers.

The fifth verse of “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) addresses this January situation. The words penned by William Watkins Reid are very needful for us to hear as we start a new year, while dealing with the bills of past efforts and expense.

“Forgive us, Lord for feast that knows not fast ...” This hits us hard, doesn’t it? We love when the money is flowing, the parties are going, and things are getting bigger and better. But there is a time in life, and most especially in our spiritual disciplines, that we need to fast. The purpose of a fast is to step back, lay something aside for a time, and replace it with meditation on Scripture and prayer. This is designed to keep us from turning something that may well be good into an idol that separates us from the God who loves us in Christ.

“For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul ...” In “The Parable of the Sower,” we hear Jesus talk about how the worries and cares of life choke out the growth of the seed of the Word that was planted. We know how this happens in our lives. Professional and youth sports do this. Materialism does this. Travel and leisure and do this. There is a list of things that we enjoy that starve the soul.

But it also happens in our congregations. When corporate stewardship is not managed in a responsible way, it can and does destroy individual stewardship. Is it good individual stewardship to support a ministry that doesn’t take its corporate responsibility seriously?

“For walls and wars that hide your mercies vast and blur our vision of the Kingdom goal.” This is the ultimate end of the idolatry of failed stewardship. We build walls between believers within the church and hamper those who are outside from coming to the Light of Life that is Jesus. The wars we fight over money and its impact on ministry do the same. It eventually blurs our vision of what we are here to do: share the Good News of Jesus. When the wintry blast of January hits us in this fashion, we are called to repent.

When the Holy Spirit uses the cold front of the call to repentance, we meet the God who forgives and restores. That is what He does for individual and corporate stewards. When the bills hit, they call us back to Jesus. He is the One who indeed forgives us our shallow thankfulness and leads us into the bounty of His mercy yet again.

Outreach Ministry

When the Jews went into exile in Babylon, among first group of exiles were young men of prominent Jewish families: Daniel, Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego. Life was difficult for them for the Babylonian culture was polytheistic. Babylonians were eclectic in their worship. They worshipped a host of other gods but did not tolerate the Jews who served only one.

Like the Jewish exiles in Babylon modern Christians dwell amidst a host of alternative religions which all claim to explain the hidden mysteries of the universe as well as foretell the future, all co-existing in a bizarre harmony. Daniel and his companions stood firm in their faith in Yahweh and suffered for it. Yet they preserved and were blessed.

We modern believers should stand fast in our faith in Jesus because He is God. Our God is God Almighty, the one Who created and controls all things. In spite of the grand and impressive works and claims made by those in the world who do not know Jesus, He is the only God. All the so-called gods of the world are false and demonic in origin yet the culture in which we live proclaims their doctrines daily through the media as well as through academia. The message is proclaims tolerance and acceptance of all religions as equal, a message so that appears do loving and kind, that it could fool even the one who has faith in Jesus.

Therefore, we Christians must be grounded daily in the Word of God. In this way we will be steeped in God's wisdom and truth, so we will be able to discern the lies of the devil from the truth of God. Then we will be equipped to counteract the claims of the devotees of those Satanic phony gods. Armed with the truth, we then can spread the gospel to free those in bondage to Satan.

Deacon Anthony Cavaliere

From the Good News Newsletter, January 2019 edition



Early Childhood Center Update

ECC wishes you a very Happy New Year filled with lots of love and learning. We have great things planned and we can't wait to see how the year unfolds. Cheers to 2025!

~ Blessings,

Mrs. Seemangal
ECC Director

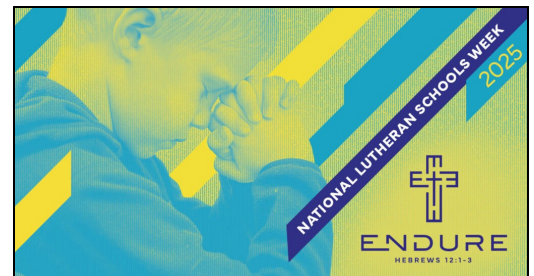


Trinity Lutheran School News

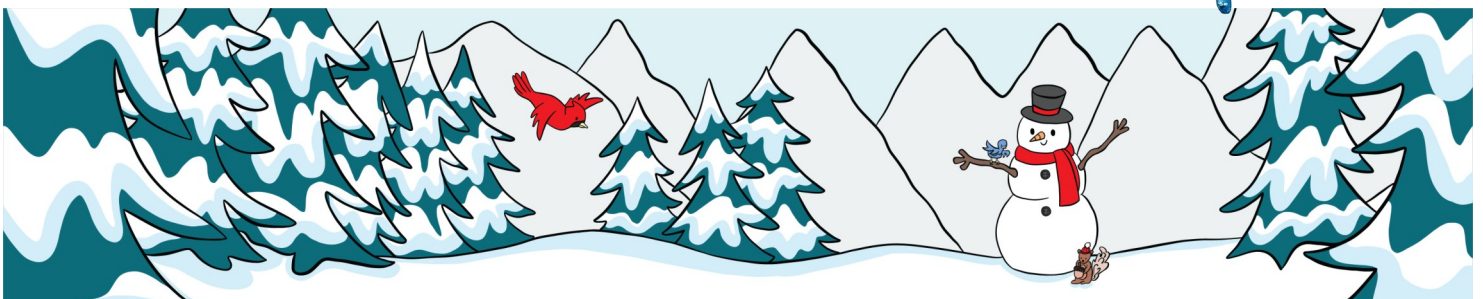
Dear Trinity Families,

As we approach the beginning of a new calendar year, I would like to take a moment to highlight some of the wonderful things that occurred in December 2024. We started the month off with our first annual tree lighting. We had over 75 people attend. We are looking forward to making this a Trinity tradition for years to come, making it bigger and better for next year. We also had a wonderful turnout for our Santa Breakfast. This event was sponsored by our school's PTFA and we were able to raise almost \$1000 for our school. Our students also performed beautifully at their band concerts and Christmas pageants. Their talents really shined through. Thank you to all of you who came out to support these wonderful events.

In January we will be celebrating Lutheran Schools Week. This year's theme is *Endure*, which comes from Hebrews 12:1 -3. If we are going to lead a Christian life with no distractions and not get off track, we must keep our eyes carefully focused on Jesus. The students will be participating in a number of activities focusing on this theme. We are looking forward to an outstanding 2025 here at Trinity!



In His Service,
Jennifer Forte,
Principal





Happy New Year to All! We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas season.

We are excited about some events we have planned for the Spring, such as the Mardi Gras Breakfast in March and our High Tea event in May, both to be in person events. We are looking forward to the fellowship we can experience with friends, which we missed the past several years. Details will be forthcoming as we get closer to those dates. Our next closest event is the Saturday evening Coffee House fundraiser on January 25, featuring our New Dimensions Praise Band. We'll enjoy an evening of music and light refreshments and enjoy some fellowship during this evening event. Please check the bulletin for details.

Back in October when we had our LWML Sunday celebration, we presented Helen Peter with an honorarium of over \$700 collected from our congregation and members. Helen used part of that money to donate to two worthwhile outside charities close to her heart. She then gave back over \$200 of that to Trinity's LWML. Thank you Helen for your generosity in finding ways to give back to our Lord and showing your love!

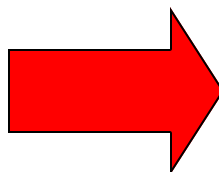
On December 7, Calvary Lutheran in East Meadow hosted the Nassau Zone Advent Breakfast. We had quite a showing of support as 14 members from Trinity attended, along with Abraham and Beloved. The ladies enjoyed a delicious brunch and also heard a presentation by Deaconess Phyllis Yee about the Legacy Program (a food bank charity) that she is involved with, along with the students from Martin Luther School in Maspeth. We collected non-perishables as the in-gathering to benefit the Legacy Program.

As always, our goal is honoring God and living according to His will. We invite the ladies of Trinity Lutheran Church to consider joining our LWML Chapter. We meet on the first Sunday of the month after the 9:00am service. We'd love to have you attend and check what we're planning in 2025!

Wishing you and yours God's Blessings and Love in the New Year!

Margherite, Robyn, Kathy, Faye and Tina


Look for this flyer in Sunday's bulletin!



Join us for our Coffee House on Saturday, January 25!



LWML COFFEE HOUSE FUNDRAISER
Saturday, January 25, 2025 at 6:30pm



Whether you're looking to relax, socialize, or enjoy great music by our very own *New Dimensions Praise Band*, this is the perfect way to celebrate the New Year and support the LWML. We are also raffling a French Champagne Basket!

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door.

All money raised from this event will go to various charities and ministries that the LWML members will vote on in June. Previous donations have been given to Trinity Comfort Dog Ministry, T.O.B. Childhood Cancer Educ. (Morgan Center), Concordia Seminary Food Bank, and improvement projects at Trinity.

Cash or check, payable to Trinity Lutheran Church LWML, can be put into the church offering basket with **LWML COFFEE HOUSE** indicated on the envelope, or mail to Trinity Lutheran LWML, 40 W. Nicholas Street, Hicksville, NY 11801 ATT:LWML

Thank you for your support!

Questions?
Contact: Margherite at 516-426-5443(c) or Robyn at 516-413-7864(c)

----- SIGN-UP FORM -----

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

of TICKETS (\$10/pp): _____



Comfort Dog Ministry



As the Comfort Dog Ministry closes out the year, Abraham and Beloved have, combined, made a total of 201 visits. We have been as far north as New Hampshire to as far south as Virginia. We gained three new Senior Living Centers to visit and continued our annual events that we attend. We even had a three page article in Newsday featuring both dogs! Trinity should be very proud of the work Abraham, Beloved and the entire Comfort Dog Team does each and every day.

We greatly appreciate the financial support we continue to be blessed with. All of the donations provide for the care and travel of the dogs. On average, we spend \$250 a month between food, grooming and vet care. Every dollar we raise helps continue this ministry.

A big thank you to everyone who supported our big annual Cookie Walk fundraiser. We raised over \$1000! If you didn't get a chance to purchase a Comfort Dog calendar for 2025 please see Donna as there are still some left and they are only \$20.

The Comfort Dog Team wishes you peace and comfort this Christmas and a blessed New Year.



LADIES BIBLE STUDIES AVAILABLE IN 2025



With the ringing in of a new year the world makes all kinds of resolutions; as women of God, let's make it our purpose to grow closer to God in 2025. Here at Trinity, we are blessed to have two Bible studies that the ladies of the church can partake in with new topics coinciding with the beginning of the year. We have a Zoom meeting on Tuesday nights that meets from 7:00pm to 8:30pm. No need to leave your house, just click on the link and become a part. On February 4 we will start our new study on the Epistle of John 1, 2 and 3. If interested, please contact Jane Kramer at 516-433-8315.

For those that are available to meet in person we have a Wednesday morning Bible study that meets from 9:30am to 11:30am in the Stammel Center at church; all ladies young and old are welcome. We will be studying the book of Joshua from the Old Testament, starting mid January. If interested please contact Dolores Entenmann at 516-735-1508. Both of these studies are conducted through a study guide and books need to be ordered so if you are interested in joining a study, please contact the respective study leader before January 11 for more information on cost and so a book can be ordered for you.



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

Prepared especially for LCC Congregations & Schools

The Winter Blues

By LCC Counselors

As the days grow shorter and daylight decreases many people start to notice a change in their mood and a decrease in their energy level. Some days it can be challenging to get out of bed when it is dark and cold. This is known as Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) and it is a type of depression.

SAD happens during certain seasons of the year, most often fall or winter. It is thought that shorter days and less daylight may set off a chemical change in the brain leading to symptoms of depression.

There are several things we can do to lessen the impact and duration of depressive episodes, so we can get back to our life and actually enjoy the changing of the seasons. Some helpful and proactive suggestions include:

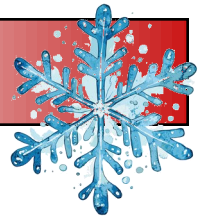
- Go outside every day, walk, sit in the grass and look at the sky.
- Be intentional and focus on positive information *via* social media.
- Attend church, pray, meditate and hear the Good News!
- Drink cold water, use ice and add a twist of mint or lemon.
- Clean or organize something for 15 minutes - a drawer, a countertop, make your bed.
- Listen to music, something upbeat with energy. Sing at the top of your voice. Dance!
- Watch something funny, laughing lifts our mood.
- Make food because treating depression involves nourishing your body with healthy food.
- Make something - draw, paint, color, create.
- Reach out to a loved one, talk to a stranger and actively seek out human connection.
- Listen to someone else, volunteer because helping helps you!
- Cuddle with your pets, talk to them and tell them your troubles.
- Light therapy and antidepressants can help treat SAD.
- Make an appointment to meet with a professional therapist.

If you or a loved one is experiencing symptoms of depression and it is not improving after two weeks, it is important to seek treatment. The Lutheran Counseling Center offers faith-based counselors, available virtually and at some locations in person.



**Our mood
and energy
are changed by
shorter days
and decreased
daylight.**

LCC Counselors are available for secure, virtual and, at some locations, in person counseling. 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.

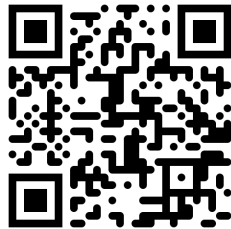


LIVE STREAM and MULTI-CASTED WORSHIP SERVICES

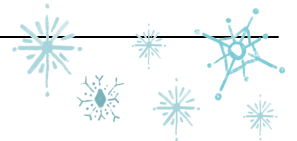
Our live streamed worship services are simultaneously streamed to both YouTube as well as Facebook. Therefore, you can choose to watch the Live Stream on either site. Trinity's channel on YouTube is @TRINITYHICKSVILLE The Direct link to the live stream on Facebook is [FBLive.TrinityHicksville.Org](https://www.facebook.com/FBLive.TrinityHicksville.Org) 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!

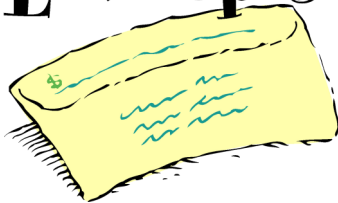
[Trinity Website:](#)



[Trinity Giving:](#)



Offering Envelopes



2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you haven't already, please pick up your 2025 offering envelopes by the elevator. 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 February 2025 edition of *The Good News* are due to the church office by noon on **Monday, January 27, 2025.**

Thank you!