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TrinityHicksville.org

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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



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The Good News

October 2019
Volume 3 No. 9
Page 1



Reaching Out

What I am about to share happened outside of my office windows one day, a couple of weeks ago.

School had just let out for the day. It was a little after 3:00 pm. Children were coming into the courtyard to play. These are the children who are not getting on the buses, but rather a family member has come to pick them up. While these family members are visiting with the other moms, dads and grandparents, the children play.



What I noticed this day was something that really struck me. Five boys were playing together. That in and of itself is not unusual. But what made this different was who was playing together. It was two African-American boys, a Hispanic boy, an Indian boy and a White boy. They were all playing together. Big smiles on their faces as they ran around. Not a care in their minds as to what neighborhood they came from or what their heritage was. It was just five friends playing together.

I thought to myself, that is what heaven is going to be like. Not a care in the world who your neighbor is, where they came from, where they grew up or what they look like. When that day comes and we are in heaven, we will be there for one reason and

one reason only. We will be there because of the faith we have in Jesus Christ. That is the common thread that we all will share.

That event happened the day before back to school night. I shared that story with the parents and grandparents and all who came that evening. I told them that is what their children get taught here at our school. I pointed out the teachers who were sitting there as the ones who share the message of Jesus with their children. That is one of the blessings their children receive by attending Trinity Lutheran Church and School. I thanked them for entrusting their children’s education to us.

The school is just one the ministries that we have here at Trinity that shares the love of Jesus with others. This month we are going to have two other events that will do the same thing, albeit in different ways.

The first is Deaf Appreciation Day. We are inviting those from the deaf community, namely those from the Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf and Dayhab to come to Trinity. We will be offering a bag of groceries to those in need. Why? Many times, when it comes to the end of the month, some families are in need of food. We can help with that. What this is all about is trying to let the folks know that we are “Deaf Friendly.”

Continued...

Inside this Issue...

Pastor’s MessagePage 1
 From the Minister of MusicPage 3
 From the Deacon’s Bench.....Page 3
 A Word from the PrincipalPage 4
 Early Childhood Center News.....Page 4
 Honor, Serve, Provide Capital Campaign.....Page 5
 The Art at Trinity.....Page 5

Board of Outreach Page 6
 Board of Stewardship..... Page 7
 LWML Update/Sunshine Ministries..... Page 8
 Comfort Dog Ministry Page 9
 Lutheran Counseling Center.....Page 10
 Invitation from St. John’s, Williston Park.....Page 11
 Trunk or Treat InvitationPage 12

This is a term that is used in the deaf community when they find that a church or group is friendly to the needs of the deaf. This is our way of showing the love of Jesus to them. Deaf Ministry team is sponsoring this event. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, just let me know. We are working in partnership with the Lutheran Friends of the Deaf at Mill Neck.

This event will also serve as a way to invite those families who come for groceries to our Trunk or Treat taking place the next day. This is our second outreach event for the month of October.

Trunk or Treat was such a success last year! We had over 200 children come last year to go "trick or treating" from those who decorated their cars' trunks. Many of those who brought their children were from the surrounding neighborhood. This is another way in which we can get the word out to our community that Trinity is very much a family friendly place to be. Be sure and invite your friends and neighbors to this event. They can bring their children and grandchildren! You can bring your own too!!!

If you are asking yourself, "How can I help?" you can help out by providing candy to hand out, decorating your own car for the kids to stop by, helping out with the activities, and praying for those who come that the love of Jesus will become known to them. Join the Comfort Dog Ministry team which is sponsoring this event. Do know: Abraham will be there!

I wanted to share with you that we need to keep the mission of the church foremost, telling the Good News of Jesus. These are but a few creative ways in which it is done.

Serving the Lord with you, *Pastor Hopkins* But the best way to share the love of Jesus still remains when you do it personally with a friend. Pray for opportunities, pray for these events. Let the love of God be made known to all!!!

PS. While the boys were playing that afternoon, one of them saw that I was watching them and he said, "Hi Pastor!!" The other boys turned to him and asked him where I was. He pointed to me. Then all five boys came over to the bushes looking into my office. All I could see was their cherub faces just over the tops of the bushes. They all had big smiles as they waved and said, "Hi Pastor." I waved back with a big smile too! Then, I gave thanks: "Thank you Lord for the love of Jesus being shown to me through these five boys and the friendship they share." May God grant that we all have many, many more opportunities to share the love of Jesus with all who need to know Him. God's blessings be upon you all.



TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, October 19 and
Saturday, November 9 10:00am-12:00pm



PSALM 121

HELP! How often have we uttered that exclamation? Are you calling to a spouse, child, friend for a hand with something? Are you in danger? Where can we find help? Since ancient times, people have looked up for help – to the sun, the moon, the stars, but this psalm reminds us to look upward to the Lord, not a god who doesn't answer, but the God who made heaven and earth. The psalm goes on to tell us that God doesn't sleep, he is always there for us to ask for help. These beautiful words of hope and comfort appear in our lectionary this year on October 20. Our choirs for that day will sing these words as part of our Sunday services. At 9:00 am, the Trinity Choir will sing the beautiful setting of this psalm by the American composer Leo Sowerby, and at 10:45 a.m. Sounds of Praise, singing for the first time this season, will sing these same words in a setting by Joan Fyock. Both anthems bring these words of assurance to life in wonderful ways. The psalm ends with a blessing and a reminder of God's constant guidance to us: The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.



Henry DeVries,
Minister of Music

The Good News From the Deacon's Bench

". . .Continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." Timothy : 14-15

Each of us Deacons has, at one time or other, delivered the children's message at Sunday Service. It is something we look forward to. We love to see the faces of the children who come, some happy, some sad, some bored, some scared, many bewildered. We love to interact with them and tell them about the love of Jesus. In fact we find it to be a great blessing just to have the children there. It is a great blessing to all who see them as well. So we thank the parents for bringing them. We hope you do so on a regular basis and do not let worldly distractions deprive them of the spiritual food of God's Word in the Fellowship of His people.

Our children are gifts from God, entrusted to us as His stewards to bring them up to know, love and serve Him. They are the future of the church. They are assaulted on all sides by the things in the world competing for their attention. The message they hear from the very loud voice of the media often contradicts the Word of God. We want to tell them the truth about God. We want to connect them to the love and kindness of Jesus as well as to warn them of the dangers of sin.

Therefore when we prepare our messages, we do so with prayer as well as attention to the word of God. Usually we base our message on one of the morning's Lectionary readings or on the planned Sunday School lesson. What is difficult is speaking in a way that the children can all understand, from toddlers to fifth graders. We must grab their attention with a story or through the use of props. Otherwise they will be distracted and miss the point of the lesson. Please pray for the children that the word of God will flourish in their hearts so that they can withstand the false teaching of the world and grow into the image and likeness of Jesus.



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

Dear Families,

The first few weeks of school have been filled with a lot of positive energy, learning, and most importantly, love. I think that the love that I have seen is what has impressed me most as I popped into classrooms around the building in these beginning days. No matter where I have visited, ECC, elementary, or middle school classes, I have been touched by the devotion, care, and acts of kindness I have witnessed in my travels. How blessed we are to have such a caring staff and most especially, how blessed are the children!

We are all experiencing trials of one sort or another "in these times," and these trials impact the children too. So, to see the light of His love reflected and shining so brightly here at Trinity is truly a source of comfort and hope.

In the coming months, I will write more specifically about the events that have taken place and reminders about those that are planned. At this writing we are ending our third full week of school. So, I look forward to the weeks and months ahead, I thank you all for your prayers, and for God's continued blessings and guidance.

As the saying goes, "A picture is worth a 1000 words." Here are just a few pictures from the beginning of school.

Yours in Christ,

Mary-Elaine Leake



The Good News
Early Childhood Center News

In Trinity's Early Childhood Center we were so excited to welcome back all of our families and most importantly the children! The school year is now in full swing and we can hardly believe it is Fall. All of the classes are already super busy learning new things, singing, dancing, and of course playing! Our pre-k classes have begun their work learning about healthy habits, patterns, among many other interesting topics. The nursery classes have been learning about themselves, hearing stories, and enjoying playing with their new friends. Our smallest toddler classes are adjusting to school and gaining some independence through song, story and play time. Wishing you all Fall blessings!

Carolyn Gallegos
ECC Director



We have *Honored the Past* in our first year of this capital campaign and as we continue to celebrate Trinity's School's 65th anniversary, we *Serve the Present*. This year, as we *Provide for the Future*, we also celebrate the ECC's 50th anniversary.

Pledges, one-time gifts and memorial donations continue to come in.

We are thrilled to have surpassed our goal with one more year to go in our three-year campaign. The projects we have been detailing to you have been completed using more than \$101,000 of the \$202,000 campaign funds received to date.

Thanks to all of you who have contributed to the capital campaign! Trinity Lutheran Church and School is in much better shape both physically and in appearance. Our Board of Properties continues to work incredibly hard on our behalf. New carpets in the classrooms, exterior painting of the school, painting classrooms, professionally groomed grounds, and new mulch for the playground are part of August and September's accomplishments. The school's heating system has, at last, been repaired – thank you Rich Evans!

As mentioned previously we are still working on the original list of projects. Some projects have been added to that list on recommendation of emergency professionals for the safety of our students, staff, congregation and visitors. Your assistance is appreciated and celebrated with every project completed. THANK YOU!



The Good News
The Art at Trinity



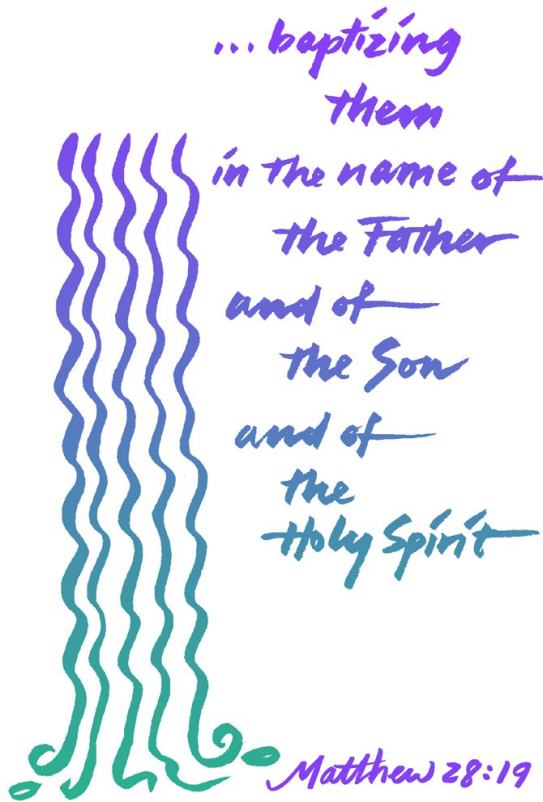
St. Jerome (located in the East wing) is an etching with plate tone created in Bologna, Italy in the 17th century, by the Italian artist Lorenzo Loli (c1612-1691). The etching was given in honor of the staff of Trinity Lutheran Church and School by the students and PTFA for Staff Recognition Day, 1987.

St. Jerome was considered the most learned of the Fathers of the Western Church. He was a pioneer in the field of Biblical archeology. St. Jerome was a man of prayer and purity of heart and an interpreter of spiritual things. He is a popular subject with religious artists who have pictured him in the desert, sometimes in the robe of a cardinal, shown with a lion. St. Jerome was called "a Fearless Champion of Faith." His body is buried somewhere in the Sistine Chapel in Rome.

By *Ellen Kerwin*



Deadline for the November issue is noon on Friday, November 22!



"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

Regardless of our gifts or temperament, all Christians are called to go out and get involved in what Jesus is doing through interaction with people. This is what I refer to as incarnational ministry. Jesus lives in and works through us, through all the faith-filled members of His Kingdom. We are how people experience Jesus, through our words and actions. Jesus brings himself to people through us.

Perhaps the reason why people have turned their back on the church may be because they have not met the Jesus of love and mercy in us, but the judgmental attitude and anger of a legalistic Christian or the political ideology of a conservative (or liberal).

When people meet us they should meet Jesus, one who is compassionate, kind and loving. This means listening to people, hearing their stories, their hopes, fears, and concerns. It means being genuinely interested in them. It means starting a conversation, not an argument. It means talking openly and honestly about God to your neighbors, friends and family.

Don't know where or how to start? Don't consider yourself a good speaker? Are you an introvert? (So am I!) Don't know how to respond to questions? Can't defend your beliefs? The Board of Outreach can help with a short series of classes that will help you get started. Email Deacon Anthony ACavaliere@trinityhicksville.org and we can work together to fulfill the Great Commission which has been entrusted to us.

BLOOD DRIVE

Are you ready? Trinity's Blood Drive will be held on Wednesday, October 16, from 3:30 - 7:45 pm in the Multi-purpose Room. You are eligible to donate blood if you haven't donated blood since August 21. Walk-ins are always welcome, but if you sign up, NY Blood Services can staff the event properly. For more information, or to sign up, call Dorothy Quinn at 822-6697 or email her at dq125@hotmail.com. We're counting on you!





In November the Board of Stewardship will sponsor a Consecrated Stewards Program. This will culminate in Consecration Sunday on November 17, when we, the members of the congregation, will have an opportunity to renew our weekly monetary pledges and, if possible, increase them. This is nothing new. We do this every Autumn because it is always prudent to refresh our minds concerning the wisdom of the Lord regarding Stewardship in general as well as monetary giving on a regular basis in particular. In addition at harvest time we honor the Lord as we remember His blessings and give Him thanks for them all.

Luther's Small Catechism gives us some fundamental reasons for consecrated giving in the First Article and the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed. These speak to the motivation and the call to stewardship as an aspect of discipleship.

The First Article: Creation

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean? I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that 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.

The Second Article: Redemption

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who 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.

Why should we give our resources to the Church? The Lord God has blessed us by giving us all we have. We glorify Him by using His blessings to both encourage the faithful and preach the Gospel of faith in Jesus Christ to unbelievers.

"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. . . He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God."



I would like to remind the women of Trinity that October 6 is LWML Sunday and a flyer will be in the weekend bulletin explaining our upcoming years events attached with a mite envelope. It is with these mites that grants are given to various churches. If you have requested a grant from LWML, the deadline to submit your grant request is October

ber 1 and must be accompanied with eight copies.

The letter for our Bakeless Cake Sale has been sent out and the monies donated to this fund will be used for mission work.

If you are planning on attending the Tuscarora retreat from October 11—13, they are accepting only 100 applications. Registration began on September 1 so I would suggest that you call the number on the registration form first to make sure there still are openings.

The next LWML meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 15 in the Church Meeting Room at 7:30pm. We will be completing our gifts for Dave Specht's Christmas tree sale. Please bring a friend and your mites. See you then!

Helen Peter,
LWML President

ALL ABOUT SUNSHINE—The Sunshine Circle is not a branch of LWML. It is a separate ministry. It is most likely the oldest ministry at Trinity. It was started by a few women during the time of Pastor Rusch's ministry. These women visited shut-ins only but has since branched out and involves over 43 women in our church and has five different branches.



Sunshine Ministries

SHUT-IN VISITS—Monthly visits are made to shut-ins of our congregation and our volunteers bring a short devotion, a smile, God's love and sometimes even lunch to those they visit. If you have an hour to spare once a month please contact Helen Peter at 516-938-6914.

NURSING HOME DEVOTIONS—We visit two local nursing/adult homes once a month and provide a worship service that includes favorite hymns. We also provide birthday gifts and small gifts throughout the year to those who attend the services. This ministry requires a willing heart, helping hands and about an hour and a half once per month. If you are interest, contact Helen Peter.

LOVE FEASTS—When a member of Trinity dies, at the request of the Pastor, the Sunshine Circle provides a love feast. With the help of volunteers, Marite Hennessey coordinates this ministry for the family so when they return home from the funeral, the smell of fresh brewed coffee and a home cooked meal is waiting to greet them. Marite has a roster of volunteers willing to prepare food and to help set up this feast. If you would like to help in some way, please call Marite Hennessey at 516-681-2513. Due to building security, it is very difficult to set up a love feast at church. While memorial services do take place during school hours, a love feast at church would be in conflict with security and school routine.

PRAYER LINE—We are always looking for people to join in this vital ministry. As we petition our Lord on behalf of others, we fulfill God's directive that we pray for those in need. The Prayer Line does not require you to leave home but instead, asks that you add these people to your daily prayers. Please call Helen Peter if you are interested.

BAPTISMAL BANNERS—Last but not least, is our "Little Lamb" banners that two of our Sunshine Circle members make. Sunshine provides the materials necessary for making these banners and they are given to the parents of all children baptized at Trinity. Any questions, call Helen Peter!



Abraham's Adventures

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."
Matthew 4:19

September has been a busy month for me. It started with me attending Trinity's Back to School BBQ. It was so cool to see all my church and school friends come together and fill the church to bless our kids backpacks and start the school year off. Next, I attended the first day of school at both Trinity and Lu-Hi. I love welcoming the kids!

I had the privilege to attend Lily Comfort Dog's anniversary of the Passing of her Vest. She has served her church for five years and her congregation just loves her. Many didn't know I was going to be there so it was an extra surprise.

My handlers took me to the Nassau County Communications Center on September 12. There I met Joann. Her mom just had a stroke. I spent some time snuggling with her. Please keep her and her mom in your prayers.

I was then called to Rochester where I joined Amos and Lily to help the community of a firefighter who had passed away unexpectedly. We provided comfort for those just waiting outside to enter the funeral home to pay their respects. Firefighter Joe was well loved by the community.

Did you know there is a group call the Blue Star Moms? These are mothers of sons and daughters who serve in our military. Veteran John and I went to talk about what I do. I even showed off some of my commands. Thank you moms for your service and sacrifice.

My last big trip of the month was to meet all of the school superintendents of New York. Leah Comfort Dog and I had our own booth and was able to greet so many folks. They got to meet and greet us and we were able to tell them about what I do.

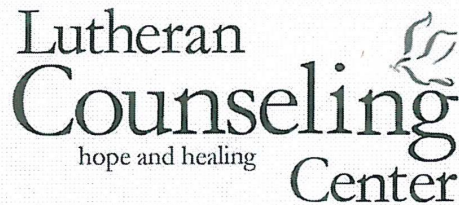
I Need Candy!!

Trunk or Treat is coming up and we are again collecting candy to hand out. It's going to be bigger and better than before! Have you thought about doing a trunk? I am! Come have some fun. October 27 from 3pm – 5pm. Thank you to all who have already donated.



Abraham





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

Prepared especially for LCC
Association Congregations & Schools

Body and Soul

By Craig Canfield, MA, LP, LCC Therapist

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." Gen. 1:27

If we are all "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Ps. 139:14) as a basis of the *imago Dei* (image of God), shouldn't we focus on taking care of and valuing our physical state? Every therapist who has lost a patient to heart disease knows how the body in therapy can be betrayed. After all, we are told that there are physicians who can tend to these issues. Like so many other things in which we are told not to meddle, we are often told that our business is solely with the Psyche, that there are enough issues here to attend to without our insistence on the importance of physical matters.

But then the inevitable call one day comes. . . *"I'm just calling to inform you that Jim will not be attending his session with you today. This morning he died suddenly of a heart attack."* There can follow a nearly comically, macabre moment when the therapist then recollects one minute, now totally irrelevant detail of something that had occurred to the patient decades ago, but that had been unearthed only a session before his death, that the therapist had intended to return to in today's session. "Heart mysteries", as the poet W.B. Yeats spoke of, may extend beyond the physical, but without the physical, well, what then?

There might be a few other "concepts" contributing to such a betrayal. The second, the projected idea of 'heaven' resulting in the view that the body is just a shell, a vehicle for journey on earth to get us to heaven. The reasoning then often heard in response to voiced concern about some physical issue is, *"then why worry so much about the body? After all, should we not live for the next life, the life in heaven?"* However, God called "very good" his creation that includes physical bodies. If our bodies are His temples (1 Cor. 6:19-20), doesn't it warrant our focus and attention?

And third: our idea of the Resurrected body, the Mystical body, the Body of Christ, that this "body" has nothing whatsoever to do with the body of man, therefore keeping it entirely apart from an image of our own "health" to be obtained. However, one might argue that through his incarnation, Christ became flesh to restore bodily life through the Resurrection, not to rescue only spirits for an ephemeral heaven.

Walking the loop around Prospect Park, I spotted last week a very, very young boy trying out his newly acquired "running legs" towing a kite behind him. The kite would rise and then fall, rise and then fall, but the falling had little to do with his own endeavors. What he never turned around to see was his two little mischievous brothers stepping every other second on the tail of his kite, keeping it from ascending. Thus the blocking agents within us, or outside of us, trying to get our "kite of health" forever from soaring in the air. It's good on occasion to turn around and note the interference.

Craig Canfield counsels teens, adults and couples at our LCC: Paul Qualben site in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. For more information or to set an appointment at one of our nine counseling sites in the metro NY area, call us at 1-800-317-1173. Please visit our website at www.LCCNY.org.



SAINT JOHNS
LUTHERAN CHURCH



YOU ARE INVITED!

FREE LUNCH AND PRESENTATION

*"Home Sweet Home: An Aging and Caregiving
Workshop on How to Protect Your Assets and
Get the Best Care Possible" by Brian Andrew
Tully, Certified Elder Law Attorney*

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, NOON-1:30PM

Please RSVP by Sunday, October 13

516.742.5858
office@stjohns-wp.org
stjohns-wp.org

St. John's Lutheran Church
47 Winthrop Street
Williston Park, NY 11596





October 27
SUNDAY

Kids
TRUNK or TREAT
party

Fun / Treats/ Games

3 PM - 5PM/ 40 W. NICHOLAI STREET, HICKSVILLE

CONTACT CHURCH OFFICE TO HAVE YOUR TRUNK PARTICIPATE
(516)- 931-2225