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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Reverend John Hopkins – Senior Pastor
Tammy Mazza - Principal | Carolyn Gallegos - ECC Director



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The Good News

February 2018
Volume 2 No. 2
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Lent

Some people really dislike Lent. I knew a person who didn't like Lent because of the fact that you could no longer sing "alleluias" during Lent. They thought the music was uninspiring and the like. They probably won't like it even more because Ash Wednesday this year falls on February 14. I'm sure they wouldn't like the imposition of ashes on Valentine's Day.

When I think of those who dislike Lent, I feel they are truly missing out on something. Why? Because Lent provides for us an ideal time to do a little self-examination of why we need a Savior. Lent gives us time to reflect on what that Savior did for us. What did Jesus do? He suffered horribly and died on a cross. Why? Why did He do that? So that we would not have to go through that ourselves! That demonstrated His true love for us!

Today, life seems to go by so fast. Like Lent beginning on Wednesday, February 14. Then consider how often we go through life without taking time to remember things? Without taking time to have a

conversation with someone we love? We should stop like the old saying says "and smell the roses."

Lent is a time of the year that ensures that we do stop and think about what our Savior has done for us. And... it prepares us all the more... to be even more excited about what happens on Easter morning. There the victory is given to us! Jesus rose from the grave alive!



Lent helps prepare us all the more to appreciate what our Savior did for us, does do for us, and will do for us. We have life now and forever!

Remember Lent begins February 14 with Ash Wednesday. It concludes with a celebration on Easter Sunday

April 1 and that is no joke.

Consider again what Jesus went through for you and has done for you this Lenten season.

Serving the family of God at Trinity,
Pastor Hopkins

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Bible Studies

Wednesday evening Bible Study was to have begun this past last month. However, due to my health issues, my house under contract in Savannah, and Lent beginning on February 14, I didn't want to start and go a couple of weeks and then have to stop for Lent since we would be having worship services at that time. It seemed best to postpone the start of the class.

Therefore, I will begin Wednesday Evening Bible Study with live stream after Easter. Details will be forthcoming in the March newsletter. Look also for more information in bulletin announcements and/or Kim's Friendly Reminders on Fridays in March.

The Good News *Lent 2018*

The scenes of Lent are familiar. The Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane, the halls of Pontius Pilate, and the hill of Golgotha—these are the places we remember when we meditate on our Lord's Passion. Yet when Jesus enters a place, He never leaves it as He found it. The most troubling places in our lives become the most amazing places of God's grace when Jesus visits them.



For this reason, in our midweek Lenten series, we will read and contemplate Luke's account of our Lord's Passion. Each week, we will read a different section of the story; and each week, Luke will take us to a different place, the places of the Passion.

Our focus, however, will not be on these physical places. Instead, we will gaze in wonder on the spiritual work that our Lord does there. Jesus will share His strength in our times of weakness. He will fill us with His praise in the midst of our sorrow. Week after week, we will enter the places of the Passion only to discover our Lord . . . waiting for us . . . willing to share with us a love that was set in place before the foundations of the world.

Plan to come to our Lenten services this year. Prepare to enter into these places of devotion, for there, your Lord will meet you, sharing with you His wondrous love that saves a fallen world.

Worship Times

Wednesdays in Lent – Supper at 6:30 pm, Worship at 7:15 pm
Palm Sunday Worship at 6:30 pm on Saturday, 9:00 and 10:45 am on Sunday
Maundy Thursday Worship at 7:15 pm
Good Friday Family Worship at 12:00 pm , Good Friday Tenebrae at 7:15 pm
Easter Vigil at 6:30 pm on Saturday
Easter Sunday at 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 am

Ash Wednesday: "A Place at the Table for You" (Luke 22:1–13)
Midweek of Lent 1: "The Upper Room: A Place of Service" (Luke 22:14–38)
Midweek of Lent 2: "Gethsemane: A Place of Strength" (Luke 22:39–46)
Midweek of Lent 3: "The Betrayal: A Place of Eternal Love" (Luke 22:47–53)
Midweek of Lent 4: "The Courtyard: A Place of Renewal" (Luke 22:54–62)
Midweek of Lent 5: "The Trial: A Place of God's Will" (Luke 22:63–23:25)
Holy Thursday: "The Last Supper: A Place of Forgiveness" (Luke 22:7–23)
Good Friday: "Golgotha: A Place of Simple Love" (Luke 23:44–49)
Easter Vigil: "The Tomb: A Place of Life" (Luke 23:50–56)
Easter: "The Empty Tomb: A Place of Remembering" (Luke 24:1–11)

A Time for Reflection

New Years blessings to each and everyone of our family here at Trinity and beyond.

My deepest apologies for not having an article for our last newsletter. No excuses, just a genuine sorry.

Can you believe that we are nearly to the season of Lent?

We have traveled from the anticipation of Christmas, through the birth of our Savior, the visit of the wise men, Christ the King Sunday, to His Baptism by John. We remember His presentation in the Temple, Jesus beginning His ministry, and His commissioning of the disciples. We have covered a great span of time.

Now we begin to prepare for a season of reflection. What do you see when you look into a mirror?

I am not sure about you, but often when I look into a mirror I see an image of an aging woman, no makeup, hair a mess, wrinkles, wrinkles, wrinkles. Sometimes I see hints of smudges under my eyes where I was lacking in proper removal of makeup. I look a mess! I often think, "What a way to start the day!" If God called me home today, wow, just wow! So I quickly wash my face, remove all of the smudges, brush my teeth, comb my hair, put on a little makeup, and there is a new image that I see.

The funny thing is that the outward image has changed, but what about the inside image? Sure a little soap and water, Avon products, a fancy brush can change our mirror image, but what about our hearts? Lent is a time for reflection of our hearts. Lent gives us an opportunity to turn inward and see what we REALLY look like. Think about this tomorrow when you look in the mirror. What do you see? More importantly, what does God see? I look forward to sharing reflections with you.

Kathy Funfgeld, *Deacon*

Your Deacons: Doug Brosky Betsy Lazarek Debbie Vergara
 Anthony Cavaliere Peg Ruhs Lynn Waldeck
 Kathy Funfgeld



REFORMATION 500

We pray that you have accepted our challenge to take a stand and reform your personal life with the two year read the Bible challenge!

Weeks 9-12 took us through Christmas and ended on January 21, 2018. A new year and a great way to start it indeed! Weeks 13-16 run from January 23-February 18. We read two chapters a day every day excluding Sundays. If you would like to look ahead, remember to go to the web site:

<http://lutherantools.org/rb500/list?series=RB500-2017>

Did you take a special look at the readings for Tuesday, January 23? I will quote from Pastor Byer, "In these verses, I believe God is calling us to understand and live by three truths. They are: Love God above all else (19:12), Love and care for your neighbor as you would yourself (19:13) and keep yourself pure (20:7-8). Are you living these truths? Is your life a 'light to the world' so others may come to know Jesus through you?"

With an emphasis on Bible study this year for Trinity, we pray that you will take this challenge with us and together we will be united in The Word. There will be a list of readings posted on the Stewardship bulletin board for your reading pleasure.

In all things, to God be the glory, and may we take this challenge to increase our knowledge of preparedness for the Savior to come again.

If ever you have any questions or concerns, reach out to Pastor or one of our Deacons. Blessings to all!

Some Notes and Explanation of our Liturgy – Part 6

POST-COMMUNION HYMN After having received the Lord's Body and Blood, we sing in praise. There are two hymns that we sing at this point, often we sing the words of the *Nunc Dimittis*, which means "now let us part". We sing the words of the aging Simeon in the temple, as he saw the Lord Jesus, he was ready to leave this world. As we receive the Lord's Body and Blood, we also are ready to depart in peace from this house. We may sing in place of that a newer addition to the liturgy, which appeared with the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (the green book), we sing with the disciples at the resurrection to Thank the Lord, tell everyone what he has done. What better way for us to leave the Lord's table, but to tell all of His great and saving works.



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING Having received the Lord's Body and Blood, we are reminded of the benefits that God has given to us in this Sacrament. We thank Him weekly for this gift of salvation and forgiveness of sins given to us in Jesus' Body and Blood.

BENEDICTION The benediction, which means "the good word", comes from the book of Numbers 6:24–27. God tells Aaron to put His name on the people of God with these words. As we begin the service in God's Holy Name, so we are also sent out into the world in His Holy Name. This is not just a hopeful wish, this is a promise directly from God. As we hear in verse 27, "They shall put my name upon my children, and I, God, will bless them." Having heard God's word, his forgiveness and received Jesus own Body and Blood, we depart with God's name on our heart, in peace, to share all the we have heard.

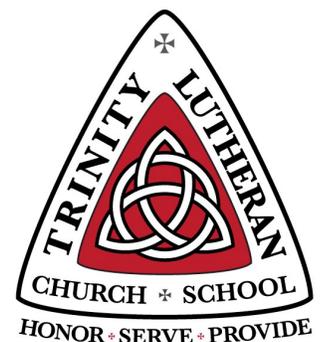
The Good News *Honor, Serve, Provide*

Honoring the Past, Serving the Present and Providing for the Future

The "Honor, Serve, Provide" capital campaign committee has reviewed the survey results. Funding for these important projects is in your hands. In the area of worship, the top three choices are: maintenance, beautification and technology. In the area of education, the top five are: curriculum, K-8 technology, guidance/counseling services, safety, and financial aid/scholarships. In the area of evangelism, the top five are: community outreach, communication, transportation for the homebound, service opportunities for senior youth and improved signage.

We are also pleased to announce this year's Trinity Award honorees: "Honoring the Past" will be presented to Pastor John Krahn, "Serving the Present" will be presented to Deacon Peg Ruhs and "Providing for the Future" will be presented to Mrs. Dianne Uss. These honors will be awarded at the capital campaign dinner, Thursday, April 19, 2018, 7 pm at Domenico's in Levittown.

Keep a look out for a save-the-date card for this dinner arriving in your mailbox soon!



A lot of things are happening at Trinity and you should be proud of all the work and effort your Church Council puts into their responsibility.

As you may or may not be aware of, back in 2015 some folks have agreed to serve on Council based on the need. At the time there were too many vacancies that existed mostly because the folks on Council at the time had terms expiring all at once. Council tries to organize itself so that at least three members annually are retired and new members come on. This is done so we don't end up with an entire new slate. Unfortunately, this is not something that we are always able to achieve. This is primarily due to the fact that people come and go prior to their term commitments. It's just the way things happen. Back in 2015, we were faced with a pastoral vacancy, school principal vacancy and quite frankly, a declining congregation worshipping on a regular basis. We now have a wonderful pastor, a very strong and caring principal, and we are working towards getting our attendance back on track. I am not saying there aren't important goals yet to achieve, because believe me there are plenty.

The folks that came back had already served at this capacity in prior years. Some served as past presidents. These folks realized the need and also listened to God's calling to do so. These folks are: Les Francis, Fred von Barga, Curt Fogarty and myself, Dan Pugliese. It seems like yesterday when we joined forces with Donna Haines, Carl Probst, Warren Breuer, Jeanine Davis and Tina Deer. We were also joined by John Plank, Lauren Straub, Laura Morrissey, Terry Cavaliere, Karen Apgar and most recently Kathy Draves. You should know that each of these folks bring their own set of talents and clearly a love for the Lord. Like I said, it seems like yesterday, but that was almost three years ago. The reason I mention this is because all these folks are now nearing the end of their term limits. I have been making pleas to the congregation at every opportunity asking that we fill the last vacant position. Unfortunately, no one has responded. Having new folks serve on Council allows for new ideas and talents to be utilized. This is paramount for the growth of our beloved church.

Now is the time to step up and do work that is worth doing. Please consider what some folks did by listening to God and being just where He wanted them to be. Being on Council has been a high point of my life and I encourage you to give it a try. We can use folks with business experience, lawyers, teachers or anyone with the desire to see Trinity grow.

Thanks in advance for listening to this plea and please pray about where God may be leading you.

Dan Pugliese
Church Council President



Articles and submissions for the
March 2018
newsletter are due no later
than noon on
Thursday, February 22!

Finance is a ministry unlike any other, but it is fundamental to our mission and who we are as Lutherans. Together, we are stronger than any single church and our ability to fulfill our missions are multiplied. Ministry shares and direct bills are the financial responsibilities of our church. During the last Voter's Meeting you were updated on many of the great things Trinity has accomplished or plans to accomplish. We currently have 157 children enrolled in kindergarten through grade 8. The ECC program also has seen an increase. Come February, we hope to have the daycare open and thriving.

But while we celebrate these achievements, I must draw attention to the increased financial commitments that we have made. Salary expenses have increased due to the increase in minimum wage. No doubt you have noticed the holes in our parking lot, which required cash as well as asphalt to fill! We had emergency repairs to the organ. We hope to improve the audio and video equipment for the church. All these expenditures greatly benefit our church and programs but draw heavily on our resources. Back in November you were asked to make a pledge to increase giving to help support all of the ministries here at Trinity. Collections are lagging our budget commitment by nearly \$45,000. So out comes the begging cup. Please fulfill as much of your pledge as you can or make an extra gift to our operating fund such as a "13th month" pledge payment, or by donating to the Endowment Fund, Pastors Discretionary Fund, or other designated fund. Please continue to give to the ministry of Trinity.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

The Good News
Board of Properties

These are five of the major projects that were completed in the last month:

- Decorated and un-decorated the church for Christmas
- Shoveled snow
- Re-tiled the wall in the girl's bathroom
- Prepared our property at 97 West Nicholai Street for Trinity's upcoming Daycare Program
- Repaired the heating in the Early Childhood Center

The Good News
Board of Outreach



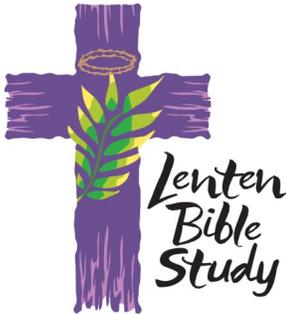
STIRRING SOUNDS COFFEE HOUSE

Saturday, April 28, 2018

7:30-9:30 PM

Come out and have
some family fun
at this free event!

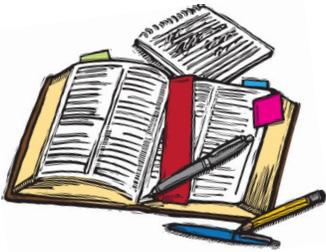




TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

As we enter the season of Lent and prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death on Easter, the Tuesday afternoon Bible study group will be embarking on a study of the last week of Jesus' ministry and those days between Palm Sunday and Easter. Join us on Tuesdays during Lent at 3:30 PM in the Stammel Center as we study those powerful days leading up to the glory of Easter.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LADIES BIBLE STUDY



Women who care—Women who share
Many years of exploring God's Word
So much more to discover!

A diverse group of Sisters in Christ
Open to others and new ideas

Free flowing and flexible

Committed to finding the answers

Helping each other along the way

Applying God's Word to our own lives

Supporting others in their personal search

Praying and praising

Laughing and learning

Seeking to know—Wanting to grow

A group in need of YOU!



**Heavenly
Humor**

Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30pm in the YSR
(not held during Advent and Lent)
Come when you can!



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, March 3, 2018
9:00am to 2:00pm

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

Judy Benke, Presenter

Watch for more details and registration form

Sponsored by
The Wednesday Evening Ladies Bible Study Group



The New Year has brought many exciting experiences to Trinity Lutheran School. We congratulate all of our 8th graders who were accepted into the high school of their choice. We wish them continued blessings on their educational journey.

Lutheran School's Week was a major focus in January. Over 200,000 children attend a Lutheran school. Our students participated in activities that focused on the theme, "It's Still All About Jesus." Thanks to Mrs. Kerwin for sharing her artistic gifts and displaying the children's work so beautifully.

Our Robotics Team is gearing up for their first competition on February 3. We wish them the best and pray God watches over them. Six of our students participated in the Nassau County NYSSMA Music Festival; two played an instrument, while four displayed their vocal talents.

Now that we are in the middle of the second trimester, our middle school students are preparing for their midterms. We know they will do just fine!

Please share the great news of our "Celebrate Winter" program beginning February 20. Registration is currently available online. Summer may be months away, but it is not too early to sign up for our "Celebrate Summer" program, as well. Also, share the great news of our educational ministry by joining the Trinity Lutheran School Facebook page.

Tammy Mazza,
Principal



The Good News
Early Childhood Center News

The teachers and staff of the Early Childhood Center were happy to welcome back the children after the Christmas break. The start of 2018 has been filled with fun and learning with Trinity's youngest students.

The toddler classes are busy working on their fine motor skills and learning their colors. The children also enjoy dancing and singing in class each day! The nursery classes are completing an alphabet book while they continue to learn all of their letters.

The teachers continue to share some wonderful literature with the children each day. The pre-K classes have been discussing polar animals and are enjoying learning so much new information. Their excitement is evident as they prepare for Kindergarten. All of the children are enjoying riding tricycles during play time.

The Early Childhood Center chocolate sale is also underway!

Carolyn Gallegos,
ECC Director



Sunshine Ministries

LOVE FEASTS

This month we are focusing on another ministry of the Sunshine Circle, Love Feast.

Those who participate in the Love Feast Ministry help to bring comfort, love and Christian caring to a congregational grieving family. The families that have been recipients of Love Feasts are always very appreciative and have expressed their heartfelt thanks.

Being part of the Love Feast Ministry has helped countless people grow in their faith, recipients as well as the volunteers who organize and provide the food. In fact, several recipients have asked how they could be involved in helping other grieving families.

Exactly how each person is touched by this ministry, is as personal and varied as the number of people involved. One example of how this ministry has impacted the lives of others was when a woman and her grown daughter joined our church after having been guests at a friends' Love Feast. On another occasion, a guest at a Love Feast was so touched by this caring ministry, that she organized a Love Feast ministry at her own church. Again, after having been at a Love Feast, a woman who was not a member of Trinity, went back to her community organization and felt the need to share her experience with others. She addressed the members of her organization during a meeting and told of the feeling of comfort the Love Feast ministry provided. She was astounded that strangers would, on short notice, prepare and set up a meal for a grieving family. Thus, as is true with so many aspects of Christian living, the extent of our influence is often unknown to us, but is boundless in touching the lives of others.

This is how Love Feast works... the pastor makes the initial contact and is the one who extends the invitation to the family of a deceased Trinity member, spouse of a member or child of a member who is living at home. On the burial day, a Love Feast is set up in the members' home, for the family to serve.

Once the invitation is accepted, Pastor calls the coordinator. Using a list of Love Feast volunteers and our planned menu, the coordinator organizes a buffet which serves approximately twenty-five people. The buffet includes twelve hot and cold dishes, bread, rolls, coffee, tea and desserts; paper goods are also provided.

We are always in need of new volunteers who are willing to provide a dish once or twice a year. Men and women interested in being part of this caring ministry may contact Marite Hennessey at (516)681-2513 or call the church office at (516) 931-2225. (Please note: To those of you who are a Love Feast volunteer and are wondering why you have not been called upon lately, you have not been taken off the list, it is that we have not been asked to provide a meal recently.)



The Good News *Comfort Dog Ministry Update*

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As we begin assembling our ministry team, please consider how you can help. Many hands make light work! We are looking for volunteers. Maybe you are good at handling a dog. If that's not your cup of tea, we have many behind the scenes activities that we could use your help. From helping with correspondence to planning fundraising, being a helper to a handler with setting up visitations. Team Comfort Dog will be a wonderful way to spread comfort and the love of Jesus. If you are interested in being a part of the team please contact Comfortdog@Trinityhicksville.org.

Click here to learn more about Lutheran Church Charities K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry:
<https://www.lutheranchurchcharities.org/k-9-comfort-dogs-about.html>



The Good News *National Lutheran Schools Week at Trinity*



This month's "tour" of Trinity's original artworks will spotlight several pieces depicting the themes of love and The Passion of Christ.



It Would Be So Sweet to Love (located in the East Wing) original copperplate print XIII from artist Georges Rouault's Miserere Series

Known here at Trinity by its nickname, "Mother and Child," this piece was given in loving memory of former Trinity student, Kyle Matthews. In the aquatint, etching and engraving Rouault captures both frailty and hope as a maternal figure looks down lovingly at a child. Rouault (1871-1958) was a French painter, draughtsman and printer whose work is often associated with Fauvism and Expressionism. Rouault has been described as "the only Christian who has realized in his paintings the drama of our times." A powerful example of his Christian feeling is revealed in the Miserere, which captures the suffering of all humanity in the Passion of Christ. Done in the 1920's, these engravings were not released for twenty years. Finally, 144 of each were printed and then the

copperplate was scored. They are now in museums and private collections around the world.

And He Opened Not His Mouth (located in Stanley J. Kramer Art Memorial, East Wing) -- an original charcoal drawing by Stanley Kramer, beloved Teaching Minister, Art Director, colleague and friend of Trinity's church and school

Drawn from a live model at the Art Student's League, the drawing was used in a Lenten devotional book written by members of our church. It depicts the moment in his trial when Jesus stood silent and resolute before his accusers.

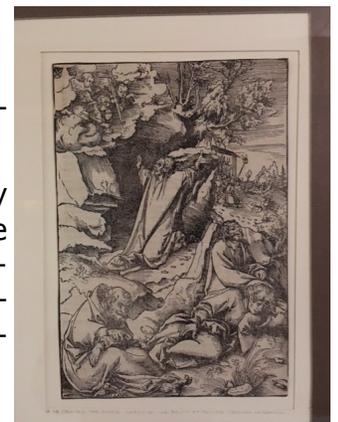


Christ Crowned with Thorns (located on the wall opposite the cafeteria)

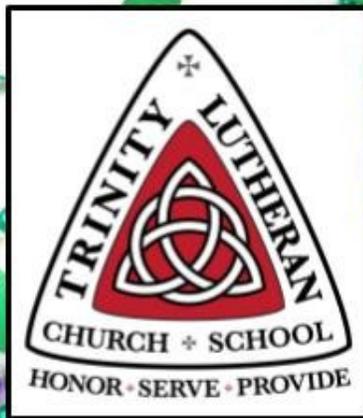
This print is from a charcoal drawing by Gerald Hoops, a Lutheran High School artist and teacher who gave the print to our school in 1974. It focuses on the face of Christ after the crown of thorns was placed on his head.

Christ on the Mount of Olives (located in the East Wing) an original wood engraving by Lucas Cranach, The Elder (1472-1553)

This piece was given in honor of the 25th Anniversary of Trinity Lutheran School by the LWML. Lucas Cranach was a court painter at Wittenberg at the time of "The Great Reformer," Martin Luther. He painted several oil portraits of Luther and illustrated the small catechism with woodcut engravings. Cranach was baptismal sponsor for one of Luther's children and Luther was a baptismal sponsor for one of Cranach's children.



by Ellen Kerwin



Family Mardi Gras Celebration at Trinity

Tuesday February 13th, 2018 6-9 pm
Doors open at 5:30

Trinity Lutheran Church and School 40 west Nicholai St Hicksville Ny

what's Happening at the Event

Live Music

Kids Mask Making

Parade

what to
Expect

- This is an Alcohol-Free Event
 - Five Course New Orleans Gourmet Buffet Dinner
 - Mardi Gras Parade
 - Raffle Gift Baskets
 - Children's Mask Making and Contest
 - Live Entertainment
 - Photo Booth
 - Grand Raffle Door Prize
 - Transportation Available
- Inquire through Church office

Authentic Food



Family Fun

Raffle Prizes

Photo Booth

How to order
Tickets

To place your order, please contact the church office.

RSVP by February 6th to ensure your spot.

Church Office: (516) 931-2225 or email us at mardigras@trinityhicksville.org

Tickets are all inclusive and are \$25 per person when ordered in advance. New this year, buy a table of 8 for \$176, and receive reserved premium seating. There is a \$10 additional fee when tickets are purchased at the door.