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

Reverend John Hopkins – Senior Pastor  
Jennifer Forte – Acting Principal | Carolyn Gallegos – ECC Director



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## The Good News

June 2019  
Volume 3 No. 6  
Page 1



### GOING TO CHURCH

Going to church is something that I think most people call it. It starts out when you are a kid. There was a Lutheran Hour Ministry devotion I read one time

that was titled, "Do I hafta?" It was titled this way because that is the kind of response that many a child says in response to being told they need to attend something... going to church is one of those.

But what is it about going to church?

Going to church really means that you "get to worship." Getting to worship is a privilege that the Lord has given to us. Getting to worship means that it is a choice on your part to go and worship your God. Getting to worship is a far different attitude than the "Do I hafta?" approach to worship.

Now let me ask you this question: Who best affects the attitude of children in regards to worship life? Parents impact their children tremendously. Studies have shown that the one who can have the biggest impact on family worship life is the father!

I bring this up because Father's Day is June 16 this year.

Father's Day is a time like Mother's Day to set aside and give thanks for how God blesses our lives

through them. So we celebrate a day like that.

That is all well and good, but something happens to the worship life of families on Father's Day. What might that be? They don't go to worship on that Sunday.

Father's Day is the second worst attended Sunday worship of the year. The worst? It is the Sunday after Christmas. (Some would put the Sunday following Easter, but I find that is not usually the case.) Now this year, Father's Day and Baccalaureate Sunday for our school is on the same Sunday.

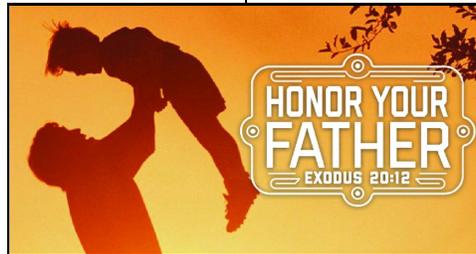
Consequently, we will have extra guests from the school... but take those numbers out and just look at the congregation alone, it is true for Trinity.

So let this year be different. Take to heart the words of Scripture we find in Hebrews 10:24-25:

*"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, [25] not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."*

It is the part there in the beginning of verse 25, those who are neglecting to meet together. That part applies not just to Father's day, but anytime someone begins to neglect worship.

*Continued...*



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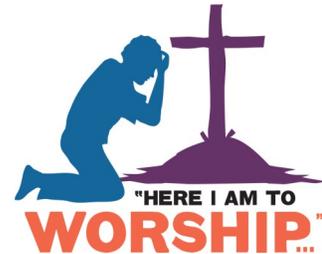
Or those who say you don't have to go to worship or "I worship at home" that usually means on the golf course or in front of a TV. They are not worshipping God but something else.

So fathers stir up love to one another and do good works – serve the Lord in a variety of ways. And lead from the front, tell your family, "Let's go to worship."

For when you come to worship, you have the opportunity to give thanks to the Heavenly Father for loving us through His Son, Jesus Christ. This is for all of us, fathers or not. 😊

Serving the Lord with you,

*Pastor Hopkins*



**The Good News**  
*Honor, Serve, Provide*

Great news! One year into the three-year Honor, Serve, Provide Capital Campaign we are delighted to let you know we have \$218,244 in pledges, anonymous donations and memorials. To date we have received \$175,298. \$17,000 has been anonymously gifted to the Capital Campaign in the form of: a banner announcing the school's 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the Early Childhood Center's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary; driveways at the parsonage and Trinity's Daycare Center; and most recently paying for the \$9,000 patching of Trinity's parking lot.

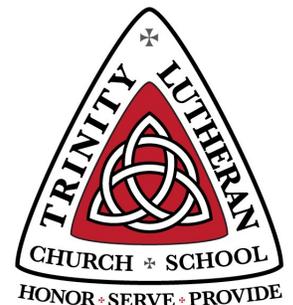
As of May 22, 2019 we have utilized over \$85,000 on projects throughout the Trinity campus. We are in the process of replacing the LED bulbs in all fixtures in an effort to reduce Trinity's energy bills. Weather permitting, the heating plant will soon be available for systematic repair.

The ceiling and lights in the school's room 101 have been replaced – what an improvement! Soon the ceiling and lights in Pastor's office will be replaced as well.

Carpets in a number of classrooms will be replaced for safety as well as appearance. Many other safety initiatives are planned to secure our buildings improving the well-being of our students, faculty, staff and congregation:

- Additional security cameras
- Electronic lock on the Gym door and at the exit by Pastor's door
- Future Security upgrades:
  - Interior signage for quick location of all rooms
  - Exterior window identification for first responders
  - Signs in each classroom with school name, address and room number
  - Coded lockbox alongside Fire Department box for the Police Department.
  - Additional security cameras for both schoolyards, including a large monitor at front desk
  - Blocking plates on exterior doors where necessary

We are now in our second year of the three-year campaign. We sincerely thank those of you who have made multi-year pledges as well as those who made one time donations for the campaign. We hope you will prayerfully consider an additional donation this year toward our school and church property needs. Thank you for your generosity toward our church and school! We are blessed!



**I WANT TO BE SPECIAL**

Come on admit it... who wants to be just one of the crowd? We all want to stand out, to be special. Perhaps having the corner office, getting first choice on vacation, or being the person to whom others look to when decisions have to be made makes us feel special, better than our peers.

These thoughts are nothing new. Satan played on these very feelings with Eve when he encouraged her to eat the forbidden fruit telling her you will not die, you will be like God. Well that was enough for Eve, be like God that sure will make me special. Is that for what we should strive? Jesus gave us another example when he said "The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and give His life for the ransom of many".

Talk about being special! God so loved you and me, flawed sinful individuals, that he sent his only Son who was without sin to pay the penalty that you and I deserved, so that in faith in Christ Jesus we can spend eternity with God. So, you want to be special? Well by faith in Jesus we are made children of God and will spend eternity with our Lord. You cannot be more special than that. We are in this world, but not of this world. Never forget what makes you special in God's eyes. We are His forgiven and adopted children who will spend eternity with Him. That sure beats getting the corner office or first pick on vacation.

Deacon Doug Brosky

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



**The Good News**  
*From the Minister of Music*

On Sunday, June 9, at 3:00pm, Trinity will have the second afternoon organ recital on our new Walker instrument. Many local organists were asking to play the organ, even before it was installed. The American Guild of Organists, Nassau Chapter, asked if they could hold their annual "members" recital here as well. On June 9, we will host five Nassau county organists, including the organists at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre, Christ Episcopal Church and Our Savior Lutheran Churches both in Manhasset, the current dean of the Nassau Chapter and of course our organist, Henry DeVries. This promises to be a wonderful musical event and a chance to hear our organ once more played in concert. Admission is free, and a reception will follow. Please bring your friends to hear our new instrument. There is a flyer for this event on page 10 in this newsletter that you can share with friends as well.

Henry DeVries,  
*Minister of Music*



Some years ago, noted author John Grisham, who has written intriguing novels about the legal profession wrote "The Testament." This novel told the story of a lawyer searching for the illegitimate daughter of a billionaire industrialist. Her father had just died and left his fortune to her. The problem is she was living in a remote part of the Brazilian rain forest serving as a missionary. She was a well-educated woman, aged 42, a doctor, one who would probably make a six-figure salary and live a life of luxury in the states. But she had chosen to surrender her life to the Lord by ministering to a group of primitive people in Western Brazil, learning their language so she could translate the Bible and preach the gospel. She was so dedicated that she had forsaken the modern world, never married, and spent half of her life in the jungle with these Stone Age people. She had no electricity, air conditioning, indoor plumbing, or none of the modern conveniences that we have come to expect as our rights living in the greatest country in the world. She had left all for the Lord.

Although this woman was fictional, there are thousands of missionaries across the globe that have left all for the Lord because they believe that the truth of the love of God in Jesus must be communicated to all mankind. This is the type of commitment that the Lord wants from us. God may not command us to go to a remote mission field, but he does call us to be missionaries in our own little towns and neighborhoods.

Why don't we do it? Maybe we have given too much power to the gods we hold onto? Maybe we have too much money invested in them, or time, or emotions. Maybe our relatives, our friends, our co-workers, the dictates of our society and culture have too much of a hold on us. Maybe they intimidate us, crush our spirit and make us subservient to their wills. Maybe our fear, pride, selfishness are so strong that we think it too dangerous to give ourselves up to God. Maybe we are too self-centered to love, too afraid of being hurt, too afraid of letting God run our lives. Maybe we are scared and afraid that if we trust God we will have to surrender too much or that he will ask us to do something we can't (or won't do). Maybe we have so much emotional baggage left from years of abuse that we can't even begin to think that God wants us.

But He does. He has chosen us, imperfect sinners, to carry out His will and He will enable us to do so despite our weakness and fear. In fact it is all our weakness, fear, and emotional baggage that qualify us. And the Lord gives us His strength as we trust Him and go forth to preach the gospel. "But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong." 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Want help in talking to others about Jesus? Contact Deacon Anthony  
ACavaliere@trinityhicksville.org

**The Good News**  
*Trinity Lutheran School 65th Anniversary News*



1954-2019

Thank you to all who were able to attend our 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner. It was wonderful to reconnect with alumni, past faculty members, and principals. Many thanks to our 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee who spent tireless hours planning this wonderful evening. We raised \$5,925 in ticket sales. Overall, with all of the different fundraising events such as Giving Tuesday, Santa Breakfast, Ornament, t-shirts, and magnet sales we were able to raise \$11,492. Thank you for all of your donations, and your help to support the school, it is greatly appreciated.

Some disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. Many disciples were going to Jesus instead of John the Baptist. He answered: "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven" (John 3:27).

John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. God provides everything we have in body and soul.

We are taught this in the meaning of the Apostles' Creed in the *Small Catechism*.

In the First Article of the Creed, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe.

"He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him."

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself by taking the form of a servant.

In so doing, He "has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity."

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church.

"That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ."

Indeed, "a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given to him from heaven."

But how easy is this for us to forget? How easy is it for us to think that what we have in life is because we have earned it? How easy is it for us to forget that all our skills – the abilities of our hands and minds, the ethic to work diligently, and the desire to improve – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said?

How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone, and the work of the Holy Spirit, that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and that none of this is our doing?

Sure, we have a responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God's Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing. But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven. These duties are not earned; they are given in response to what He has accomplished for us.

Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven.

Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.





1954-2019

Our school has had a number of exciting events in May. On Friday, May 3 we had our annual PTFA Wingo event, where we had over 200 people attend. Our Spring concerts took place on May 7 and May 21 and were a wonderful success. On May 8 we had our Giving Back Assembly. At this assembly we showcased all that we were able to do for Next Step Ministries this year. We were able to raise \$2500 to build a cinder block house and an additional \$2000 to send two children to school in Guatemala. Recently, on May 27, our marching band students proudly represented Trinity, playing beautifully in the Hicksville Memorial Day Parade.

Field Day was on May 31. Teachers, parents, and students had a wonderful time participating in various relay races which helped to promote teamwork and good sportsmanship. It is hard to believe that it is June already. Students are busy preparing for final exams and our 8<sup>th</sup> graders are getting ready for the Baccalaureate Service on June 16 and their graduation, which will be on June 21.

In Christ,

Mrs. Jennifer Forte  
*Acting Principal*



**The Good News**  
*Early Childhood Center News*

It is hard to believe that this school year is coming to an end. The Early Childhood Center children continue to be busy learning all while enjoying some exciting Spring activities. All of our classes enjoyed park trips with their teachers, classmates, and parents. The nursery and pre-K children were able to observe the life cycle of the butterfly in their classrooms. The children were so excited to release their beautiful butterflies! In the past month we have also had visits from the Hicksville Fire Department as well as the Oyster Bay Waterfront Center which the children enjoyed. Many of our classes have also been lucky to have visits from Abraham! All of the ECC children and staff are busy preparing to welcome their families and friends for closing programs.

Carolyn Gallegos,  
*ECC Director*



# The Good News

## Comfort Dog Ministry

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We have had our first full month of sharing the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ with those who are suffering and in need with Abraham Comfort Dog. Abraham received his vests at all services on April 27 and 28. Since then, he and our Comfort Dog Team have been quite busy! We have made visits to LuHi, Mill Neck, The LI Alzheimer's Federation, our school, pastors' conferences, and veterans' activities. We attended the Town of Oyster Bay's Armed Forces Appreciation Day, and welcomed back the veterans returning from Honor Flight. Abraham rode in a neat John Deere Gator "pup mobile" and his team marched in the Hicksville Memorial Day Parade and handed out his cards to the community who stood by to cheer us on. Abraham has already made so many new friends in his short time with us. We are excited for new opportunities that lie ahead. In June we will begin visits with a local nursing home.

Hebrews 11:8 is Abraham's Bible verse, and it is so appropriate for him and his team . . . and for our whole congregation! "By faith, Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going." Like Abraham of the Old Testament, we trust God to take us to places where the light and the love of our Savior will shine!

Linda Hoeberlein,  
Abraham Comfort Dog Handler



**"Head of a Prophet"** (located on the wall outside the cafeteria, near the east wing) by artist Gustav Rehberger, was given in memory of Anna M. Mill for the 200th Anniversary Year of Sunday School by the staff, teachers, and students of Trinity Lutheran Church and the Aid Association for Lutherans. Anna Marie was born in Hicksville and baptized at Trinity. Since her Confirmation she taught Sunday School here for sixty years, right up until the Sunday before she passed away.

About the Artist: Gustav Rehberger (1910-1995)

Young Gustav emigrated with his family from Austria to Chicago in 1923. At age fourteen Rehberger began studying at the Art Institute of Chicago on a scholarship. After three years there he continued his studies, also on scholarship, at The Art Instruction Schools in Minneapolis. He then worked as a graphic designer and illustrator to help support his family during the Depression. Gustav continued his career as an Art Director for a company in Chicago that published telephone directories.

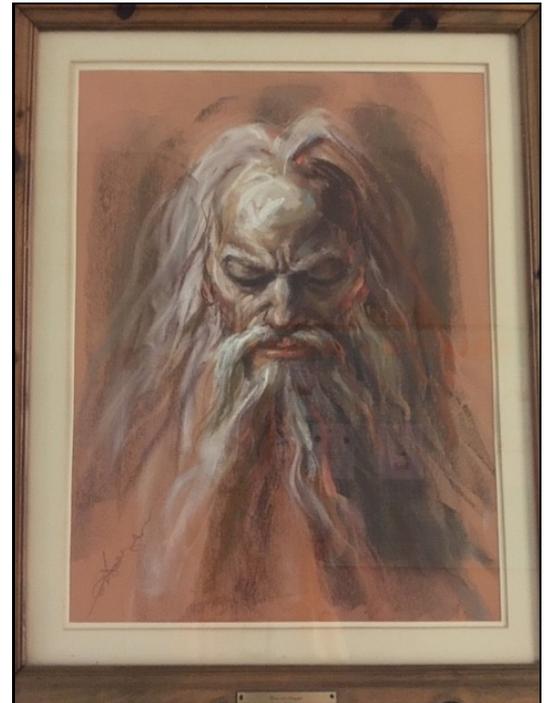
During WWII Rehberger was commissioned to paint two murals for the interior of Chicago's Union Station. Gustav moved to New York City in 1943 when he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Forces. While in the service Gustav was assigned to the Illustrations and Format Branch where he created visual training aids.

After the war his illustrations appeared in the national advertising campaigns of Philip Morris and Sheraton Hotels; were featured in newspapers and magazines such as the Chicago Daily Tribune, The New York Times and Esquire; and in various Christian publications. In order to concentrate on his painting Rehberger ceased his commercial work in 1969.

From 1972-1993 Gustav taught drawing, anatomy, and composition at the Art Students League of New York. It was here, at the Art Students League, that our former Art Director, Teaching Minister, colleague and friend, Stan Kramer, commissioned Rehberger to do a drawing for Trinity's collection of Christian art. Mr. Rehberger devoted two years to a series of fifty paintings and drawings on the theme of The Spirit of Beethoven. The art pieces were a tribute and celebration of the composer's Bicentennial. After an exhibition of the artwork at a gallery in New York City a critic from Rehberger's enthusiastic reviews in newspapers and magazines described him as a "volcanic expressionist" and a painter of "chromatic fury." We at Trinity can certainly appreciate that fury and dramatic explosion of color and motion in our very own Rehberger pastel drawing, **"Head of a Prophet."**

Gustav Rehberger also became interested in performance art. Evolving out of his classroom drawing demonstrations, Rehberger's performances, the act of painting and drawing before a live audience, soon moved to formal performance spaces that were accompanied by recorded music. Mr. Rehberger worked in oil, gouache, pencil and pen. He received international acclaim for his paintings, drawings of the human figure and equestrian subjects, and for his paintings on religious and apocalyptic themes. Throughout his career Gustav Rehberger participated in numerous group shows and was the recipient of many awards and prizes. He also had a number of solo exhibitions in Chicago and New York.

By Ellen Kerwin





**UPDATE FOR JUNE 2019**  
WITH COUNSELING SITES LOCATED IN:  
NASSAU SUFFOLK MANHATTAN QUEENS  
WESTCHESTER BROOKLYN

Prepared especially for LCC Association  
Congregations & Schools

## **THERE IS NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN**

By Mrs. Danita Wright, LCSW-R, LCC Counselor



Today's society appears to be overwhelmingly in emotional pain and distress. According to the National Institute for Mental Health, 17.3 million adults had at least one major depressive episode in 2017; 11 million had a depressive episode that impaired their daily life. 19.1% percent of the population of the United States has had difficulty with anxiety. These numbers are staggering but let's look at some of the causes: bullying, depression, physical and sexual abuse, infertility. Statistics show that 49% of children grades 4-12 have been bullied, 30.8% admit to having been the bully themselves (stopbullying.gov). Even more staggering are the statistics that the National Sexual Violence Resource Center reports: 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men have been or will be

raped at some point in their lives and these are only the statistics for the United States.

You may ask what is going on in the world? But believe it or not there is nothing new under the sun. There has been evidence of mental distress even in the the Old Testament. One example is Hannah. Hannah's situation relates to some of the issues that women are experiencing today. She was infertile and was bullied because of her infertility. As a result Hannah suffered depression and a poor self-image (1Samuel 1:1-19). Hannah suffered with these feelings for many years and was desperate for help. She prayed fervently to God for her situation to change and sought counsel.

Another great figure from Old Testament times is King David. David had highs and lows his entire life. Sometimes he made decisions that caused other people great pain and that put a wedge in his relationship to God. In his life story there are demonstrations of family dysfunction, violence and even incest. There are also examples of him seeking counsel. What message do these persons have for us today?

Times have become difficult and heart wrenching, but there is nothing new under the sun. You are not alone and your circumstances are not impossible. There are counselors that are skilled in therapeutic modalities and know the importance of God's intervention. Seek out those committed to the ministry of therapy who skillfully offer help, hope and healing. No matter how great your pain is, do not give up! LCC has caring Christian counselors who can help you.

*Danita Wright, LCSW-R, counsels children and families at the Community Mental Health Center of South Nassau Community Hospital. Her clinical experience includes working in school settings, counseling people with a history of chemical dependence, adjustment disorders, and marriage and family counseling. She holds an MSW from Adelphi University and is a certified field supervisor. Adept at both group and individual therapy, Danita counsels children, teens and adults at LCC's Mineola site.*

**Call Lutheran Counseling Center at 1-800-317-1173 to schedule an appointment at one of our nine sites. For more information, visit our website at [www.LCCNY.org](http://www.LCCNY.org)**

The American Guild of Organists



The Nassau Chapter

**MEMBERS' ORGAN RECITAL**

Sunday, June 9th at 3:00 PM

Trinity Lutheran Church

40 Nicholai St., Hicksville, NY

*- featuring Trinity's new, large, Walker organ -*

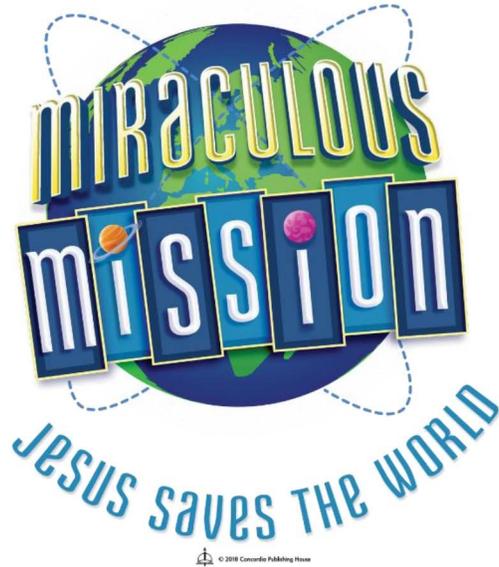
**- Recitalists -**

Elizabeth Bailey CAGO Henry A. DeVries

Meredith E. Baker FAGO Judith F. Feuss

Michael L. Bower Dr. Joseph J. Woo MD

*Free Admission - Reception to follow*



**Who:** All Children Age 4 (by December 1, 2019) to (completed) Grade 5

**What:** Trinity Lutheran Church's Vacation Bible School (VBS)

**When:** Monday, July 22, 2019 to Friday, July 26, 2019

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

**Where:** Trinity Lutheran Church

40 West Nicholai Street, Hicksville, NY 11801

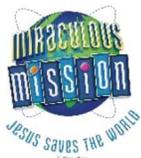
**Open Registration until July 7<sup>th</sup>!**

**Join us for Bible Stories, Music, Arts & Crafts, Recreation, Snack, Chapel, new friendships and SO MUCH MORE!**

**If you'd like to participate, please complete the enclosed registration form and return it to the church office, or scan and email it to [TrinityHicksvilleVBS@gmail.com](mailto:TrinityHicksvilleVBS@gmail.com).**

**Parents/Guardians: If you are able to volunteer, we'd LOVE to have you! We need teachers, helpers & special leaders. Students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade and above are welcome to be helpers! Letters for community service hours can be provided!**

**Questions? Want to help? Email [TrinityHicksvilleVBS@gmail.com](mailto:TrinityHicksvilleVBS@gmail.com) or call the church office and leave a message for Laura Morrisey.**



## VBS Registration: Trinity Lutheran Church

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_      Age: \_\_\_\_\_      Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_      State: \_\_\_\_\_      Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone: \_\_\_\_\_      Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Friends of your child at this church: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_      Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Food Allergies (Yes/No): \_\_\_\_\_      If yes, please list: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Allergies (Yes/No): \_\_\_\_\_      If yes, please list: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Concerns (Yes/No): \_\_\_\_\_      If yes, please list: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized persons to pick-up child from VBS:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Photo Release Permission:**

As a parent or guardian of this student, I hereby consent to the use of photographs/videotape taken during the course of VBS for publicity and/or promotional purposes via future brochures and/or social media. I do this with full knowledge and consent.

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I give consent for Trinity Lutheran Church & School to photograph my child for promotional purposes.

\_\_\_\_ No, I do not authorize Trinity Lutheran Church & School to photograph my child for any reason.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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(Office Use)

Class Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Leader: \_\_\_\_\_