



CELEBRATING
175 Years of Ministry
70 Years of Education

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

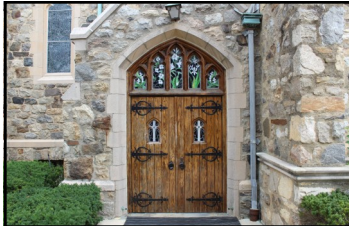


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The Good News



March 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
4th Sunday of the Month
South Asian Fellowship



Lenten greetings to you!

I call Lent a season for checking in our “spiritual inventory!”

What is a “spiritual inventory?” A genuine look at what are the things and thoughts that need to be thrown away from us and what needs to be replenished for the well being of our wholeness and spiritual wellness. The only way to get it done is by surrendering and seeking God’s help. Psalm 51:10 expresses it so well: ***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me!***

During Lent, we are reminded of the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ, who willingly gave His life on the cross to redeem us from sin. As we reflect on His suffering and death, let us also be mindful of the profound love for YOU that motivated Jesus to embrace the cross on your behalf.

Through repentance, we acknowledge our shortcomings and seek God's forgiveness. Penitential prayer deepens our relationship with God and allows us to experience His presence in a more intimate way. Fasting helps us to discipline our bodies and minds and to focus on spiritual matters.

As we journey through Lent, let us also remember the importance of community. We are called to support and encourage one another as we seek to grow in faith and love. Let us be intentional in reaching out to those who may be struggling or in need of our support or help.

May this Lenten season be a time of deep spiritual growth and transformation for each of you. May the opportunities of Word and Sacrament ministry for you at Trinity help you in every way in your everyday walk with God.

Praying for you,

Pastor Johnson Rethinasamy
516 931 2225 Ext 231
jrethinasamy@trinityhicksville.org

Spring Blossom



Read

The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, tolerance, compassion, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-discipline. Nothing can legislate against things like these. *Galatians 5:22*

Ponder

A sight I look forward to each year is that of spring blossom. Suddenly trees and shrubs that had looked drab and ordinary are transformed into things of beauty. Not only is the blossom special in its own right, but it also promises fruit that, in time, will be harvested; the delicate flowers are the first steps in a process that will hopefully culminate in a rich harvest. Whenever I read the words of Paul concerning the fruits of the Spirit, I'm acutely aware that sometimes the yield I produce is somewhat lacking. I long to be more gentle, patient, loving, kind, understanding, merciful, calm and the like. I'm sure we have all felt this way. Sadly, the soil in our lives tends to be infinitely less fertile than it could or should be. That's part of being human and, as a result, the crop we produce repeatedly falls short. But though we may fail to attain a bumper harvest, with God's help we can at least show signs of spiritual growth, his Spirit working within us to produce, if not fruit, then blossom, promising more yet to come.

Ask Yourself

What in your life prevents the fruits of the Spirit from growing? Do you give the Spirit room to move? Are you trying too hard to produce fruit yourself, forgetting that it is finally God who gives growth? All we can really do is plant the seed and let God do the watering.

Pray

Gracious God, forgive the sometimes sterility of my discipleship and the barrenness of my faith. I yearn to yield a rich harvest for you, but so often the reality is disappointing, there being little if any real growth for all my protestations of love and loyalty. Grant that, though the fruits of the Spirit may be less evident in my life than they should be, there may at least be blossom, promising a future crop pleasing to you. Though I will always fall short, grant that, by your grace, something of your beauty may be seen in me. Amen.

Remember

Because of this, then, you should do everything in your power to reinforce your faith with goodness, and goodness with understanding, and understanding with self-discipline, and self-discipline with perseverance, and perseverance with uprightness, and uprightness with warmth towards one another, and warmth towards one another with love. If you exhibit such qualities, and they multiply within you, they will prevent you from being sterile and unfruitful in terms of your relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. *2 Peter 1:5-8*

Close

Nurture my faith, Lord, nourish my discipleship, and grant that in the fullness of time buds may burst into bloom and my life may bear living fruit in your service, testifying to your transforming love and redeeming grace. Amen.

Deacon Betsy Lazarek



Your Deacons

Betsy Lazarek
Donna Haines
Lynn Waldeck

“FROM DEPTHS OF WOE I CRY TO THEE” LSB 607



How many different color hymnals do you remember? Many of us remember the green one, *Lutheran Book of Worship*, which came out in 1978 and was in our pews before the current hymnal, *The Lutheran Service Book*. We had a non-Lutheran hymnal in our pews in addition, it was blue, *Hymns for the Living Church*. Some of us may go back to the older one, the 1941 *The Lutheran Hymnal*, which was red (though some were blue). There was also a Worship Supplement in the 1970's which was either red or blue. Hymnals certainly come in many colors.

Did you know that in 2024 we are celebrating the 500th anniversary of the first Lutheran hymnal - *Etlich Cristlich lider / Lobgesang und Psalm* (Some Christian songs / canticle, and psalm), also often referred to as the *Achtliederbuch* (Book with eight songs, literally Eightsongsbook). Martin Luther knew the value of singing in church. He knew that people remember things that they sing. (How many of us can remember the song lyrics of a

song from 40 years ago, but can't remember why we went to the basement?) Luther and his circle set their theology to music, so it could be remembered.

Of the eight hymns in the original Lutheran hymnal, here at Trinity we still regularly sing three of them. On Ash Wednesday we will be singing one of these, Luther's setting of Psalm 130, "From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee," (LSB#607). Luther, who wrote both the words and music, wrote this hymn between 1523 and 1524. Psalm 130 was a favorite psalm of Luther and in 1525, Luther wrote that he wished that more poets would write hymn texts based on the psalms, not to use flowery language, but simple wording that the people could understand, and still stay true to the psalm text.

Luther took special pains to work on this setting of Psalm 130 and set it as an example for other poets to follow. It quickly became a favorite, and was sung at the funeral of Elector Frederick the Wise, a person so important to Luther, in 1525, as well as Luther's own funeral in 1546. It is said that Luther, during the Diet of Augsburg in 1530, which Luther couldn't attend because he was considered a criminal at the time, gathered his servants together to sing this hymn, saying, "Come, let us, despite the devil, sing "From Depths of Woe" and thereby praise and glorify God."

The melody, with its large vocal jump in the first three notes show Luther the composer again, the cry, reaching into the depths of woe itself. The text of "From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee" focuses on the sorrow we feel for our sins, and our hope in the forgiveness of Christ. The hymn continues by emphasizing that we can do nothing to earn God's forgiveness, but God's mercy towards us is a free gift. The final stanza expresses trust that the grace of God is greater than our sins, and that He will redeem us in the end.

Henry DeVries,
Minister of Music



Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

**Join us for Worship, Prayer
and the Imposition of Ashes**

8:30am

Chapel service for Trinity Lutheran School
All are welcome

10:00am to 6:00pm

Narthex open for Prayer and Ashes

7:00pm

Worship with Holy Communion

God's Instruments, God's Stewards

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)

Some pastors refer to these words as “the most forgotten words in the Scriptures.” They are forgotten because they follow the familiar and critical words before it. The preceding two verses that overshadow Ephesians 2:10 are words of justification: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8–9). These are words preached regularly. They are assigned as confirmation verses. They carry with them the very heart of what it means to be a redeemed child of God!

Precisely because the previous verses are so central to salvation, they often overpower our practice of stewardship! We have been saved by grace. This is certain and sure because of Jesus. Works play no role in our salvation. No credit taking for us! Grace is freely given. Faith is miraculously created by the Spirit and joyously received. This truth is so wonderful and so encompassing that we often miss out on WHY we are redeemed.

The grace of God revealed in Jesus calls us to faith. But St. Paul doesn't stop with grace and faith. He continues to the logical conclusion. Just like the creation declares the handiwork of God, the redemption of sinners like you and me declares His greatest handiwork! Redeemed stewards are created to reflect the grace and mercy God showers on us to others.

As Lutherans, we understand that good works flow from faith in Jesus Christ. They are the fruit of the tree of salvation into which we have been grafted by grace. Sanctification and stewardship are both on-going and active confessions of what the Lord has done in us. These works are not always spectacular. Many times, they are simply parents showing Jesus to their children. They are compassionate actions that live out the truth of the Gospel to co-workers and even complete strangers. While they can be grand endeavors, more likely they are simple, beautiful works which highlight what Jesus has done in us.

These works aren't random either. They have been planned by God. God planned to use you as a faithful steward as you walk the road that leads you through your daily life. There are no chance encounters or coincidences. They have been planned by the Lord of the universe for the benefit of His creation. Good works are what point to God's greatest work: Jesus!

He calls you and me to walk in this faith, which flows from this grace, which has been poured out on us in Jesus. But even this is not to our credit. We are simply called to be faithful stewards of God's grace so that we may share it with those who need it as much as we do. God's Spirit carries us along in this. We are just the steward — the instrument in His hand to accomplish His plan and glorify Him!

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship

Newsletter Article – March 2025

Early Childhood Center Update

Welcome March! Our toddlers, nursery students, pre-k students, and teachers returned from winter recess with big smiles and excitement for March, the start of spring, and Lent.

We kick off March with *Read Across America* week. We will read a different Dr. Seuss book each day, make special crafts, and get dressed up in the theme of the books. Monday, March 3 kicks it off with *One Fish, Two Fish* and wear something red and blue day. Tuesday is *Fox in Socks* and everyone will wear their favorite socks. Wednesday is Wacky Wednesday, which needs no explanation! Thursday is *Green Eggs and Ham* where the kids will wear green, and Friday concludes *Read Across America* week with *Cat in the Hat* and pajama day, an all time favorite for ECC.

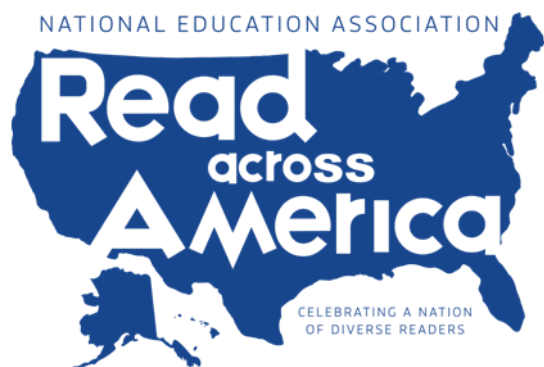
The children will continue to spread love and kindness this month as we learn about Ash Wednesday, Lent, and start to prepare for their Easter programs. Parents will join us for Easter BINGO, an Easter Egg Hunt, and a special guest visitor, the Easter Bunny! We have a lot of learning and fun in store for this month.

Blessings,

Mrs. Seemangal
Director, Early Childhood Center



Trinity Lutheran School News



Dear Trinity Families,

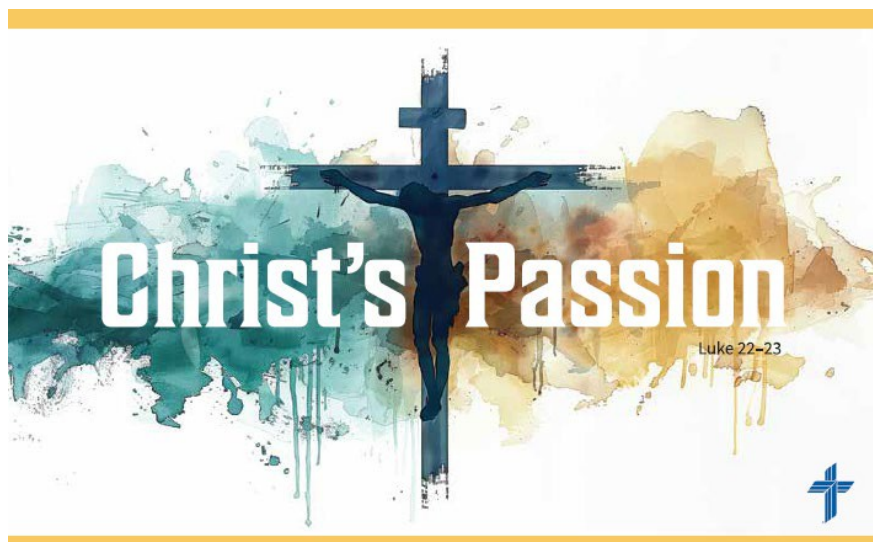
We will be celebrating *Read Across America* from March 2 through March 6. It begins on the birthday of the beloved author, Dr Seuss and the entire month is dedicated to reading.

As a result, the Scholastic Book Fair will be coming to Trinity on March 4 and 5. Students will have the opportunity to bring home new books that they get to choose themselves.

Fostering a love of independent reading leads to a wide variety of benefits, including academic success and improved mental health. Additionally, every purchase made will benefit our school. In conjunction with this event, the school will be participating in a school wide two week Read-A-Thon, which will also help raise money for our school.



In His Service,
Jennifer Forte
Principal



Join us each Wednesday
evening at 7:00pm
for midweek
Lenten worship:
March 12, 19, 26
April 2, 9

TRINITY LUTHERAN

TRIVIA NIGHT

Compete with your team to see who really knows their stuff!

Friday
March 14th

Trivia Starts at 6:30 pm,
doors open at 6:00pm.
\$100 for a table of 6-8 or
\$20 per person for single
players.

BYO
FOOD
for your
table, drinks
will be
provided.

Questions?
email Mr. Stainkamp at
rstainkamp@trinityli.org



We had a successful Coffee House Fundraiser Event during the evening of January 25. The New Dimensions Praise Band played many of our favorite Christian songs, gave a Bible verse for each song, and encouraged the audience to sing along! It was great fun! We also had special appearances by Pastor Rethinasamy and the Trinity Youth Band featuring Paige Horn, Laura Danison and Mariah Jones. It was great to see our pastor and young people participating and showcasing their talents! We enjoyed music, snacks, desserts, and fellowship during an otherwise typical winters evening. We raised approximately \$1464 (including the raffle basket) which will go towards our charities. The Tuesday Night Bible Study also raised \$39 from their Free Will Table in which they donated to our Atlantic District mite offerings. Thank you for all who attended and/or donated!

We also held our annual quilting event at Helen's house on February 15. Thank you to the ladies who came on Saturday morning to participate in completing the quilts. We have 54 quilts which will be delivered to the New Life Center in Franklin Square shortly. An additional number of partially assembled quilts are in the works and will be delivered sometime in the near future. We want to thank all our dedicated helpers that worked on this project and especially Helen Peter and Dolores Sartor. These two are the driving force behind making the quilts for all these years!

As I write this, the LWML is busy working up the final details of the Mardi Gras Breakfast Fundraiser event on March 1. We hope to see you there!

Blessings,

Faye Wong
LWML Secretary



During the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year), Christians figuratively follow Jesus into the desert. Just as our Savior spent 40 days fasting and facing temptation, we focus on self-reflection and contrition.

In an 1873 hymn, Claudia Hernaman wrote, "O Lord, throughout these forty days, you prayed and kept the fast. Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past."

The desert experience of Lent serves a clear purpose, filling us up rather than depleting us. "This is what Lent is meant to be," writes theologian Ron Rolheiser. "Time in the desert to courageously face the chaos and the demons within us and to let God do battle with them through us. The result is that we are purified, made ready, so the intoxicating joy of Easter might then bind us more closely to God and each other."

Comfort Dog Ministry



It's hard to believe Abraham turned 7 years old! Trinity has been blessed to have the Comfort Dog Ministry running here for 6 years. He thanks you for all the birthday wishes!



Social Networking: A Collision Space

Dr. Kirk Bingaman, LCC Staff Psychotherapist



In many ways, digital technology, in particular social networking, has become a “collision space” in today’s world, a space that can at times reflect the very best of humankind, while at other times reflecting the most disturbing and alarming aspects of human nature. For example, in terms of putting social networking to good use, we could include raising consciousness about humanitarian crises, crowdfunding for disaster relief, helping locate the best treatment facilities for medical care, and delivery of religious resources in faith communities, during and after the pandemic. Conversely, some of the worst aspects of being human are now being given free rein, turning social networking into a breeding ground for misinformation, harassment, bullying, hate speech, and religious and political extremism. As such, digital technology, and more specifically social media platforms, are something of a double-edged sword, or, as the British neuroscientist Susan Greenfield has put it, “an unprecedented and complex cocktail of opportunity and threat.” Social networking platforms operate on a business model of commodifying the attention of billions of people per day. The commodification of attention is especially troubling when a large target audience is children and adolescents still in their formative years.

In a way, social media is neutral, in the sense that it can be what we want it to be: simply an online photo album, for example, nothing more, nothing less if we so choose. The problem is that we often have less choice than we realize, as powerful neuromarketing forces and algorithms conspire against our ability to think rationally when we are using the sites. Sean Parker, the former president of Facebook, made this very clear a few years ago, when he stated that the goal of the company has been all along, “How do we consume as much of your time and conscious attention as possible?” This gave us a window into the covert operations of Facebook executives and neuromarketers in designing, as Parker put it, a “social validation feedback loop...We needed to sort of give you a little dopamine hit every once in a while, because someone liked or commented on a photo or a post or whatever...We are intentionally exploiting a vulnerability in human psychology.” So, just give the adolescent or the tween a little dopamine hit, because she got a few “likes” on Facebook, the better to keep her hooked or glued to the “screen” because of FOMO (fear of missing out).

Not surprisingly, the “mission to exploit” for lucrative gain has contributed to a sharp increase in rates of depression and anxiety for adolescents and young adults, particularly if time spent on the screen is mostly an unregulated usage of social media, with frequent social comparison (what researchers and clinicians are now calling “problematic social media use,” or PSMU). This scenario, which occurs in the lives of billions of people every day, has important implications for mental health practitioners, psychotherapists, and religious leaders and faith communities. For it is fundamentally a mental health issue, a theological issue, a justice issue when the social-networking juggernaut is predicated on constant social comparison. It is also an issue of power, given the enormous asymmetric power that social networking companies have over our lives in general, and over the lives of young children and adolescents. As Tristan Harris (Center for Humane Technology) has said, “Any asymmetric power structure must follow the fiduciary or ‘duty of care’ model exemplified by a good teacher, therapist, pastor, doctor, or care worker—that is, it must work in the service of those with less power.”

*[Kirk Bingaman](#), PhD, MDiv, LMHC, is Professor of Mental Health Counseling & Spiritual Integration at Fordham University. An ordained Presbyterian minister, he is a licensed mental health counselor in New York, and has worked with the Lutheran Counseling Center since 2007. In 2021, he was appointed editor-in-chief of *Pastoral Psychology* (Springer Publishing), one of the most well-established academic journals in the field of psychology and religion/spirituality. Kirk is the author of several books, including *Freud and Faith: Living in the Tension* (2003) and *Treating the New Anxiety: A Cognitive-Theological Approach* (2007). This article is an excerpt from his October 18, 2024 Keynote Presentation, at the 33rd Annual Psychotherapy & Faith Conference, Houston, Texas. 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**



Mar. - APRIL 2025

Quick Calendar

Trivia Night
Friday
March 14th
6:00pm

LI Nets
Basketball Game
Friday
March 28th

For questions
regarding FUEL
please email
youth@trinityli.org

Upcoming Events

TRIVIA NIGHT

See Flyers for More Information.

This is a family style fundraiser for our Sr. Youth, NOT a drop-off event.

LI NETS

See Flyer for More Information.

Come just us at the Coliseum and watch the LI Nets! Kids will get to participate in a High Five Line down on the court to welcome the players into the game.

This is NOT a drop off Event.



**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.



Festival OF WORKSHOPS

Saturday March 15, 2025

SUNY Maritime College

6 Pennyfield Avenue, The Bronx, NY 10465

9:30am - 3:10pm

THIS YEAR'S THEME

Making Disciples for Life!

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Bishop Dien Ashley Taylor

Over 30 Workshops to Refresh and Energize You in
Your Service to the Lord

\$35 per person / \$40 after March 3

Includes Lunch

Register Online at
ad-lcms.org



ATLANTIC DISTRICT
of the LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD



Good to Know Info!

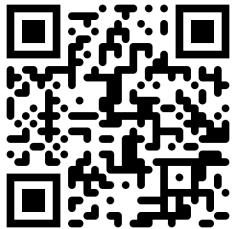
LIVE STREAM and MULTI-CASTED WORSHIP SERVICES

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 April 2025 edition of *The Good News* are due to the church office by noon on **Monday, March 24, 2025.**

Thank you!