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TrinityHicksville.org

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

40 West Nicolai Street, Hicksville, NY 11801

Reverend John Hopkins – Senior Pastor
Mary-Elaine Leake - Principal | Carolyn Gallegos - ECC Director



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The Good News

November 2019
Volume 3 No. 10
Page 1



Consecrated Stewards



What is this stewardship campaign all about?

First of all, Consecrated Stewards is not a campaign. A campaign suggests that this is a program that we are using this year. Consecrated Stewards is more about a way of life for the Christian. This is about each individual being a steward of the gifts God has given them. Steward means manager. So this, when you apply it to yourself, is about managing the gifts that God has given you.

Too often I find that most folks, when they think about giving or tithing to the church, it is from the perspective of the need of the church to receive. Consecrated Stewards is more about the need of the giver to give.

The idea behind giving is biblical. It is about returning a portion of what God has given us. Those are the first fruits of that which we have earned. First fruits is a farming term. It is referring to the very first fruits of what is being harvested. Here, God is asking us to return to Him a portion of which we have earned. By God asking us to give of the first things we have earned, He is asking us to trust Him and that He will continue to provide more.

Here is where the struggle for us lies. How much do we trust God? When we have things in hand, the paycheck is deposited, we find comfort. The

discomfort comes when God asks us to return a portion of that back to Him before we use it for anything else. Will we have enough until the next paycheck comes in? Will we have enough to cover all the bills, buy food, etc.? This leads us back to the question, "How much do we trust God?" Or another way of looking at it, "Do we trust God to provide?"

Being a Consecrated Steward is one in which the Christian, who was consecrated in their baptism, set aside to be God's own child, is one who trusts that God will indeed provide. This point is all about asking yourself, "How is my relationship with God?"

To do that, we examine our lives. We look at our finances. We look at our time and how we use it for the Lord. We look at the gifts, talents and abilities that He has given us to use in service to Him. Then we can see how we are doing. We can answer that question. Is my relationship good with the Lord? Can it use some work? Can I do more?

Again, stewardship is about the need of the steward to give and not about the Church receiving. Sure the Church receives, but the emphasis is not to satisfy the need of the Church. It is about the Steward serving the Lord. When we all focus on our relationship with God, the needs of the Church will be taken care of.

One thing to remember in this process of evaluating your relationship with God is that it is a process. Relationships are developed. There are some things we can improve on right away.

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There are some things that we can take steps to improve. In either case, it is about trusting the Lord and relying on Him in all things.

Perhaps one of my favorite verses that summarizes this so well is Proverbs 3:5-6:

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

When it comes to giving and serving the Lord and being a good steward, it is about trust. The more we trust, the easier it is to give and serve. If you need help in trusting the Lord, pray to Him, asking for that kind of faith, and then step out in that faith. Trust means putting it into practice and He will direct your ways.

Serving the Lord with you,

Pastor Hopkins



NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

... for the December 2019 issue are due no later than noon on Wednesday, November 20!

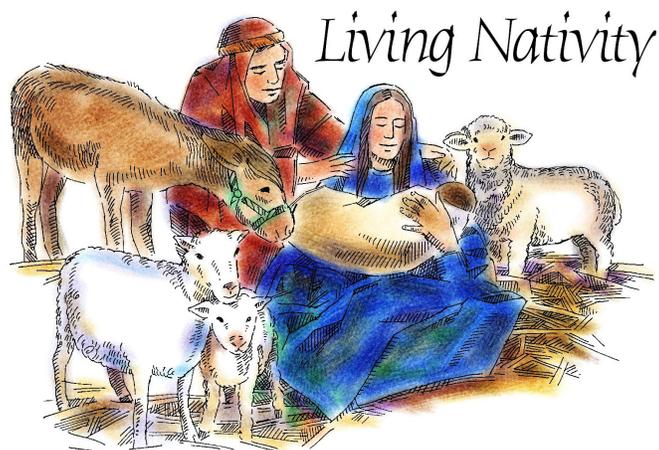


We are blessed at Trinity to have multiple choirs, soloists and instrumentalists to enhance our worship each week. I would like to highlight some of the vocal music that is coming up in November. On November 3, Trinity Choir will be singing "Requiem" by Giacomo Puccini, the famous Italian opera composer. He wrote very little for the church, and this is one of the few. His musical language is clearly present, the harmonies could be in *Madame Butterfly*. This short piece uses the Latin text from the traditional requiem mass, it was actually written for the 4th anniversary of the death of Giuseppe Verdi, another well known opera composer. At 10:45am, Sounds of Praise will sing "Saints of God," a favorite of Sounds of Praise singers for many years. It teaches the children about saints and many Bible stories as well, see how many you know.

On November 10, Trinity Choir will sing "Cantate Domino," a setting of verses from Psalm 149 - "Sing to the Lord a new song!" On November 17, Trinity Choir will sing the beautiful "Grant Peace We Pray" by Felix Mendelssohn, on a text of Martin Luther. It is said that Mendelssohn was so inspired after seeing some Lutheran hymns, that he wrote this piece and five others using the words of those hymns.

At the end of the month, Trinity Choir will sing a wonderful setting of Psalm 46 by Milwaukee composer, John Behnke and finally for our Thanksgiving service, the anthem "Rejoice in the Lord" by 17th century composer Henry Purcell. This piece is sometimes called the bell anthem because of the imitation of a bell peal in the opening organ section. It literally bursts with joy proclaiming the text from Philippians 4.

Henry DeVries,
Minister of Music



Living Nativity

On Christmas Eve
at our 6:00 pm family service we have a Living Nativity.
We are in need of some new faces to help out! It is non-speaking, you just need a smile!
Please talk to Pastor Hopkins or Sue Mittler in the church office
if you or your family would like to help.

"The Blessing Box is empty" is an occasional phone call we get in the church office. It usually means someone has emptied the Blessing Box overnight. While it may be upsetting to know that someone has taken all the food, we know that many people do use the box. During the day we see people stop by and take one, two or three items and walk away. Some even give a little wave towards the church. One woman has shared that her husband does not always have work and how much the food helps.

We need to feed the body before the soul. Jesus fed the 5,000 people first, he knew they wouldn't listen to him with hungry stomachs. We need to feed and listen to people before we can share the love of Jesus. If someone is hurting, angry, or ill they may not be ready to hear that Jesus loves them. What they need is for you to listen, which is sharing the love of Jesus without preaching. Being present, listening, caring is one way we share Jesus' love.

But, is our blessing box ever empty? The physical box hanging across the street from church might be but our blessings are never emptied. That Jesus died on the cross to save us is our biggest blessing. November and December are a season of giving but we need to help those who are in need all year. Communities, schools, businesses and Trinity have food drives, food baskets, clothing drives, toy drives, Christmas angels and yes, a *Blessing Box* as we try to help those in need. In Matthew 25:40 Jesus tells us, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it for me."

Our blessings overflow each and every day. Let's remember to be thankful each and every day of our lives for all that we have. And thank you for continuing to share your blessings with others.

Deacon Lynn Waldeck

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



Sharing Our Blessings This Month

Annual Food Drive and Thanksgiving Baskets

The annual food drive for our food baskets, Blessing Box and Lutheran Social Services is underway. Please donate canned fruit, vegetables and beans, boxed potatoes and stuffing, rice, pasta and sauce, cereal, oatmeal, soup, cookies, tea, coffee, peanut butter and jelly, paper goods and personal care items. Please bring in by Sunday, November 17. We will be packing Thanksgiving baskets on Monday, November 18 at 10:00 am in the Stammel Center. Monetary donations to be used for grocery gift cards is always appreciated, please mark for Thanksgiving baskets.

Christmas Angels

Each year our "Christmas Angel" program provides gifts for people in our congregation and community. For some, this is the only way they can give the "magic of Christmas" to their children. The "angels", along with instructions will be at the table in the hallway between services on Sunday, November 10. All gifts are due back on Sunday, November 17. Any questions please call Lynn Waldeck in the church office (x230).

Dear Families and Friends,

A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of traveling with 6th and 7th grade students on their trip to Camp Herrlich. I used the word "pleasure" intentionally because it aptly describes the two days we spent together. The camp staff did a fantastic job teaching and leading our students. What impressed me most was how engaged our students were and how well they worked as a group to meet presented challenges. Together, they helped each other and used their skills and knowledge to problem-solve and accomplish the task. This they did with great joy and pride.



The camp experience involved all the best aspects of teaching and learning – rich content, hands-on, critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, communication, fun and much more. Before our trip ended, we prayed and concluded our time together by sharing our likes and dislikes about our time at camp.

This trip served to highlight who we are as members of the body of Christ -- each being an important member of the body, created for a specific purpose, with God-given talents to share. This is who we are as members of Church and School – each is specially made and a part of the body. What a pleasure -- what joy we have to be "All in with Him" here at Trinity!

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:12

Yours in Christ,

Mary-Elaine Leake

The Good News
Early Childhood Center News



The past month has been a busy one in Trinity's Early Childhood Center. The children continue to fill the classrooms and hallways with sounds of singing, playing, and laughter. The children have also been very busy creating some beautiful art work which can be seen throughout the Early Childhood Center hallways.

A few weeks ago we invited all of our Early Childhood Center families to Parent Night. It

was an informative night for parents to visit their child's classroom and learn more about what the children are learning each day.

Last week the Hicksville Fire Department visited our Nursery and Pre-K classes as part of Fire Prevention Month. The children enjoyed learning about Fire Safety. Also this month Abraham has visited some of our ECC classrooms. We thank the Comfort Dog Ministry for arranging these visits for the children.

Carolyn Gallegos
ECC Director

Tyberio Delphino (1586) **The Virgin and Child with St. Jerome and Mary Magdalene** (located in the East Wing) is an engraving by the 16th century Italian artist **Agostino Carracci** (c1557-1602). This engraving was given in honor of the staff of Trinity Lutheran Church and School by the students and PTFA for Staff Recognition Day, 1985.



European Art History Timeline

The Carracci family of artists followed the art of Correggio (1514-1534) who was one of the creative geniuses of the High Renaissance. Correggio's body of work like that of his contemporaries -- Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Giorgione and Titian -- was of fundamental importance for later generations.

It was the Carracci family (Ludovico and his cousins **Agostino** and Annibale) who set up an academy in Bologna, Italy to encourage life drawing. This academy became the training ground for artists of the next generation, as well as a model for similar institutions elsewhere in Italy and in France. It was the example of the Carracci family and their resistance to the artificial conventions of the prevalent Mannerist style that was crucial to the history of Western painting during the following two and a half centuries.

The Carracci family's influence of drawing from a model helped to develop and refine later artists' styles of achieving elegance, feminine beauty and exquisite color. This trend in art would become the basis of a new, naturalistic style in the 18th century.

by *Ellen Kerwin*

FALL CLEAN UP
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30
9:00 AM

Let's Make Our
Let's Make Our
Church
Beautiful!

"For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility." (Ephesians 2:14-16)



In the last three years we have heard quite a bit of talk about the WALL! People disagree vehemently on this issue because there is a wall that separates the hearts of all human beings and puts them at enmity with one another. The Apostle Paul indicates that this wall is a wall of hostility that separates man from God but also individual from individual.

Politics and government can do nothing to break down this wall because this wall is the Law of God, the Law that God desires we keep. To have fellowship with God, to be in His presence, one must be holy, perfect, free from sin. No one can keep the Law, for without faith in Christ all are enemies of God.

But Jesus broke down this wall on the cross. His blood redeemed us from the condemnation of the law so now all those who have faith in Him, stand justified and righteous before God. All bear the righteousness of Christ.

Now, because we who have faith are united with Jesus, all in Christ have been reconciled to each other. Since each believer is one with Christ, each believer is one with every other believer in the Church, regardless of language, social class, nationality or race.

Through Christ and in Christ, we are God's new society. We are the family of God the Father, the body of Jesus Christ his Son and the temple or dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. All believers are fellow citizens of God's new society, no longer at enmity with each other because of national, ethnic, political, or cultural loyalties. All share the love, mercy and peace that come from intimate fellowship with the Father.

The cross alone has overcome the hostility that existed between God and man and between man and man. The church is the visible fruit of this reconciliation and also the only means through God achieves it. Thus, to be outside of the Church is to be outside of Christ and without hope. If we truly believe this, then as ambassadors for Jesus, we must preach the gospel to everyone we meet. We must extend God's love, compassion and mercy not merely in words but in deeds. We are to preach faith in Christ Jesus alone because we want all to come into the Kingdom of God, we want all to be reconciled to Him and share the peace that only He gives. Jesus is indeed alive in us and He cares for all mankind.



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



Yoga is available at Trinity on Wednesdays at 6:00pm in the MPR. Cost is \$7.00 per class, pay as you go. Mats are available and all ages are welcome!



Consecrated Stewards



CONSECRATION SUNDAY IS COMING!

Sunday, November 17, 9:30AM

Mark that date on your calendar as a time of spiritual growth, fellowship, and commitment here at Trinity. November 17 will be "Consecration Sunday," the culmination of a biblically based stewardship education and commitment emphasis called *Consecrated Stewards* that focuses on raising people in Christian discipleship, not just raising money for the work of the church.

To understand the *Consecrated Stewards* approach, you need to know it is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. It is not based on the budgetary needs of the church, but on the desire to have each person grow in discipleship. Opportunity for growth in discipleship will take place over the next 17 days including.

The personal witness of some of our members.

Encouragement and resources for prayer.

A series of Bible studies on Wednesday evenings, 7PM streamed live on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/trinityhicksville/>

Consecration Sunday activities on November 17, including:

Opportunity to make a faith-based commitment during the worship service.

A special fellowship and Celebration Luncheon (preregistration needed but free)

The encouragement to commitment on Consecration Sunday takes place within the context of the morning worship service. Pastor Hopkins will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, and then ask our attendees and members to respond to God's leading through a financial commitment that will enable our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes a commitment card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We also urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card. *Consecrated Stewards* works with people where they are and when they are ready. Members make their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship. Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in our *Consecrated Stewards* events.

The Board of Stewardship

Anthony Cavaliere, Chairman; Jeanine Davis, Les Francis, Wayne Hoerberlein, Pastor Hopkins



The Comfort Dog Ministry 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat was a HUGE success!! Abraham and his team can't thank you all enough for all the help and participation and CANDY from our Trinity family, their families and friends and the community around us. The weather wasn't great but that didn't stop this event from drawing a crowd and packing the gym with lots of trick-or-treaters! MANY THANKS TO YOU ALL!!



Christmas Cookie Walk

A Comfort Dog Ministry Fundraiser!

Saturday, December 7, 2019
10:00am - 12:00pm

**Fancy Christmas
Cookies and Candies**

Leave your holiday baking to us!
Many different varieties of delicious
homemade cookies and candies to choose
from for only \$8.00/pound!



Christmas is just around the corner! And after such a successful Trunk or Treat we are looking forward to our Annual Christmas Cookie Walk! Details will unfold in the weeks ahead. Comfort on!



Abraham





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

Prepared especially for LCC
Association Congregations & Schools

Practicing the Art of Mindfulness

By The Rev. Forrest T. Parkinson, LMSW, LP, LCC Pastoral Counselor Cultivating a prayerful mind is a worthy priority for Christians and anyone seeking a deeper peacefulness and more harmonious adjustment to the challenges of daily life. Take a moment to reflect on the habitual workings of your mind and consider the anxieties, worries and distractions that pull you away from experiencing the fullness of your life in the moment, right now. Most people can identify about ten to twenty pressing thoughts that they process over and over with slight variations. This sort of repetitive thinking usually produces no solutions to problems but consistently distracts the mind from the immediate experience of living. Being "stuck in our head" or "distracted" is neither prayerful nor mindful. There is a better way, more realistic and more open to experiencing the presence of God.

The sage advice "*Stop and smell the roses*," is a wise call to mindful prayer that can be expanded to living more happily and embracing the spirituality God is cultivating within us. It is the Holy Spirit who stirs up prayer within our personal depths. If we even desire to respond to this holy urging, that desire itself is evidence of the Spirit's work within us.

Mindfulness practices resonate with the basic, God-given human impulse to pray. **Prayer**, defined most simply, is "*the raising of the mind and heart to God*." **Mindfulness** is the "*moment-to-moment awareness of one's experience without judgment*"; as psychologist Meredith Chivers puts it, being attentive to "*the here and now: the sound of the car horn that is honking behind you, the feeling of the tightness in your chest that it evokes; focusing on the sensations themselves, not what the sensations mean*."

The attitude of prayer *completes* the practice of mindfulness. Prayerful mindfulness practices attend to one's "heart", our relationship with a personal, ever-present God and gives occasion to rest in the presence of God. Let's try a prayerful practice of mindfulness—**Praying the Disturbance**. Noticing when we are disturbed is a basic practice of mindfulness. Prayerfully we can reframe our disturbance as a spiritual imperative to take heart and take care.

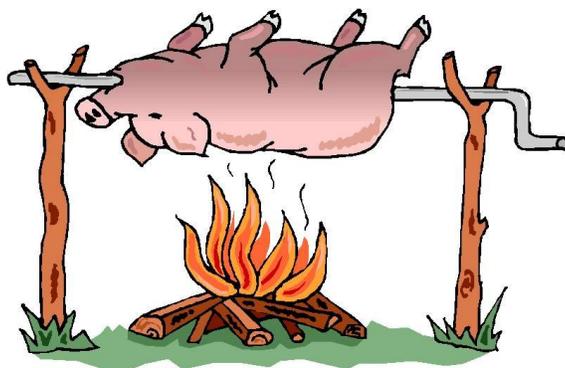
As soon as we *step back* from our interior disturbance, we begin to take a larger, self-observing perspective. We then *compose* our attitude towards our own emotions and what is happening, welcoming the influences of the Holy Spirit. In the moment of composure, our experience of what's happening and our reaction, expands. There is moment for insight, a self-awareness in the presence of God. Now *breathe!* Breath is not only a need but our most powerful symbol of the Holy Spirit. Breathe in, and in the moment before you exhale, allow the Holy Spirit to give you the one word you need immediately. That word might be "mercy," "patience," "wisdom" or "what would Jesus do?" Let that word flow silently or quietly as your exhale. Now, in the midst of disturbance, seek God.

By cultivating this practice of praying our disturbance, the results will deepen peace of mind in anyone's daily walk. Experiment! In the work of the Lutheran Counseling Center, techniques of Mindfulness help our clients to reduce their anxieties, brighten their low moods, cultivate better habits and moderate their anger. *Call us at 1-800-317-1173 if we can help you attain these goals for your life. Pastor Parkinson counsels teens, adults and couples at the Mineola, Farmingdale and Advent, Manhattan sites.*

LWML ANNUAL ROAST PORK DINNER

**Includes: Roast Pork, Sides, Beverages and Dessert
Friday, November 15, 2019 at 6:30 PM
in the Multipurpose Room**

Includes: Appetizers, Roast Pork, Beverages and Dessert



**\$15.00 per person in advance
\$20.00 per person at the door
(Adults only, please – no one under 21)**

**Checks must accompany this registration
and should be made out to Trinity Lutheran LWML
All proceeds will go to the LWML Fundraiser Program!
Questions? Call Helen Peter at 938-6914!**

Please RSVP by November 10

Yes! We will attend the LWML Roast Pork Dinner on November 15, 2019

Name _____

Phone # _____ **# Attending** _____



Hey Trinity Family!

As we approach the end of October we begin looking forward to the Christmas season and Trinity's annual Christmas tree sale. This year will be our 25th year and we have been blessed over these years by the ministries, groups and many individuals who have volunteered their time, not only unloading the trees, but also selling them.

I, for the most part have been able to handle certain days with limited or no additional help, but realize I cannot continue to man the lot by myself. Groups have grown smaller over the years and it has become more difficult each year to get coverage for the sale. Trinity's Christmas tree sale is too large for a small group of people to continue to make this work. Right now the only coverage we have is Thursday evenings and Sundays from 12:00-4:00pm. We need help with all the other times (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 6:00-9:00 pm, Saturday from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm and Sunday from 4:00 to 9:00 pm). In the past, the Basketball Program has covered Saturdays. That will not happen this year due to extremely low numbers.

The teams I've coached have been responsible for the cleanup and set up of the lot prior to the sale as well as cleanup and breakdown afterwards. Since I do not have that help this year I now need to ask for help with the cleanup and setup. This will take place over a few weekends during November. We try to take advantage of any nice weather we get so we spread things out. We will start with the cleanup on Saturday November 9 from 9:00 am to 12 noon. Lot setup will begin on Saturday, November 16 at 9:00 am and we will finish up on Saturday November 23 at 9:00 am. Tree delivery is Saturday, November 30 at 7:00 am.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 516-933-3405 or see me Sunday mornings.

Thanks,
Dave

Breakfast with Santa

December 7, 2019
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

In Advance: \$10.00 Adults, \$8.00 Children
At the Door: \$10.00 Adults, \$10.00 Children

Yummy Breakfast!
Crafts for Children!
Letters to Santa!
Photos with Santa!

Make a FRAME for your photo with Santa!

RSVP: santa@trinityhicksville.org



**Celebrating Trinity Lutheran
Early Childhood Center's 50th Anniversary!**

Please RSVP by Monday, December 2, 2019

Yes! We will attend Breakfast with Santa on December 7, 2019

Please enclose payment by cash with this tear-off or pay by credit card at www.trinityli.org and choose the "Breakfast with Santa" link. Then choose "Breakfast with Santa" in the dropdown to RSVP.

Name _____

Phone # _____

#Adults _____

#Children _____

Check Here if Paid by Credit Card _____ OR Amount Enclosed _____

ADVANCE PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 2!!