



### TRINITY LUTHERAN

CHURCH AND SCHOOL



SCHOOL 516.931.2211 TrinityLl.org

CHURCH 516.931.2225 TrinityHicksville.org 40 West Nicholal Street, Hicksville, NY 11801

Reverend John Hopkins — Senior Pastor

Mary-Elaine Leake - Principal | Carolyn Gallegos - ECC Director

## The Good News

February2020 Volume 4 No. 2 Page 1



#### Lent

Headlines recently have gotten my attention. In particular, the Coronavirus has been on my mind. For most folks, what is happening in China is a long way away. That is true. So when they see the headlines,

they might think, well it isn't going to happen here. But, they are finding that this particular virus seems

to be very contagious. That it can spread rapidly. Folks can get the virus and expose other people before they even show symptoms. Nasty bug that people can, and are, catching.

Now there may be more information

on this virus than you might know yourself or even care to know. Why have I been paying attention to this? Well, you might say I am invested in this. Or another way of saying it, "I have skin in this game." My daughter teaches in Beijing. Right now she is on vacation out of the country, but has to go back to work at the school. If you have been following along, the Chinese government has closed all schools until February 17. She still has to go back. The school is asking the teachers to teach the kids online. They will have to get on their computers to get their lessons.

As a parent, I am going to have to watch from afar, my daughter going back into the country where all the trouble began. Gives me plenty of time to reflect on everything. What I am saying is, that as a parent I can't help but go through all the "What if?" scenarios through my head.

In a few weeks, Lent begins. Ash Wednesday is on February 26 this year. As you recall, Lent is a time of reflection. Reflection on what our Lord went through on our behalf. Reflect of why our Savior had to sacrifice Himself for us.



Yes, you can say about Lent and what happened to Jesus, that God has "Skin in this game." His very own Son. One thing different here with God being the parent, there are no "what ifs." God knew what He was doing in sending Jesus back to His

creation. There was a nasty "bug" that the people had. And the only cure for it was His Son being exposed to it and yet not to come down with it. That nasty bug we call sin. Jesus was exposed to it, but stayed healthy, stayed sinless. Yet to cure this bug meant that Jesus had to shed His blood for us, all of it, and die. He died in our place and earned the forgiveness of our sins. He earned the cure to be given to us so that we might not die from it.

God was very intentional in saving His people. That is what we reflect on during Lent.

Continued...

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## The Good News More from the Pastor...

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Now while there are no guarantees of a perfect life on this earth, like never getting sick, always having enough money, always having great relationships with our neighbor and our God. We do not have it perfect, ever. So the "what ifs" go rolling through our heads.

It is at those times, we need to go back to God and reflect on what He did for us by sending Jesus. There we find strength, there we find comfort, there we find love that gets us through.

Because when it comes down to it, God asks us to put aside those doubts, those what ifs and trust in Him for He has secured our future with Him in heaven.

Here are some reminders in Scripture:

- † Matthew 6:27 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?
- Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'
- † Matthew 6:34
  Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Today has enough trouble of its own.
- † Philippians 4:6
  Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
- † 1 Peter 5:7
  Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

This is where I go at such times and on which I reflect. It doesn't always have to be during Lent, but Lent is a great place to get in the habit on reflecting how truly a great and awesome God we have, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, place all of your cares and concerns with Him in any and all circumstances. I have. With Him is where one will find the peace that surpasses all understanding.

Serving the Lord with you,

Pastor Hopkins



If I were to say what happens on February 2, most of you would say Groundhog Day. However, I would say, The Presentation of Our Lord! This year, the day that the church sets aside for this celebration falls on a Sunday, and we get to celebrate it! That makes me very happy, because what a festival day it is! What is the day that we call the Presentation of Our Lord? It is the day, 40 days after Christmas, that Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple, as prescribed by Jewish law, as told to us in Luke 2. There the baby Jesus is seen by the prophet Simeon, promised by God not to die before seeing the Messiah and the prophetess Anna. On seeing the baby, Simeon sings the ancient song of the church that we call the Nunc Dimittis, "Lord, now let your servant depart in peace," a hymn we continue to sing each week after communion. The observance of this festival dates back to the earliest days of the Christian church, having been celebrated in Jerusa-



lem already in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, making it almost as old as the celebration of Christmas itself. In England, it marked the end of the Christmas season, and the greens and decorations for Christmas would be removed. In many traditions, it is often called Candlemas, because during this festival the candles that would be used for the coming year in the church would be blessed, some being distributed to the congregation as well, who would form processions into the town with these candles, remembering Simeon's words that Christ is a "Light to lighten the Gentiles." The connection to Groundhog Day is also not coincidental, as an old English saying says: "*If Candlemas Day is clear and bright, winter will have another bite. If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain, winter is gone and will not come again.*" The Pennsylvania Dutch brought Groundhog Day to America, which was purposely celebrated on the feast of the Presentation. We can see the connection to light in the two celebrations, light being a central theme of the Presentation.

This day, a highlight of the Epiphany season, will bring us back to the infant Jesus, and on February 2 a little Christmas will be back at Trinity. We will have not only hymns for the Presentation, but some Christmas hymns as well. Our choirs, both Trinity at 9:00 a.m. and Sounds of Praise at 10:45 a.m. will proclaim the words of Simeon in beautiful settings of Simeon's song, the Nunc Dimittis. As a congregation, we will sing Simeon's words as well, using the words of Luther in his hymn based on Simeon's words, "In Peace and Joy I Now Depart," which was published in the first Lutheran hymnal in 1524. You don't have to put up a Christmas tree or take out all of your Christmas decorations again to celebrate the Presentation, but if you haven't taken them down yet, you can say that you were following ancient church custom. Christmas will be back, at least for one day in February at Trinity.

Henry DeVries, Minister of Music

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

... for the March 2020 issue are due no later than noon on Tuesday, February 18!



## The Good News From the Deacon's Bench

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The Deacons of Trinity Lutheran Church in Hicksville are different people. That may seem like an obvious "so what" statement but it is a concept that needs to be stressed. Though we are all involved in the ministry of worship, caring, prayer and teaching, we Deacons carry out these roles differently depending on the needs of the church, the Pastor, the ministry, and our spiritual gifts. All of us possess the gift of teaching, for example, but some of us can teach adults more easily than we can teach toddlers, children, or teens and vice versa. Some of us are more gifted at visitation, some at administration, and some at writing, but we all function together as essential parts of the Body of Christ just as all members of the Church do. We all function to serve the Lord Jesus Christ by serving His people.

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Deacon Anthony Cavaliere

Your Deacons: Doug Brosky Betsy Lazarek Debbie Vergara

Anthony Cavaliere Peg Ruhs Lynn Waldeck



### 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 2020 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 and numbers. The children also enjoy dancing and singing in class each day! The Nursery classes are working on 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. Our Pre-K classes will also be combining with our Kindergarten class for



certain lessons and their excitement is evident as they prepare for Kindergarten. All of the children are enjoying riding tricycles during play time.

As we continue to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our Early Childhood Center we are looking forward to the Flapjack Fundraiser at Applebee,s, this Saturday, February 1st. There are still tickets available if you would like to join in the fun! Please contact Carolyn Gallegos at 516-931-2211 ext. 224 or <a href="mailto:cgallegos@trinityli.org">cgallegos@trinityli.org</a> if you would like more information or to purchase tickets.

Carolyn Gallegos, Early Childhood Center Director



## The Good News A Word from the Principal

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Dear Trinity Friends and Families,

This week we celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week. This has given us a chance to lift up the ministry of our school. The teachers and staff are so richly blessed to be a part of such a vibrant mission where we can share the love of Jesus, each day, in our words and deeds. The families and students are mutually blessed as faith is strengthened and hope is renewed for members of this family we call Trinity.

Last Sunday, we "kicked-off" Lutheran Schools Week with a service of celebration at the 9:00am worship. We thank Mr. Henry DeVries and our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students for singing for this special occasion and we thank Olivia Nicolas and Jahniyah Smallwood for helping to usher. Finally, we extend our thanks to our wonderful staff for hosting the coffee hour following the service. The celebration continued throughout the week with a theme for each day with related activities. For example, on Monday the theme for the day was "Joy-full" and different classes made video recordings of joyful messages that we will be posting on our website and on our Facebook page. On Wednesday, the theme was Hope. The ECC joined with our K-8 students for chapel for a special "Hope-filled" message from Pastor, Abraham, Top Dog – Ms. Donna Haines and other members of the team as they spoke to us about how the comfort dogs bring hope to the people they serve.

It has been so great to celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week in the season of Epiphany – the season of light, celebrating the true light that enlightens all. What an awesome opportunity we have as members, families, students, teachers, and staff, to work together to share the light and love of Jesus here and in the world. This message of hope is what makes Christian, Lutheran education so special and so needed as an antidote to the despair and darkness of this world. No one can put a value on this kind of education because it is priceless!

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers for our school. You are invited to visit us any Monday from 9:15 to 10:30am as we host "Discover Trinity – Visiting Mondays." Please feel free to drop by, enjoy some refreshments, and observe the wonderful things that happen here at Trinity Lutheran School.

Yours in Christ,

Mary-Elaine Leake *Principal* 







### The Good News

### Honor, Serve Provide Capital Campaign Update

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The totals in our capital campaign continue to astound us. We now have \$246,590 pledged and donated with \$215,491 received. An additional \$30,000 is due in pledges this year. After taking out expenditures for the projects already completed we have over \$70,000 remaining for upcoming projects.

Original undertakings determined three years ago continue to be accomplished. This month hallway ceilings on the school's main floor will be replaced; light fixtures in those halls will be converted to LED lighting. The ceiling in the multipurpose room (MPR) will be replaced

as well. Our Board of Properties has already replaced the light fixtures in the MPR.

Security improvements are on the horizon. New cameras and new security access doors will be installed in the coming months. There is also the need for waterproofing the ECC portion of the building.

Additional great news: we have been informed we will shortly receive PSEG rebate checks for converting our lighting to LED lights. Additional savings for that conversion will also be seen in future utility bills.

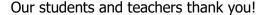
We thank you for your contributions to maintaining Trinity's church and school. You can be proud of the work we are accomplishing together.



## Early Childhood Center Christmas Wish List Refreshes ECC Classrooms!

Many, many thanks to our generous donors who have brightened the ECC classrooms with new manipulatives and educational toys through the Christmas Wish List initiative. The classrooms have been refreshed for the new year and decade and student learning has been optimized through your kindness.

In all, more than 32 items have been received for a total of \$1,140 replacing or adding these sorely needed essentials to our classes. Additional items are still coming in. If you have not already participated we encourage you to add to this worthy cause. Items on the wish list for use in the ECC are available on line at ECCWishList.TrinityLI.Org.





### The Good News

#### From the Board of Outreach

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Social Media is a mission field. The postings we view and interact with there don't center merely on food, cute cats, and silly stunts. Millions use social media to express opinions on politics, morality, religious beliefs, and theology. Postings and memes on these topics often quickly produce heated debates which degenerate into acrimony, name-calling, ridicule, and verbal abuse. The reason is that social media is where people go to vent. Many do so in a vain effort to control the angst, weakness and unrest they feel. Social media then is a reflection of a chaotic culture marked by incivility, rudeness, identity politics, political correctness and the widespread acceptance of sin as the norm.

How should a Christian respond to incivility and abuse? Our first temptation is to respond in kind with tirades and invective of our own, but I have found that this makes me mad and leaves me unsatisfied. It also engenders continued verbal abuse from those who do not agree.

The scorn and ridicule I have endured now makes me sad. So over time I have learned to hold my tongue on political debates and issues, to refrain from attacking others or calling them names. I try to confine myself to the theological aspects of political discussions or what others comment about cultural trends, social mores and celebrities. I use the Word of God to address the social and cultural acceptance of sin of all kinds, not just those related to abortion or sexual immorality. I ask questions about the basis for the moral beliefs of others. If others claim there is no God or if they reject Jesus and the authority of the Word of God what then is the basis for their moral and ethical judgments and pronouncements?

The Word of God stood for centuries as the cornerstone of western civilization. While western civilization followed God's Word imperfectly, the Bible and the Church stood as the basis for all charitable movements, governmental social programs, ethics, and civil justice. In the last two decades, that basis has crumbled and been replaced by identity politics, secular media, and the pseudo ethics and morality created by Hollywood.

The result is that America is now in a state of great turmoil and confusion. People are at odds with one another with strong feelings and rancor on all sides. God is forgotten.

We in the Church must not get caught up with acrimonious debates or with the political rhetoric and hype from any political party, sect or organization. We are citizens of God's Kingdom first and foremost. We have a Godly mission and calling which should be our primary focus to tell others about the Love of God in Christ Jesus.

"A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly." Proverbs 15:1-2

Deacon Anthony Cavaliere

### The Good News

### From the Board of Properties

As noted in the Capital Campaign report, the Board of Properties and Protocol Contracting will be installing energy saving LED lighting fixtures and a dropped ceiling in the hallway that extends from the school reception area to the Pastor's office.

The plan is for the BOP to remove the existing fluorescent lights on Saturday, February 15, so that Protocol Contracting can begin working on Monday, the start of the winter recess. The BOP will then install the LED fixtures.

Simultaneously, Protocol Contracting will install new 2'x2' ceiling tiles in the Multipurpose Room.

## The Good News From the Board of Stewardship

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#### From LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Of the three things a person is not to talk about in polite company – religion, politics, and money – the church is called, in one way or another, to talk about all three. Perhaps this is the reason why teaching about stewardship often seems to be an afterthought. It's something that happens only out of necessity when financial constraints are already nipping at the heels.

Stewardship shouldn't be the kind of teaching that comes up only when there is a financial crunch. It should be part of the ongoing instruction of Christians as they live out their faith in their vocations –family, society, and church. This teaching touches upon every facet of our lives; it stakes a claim upon our time, our presence, our prayers, and our possessions.

Stewardship begins with the acknowledgment that we are stewards. A steward is a manager of someone else's possessions. In Christian stewardship, we recognize, according to the Apostles' Creed, that God is the owner of all things as the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. And in His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, He gives us what is His to manage here below.

The principal virtue for stewards is faithfulness. As St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth:

"Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful." 1 Corinthians 4:2

Stewards must manage that which belongs to the owner according to the owner's wishes. That is what it means to be faithful in stewardship.

How are Christian stewards to be faithful in their managing of what God has entrusted to them?

This depends upon what God has revealed in His Word for each of our vocations in life as those in a family (fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, children), society (governors or citizens), and the church (pastors or laity). The Table of Duties from *Luther's Small Catechism* lays this out in helpful and orderly way.

Let's look just at what the laity owe their pastors:

"In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel." 1 Corinthians 9:14

"Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." Galatians 6:6–7

"Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,' and, 'The laborer deserves his wages.'" 1 Timothy 5:17–18

"We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves." 1 Thessalonians 5:12–13

"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you." Hebrews 13:17

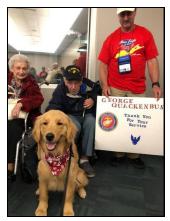
The Lord commands hearers to support the work of the ministry with the gifts He has endowed: their time, their presence, their prayers, and their possessions. This is the means by which God blesses His people with His gifts. St. Paul expounds upon this further in his letters to the church at Corinth. He instructs them to give regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first-fruits (1 Cor. 16:2) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23).

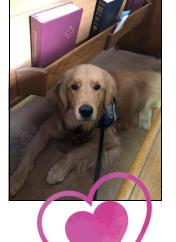
All of this teaching is set forth squarely within the context of stations to which God calls us. This is always appropriate for the church to speak because it instructs God's people in how they are to live out their faith as His stewards under those who are created, redeemed, and sanctified by Him.





















BETWEEN WORSHIP SERVICES

PICK FROM A VARIETY OF HOMEMADE, HEARTWARMING **SOUPS TO TAKE HOME** FOR YOUR GAME-VIEWING DINNER! ONLY \$10.00/QUART







As you can see, January was a very busy month for me and my team! I made many regular visits each week along with special visits that popped up. I love helping my handlers and partners to share the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ. Enjoy the photos!

February is going to be an exciting month too! I heard I am going to a "prom!" Not sure what that is but I think I get to wear a fancy bandana! And you know what else is in February? MY BIRTHDAY!! Hmm... I wonder if I will get a birthday PAWTY??

Love, Abraham



**"Jonah"** (located in our school's basement hallway) is a signed, original, embossed color lithograph by the artist Amram Ebgi. **"Jonah"** was given in appreciation of the faculty and staff of Trinity Lutheran Church by the Krahn Family.

About the Artist Amram Ebgi (Israeli/American (1939 ~ )

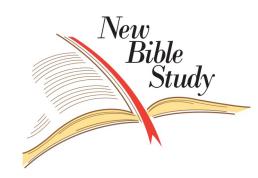
Ebgi is an international artist, craftsman and a master printer. He is considered a true technician who skillfully translates delightful concepts with ink onto paper. Ebgi's art is available in lithographs, etchings, watercolor, oil, giclee, copper and in many other media.

With more than 30 years in his studio devoting his life to art, Ebgi is truly an Ambassador of the Arts. His intricately detailed



masterpieces bursting with the rich colors of life were commissioned by UNICEF; permanently displayed in the museum collections of Yale, Princeton and UCLA; exhibited by museums, and collected by fans in countries worldwide.

by Ellen Kerwin

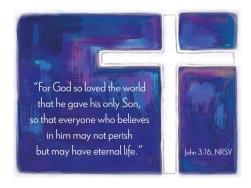


In today's increasingly skeptical and hostile world, how can we prepare our kids for the challenges and doubts they may face when it comes to their Christian faith? That's what we'll be discussing in the **Keeping Your Kids on God's Side Bible Study** group.

The group will start with the suggested conversations from the book *Talking with Your Kids about God*. The author identifies 30 specific conversations about God that parents must have with their children, organizing them under the categories of:

- the existence of God
- science and God
- the nature of God
- believing in God
- the difference God makes

The plan is for the group to meet on Thursdays at 7:00pm, starting March 5. It's perfect for parents of middle school, high school and college kids. Please contact Janice Gentles-Jones at <a href="mailto:janicegjones@outlook.com">janicegjones@outlook.com</a> if you're interested in joining or have any questions about this group.



#### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

February 26, 2020
with
Holy Communion
and
Imposition of Ashes





# UPDATE FOR FEBRUARY 2020 WITH COUNSELING SITES LOCATED IN: NASSAU SUFFOLK MANHATTAN QUEENS WESTCHESTER BROOKLYN

#### **HOW TO SURMOUNT NEGATIVE IMPRESSIONS**

Rev. Dr. Ronald W. Lehenbauer, LMFT, LCC Pastoral Counselor

Do you know anyone who has a negative impression of you? That's very unpleasant, isn't it? Who was it that said, "You can't please all the people all the time." But maybe you'd like to correct that negative impression if you can. It could be a co-worker or boss, or a family-member, or a friend-acquaintance, or even a spouse. They may not verbalize it, but somehow you sense it – by their body language or tone of voice or facial expression. How might you correct a negative impression they have of you?

First let's talk about how not to correct a negative impression: Get defensive and argue with them about it. You may feel attacked and want to attack back. That's not likely to work. In fact it may only solidify their negative impression of you. That's often how arguments get started and escalate.

Something important to know is that arguments – and negative impressions – are usually not about facts. You are likely to heighten the negative impression if you ... ARGUE about FACTS. If you're arguing with the other person about facts, what you're implying is ... "Due to these facts, you have no right to feel the way you do. There's something wrong with you." Your best chance for surmounting a negative impression is to DIFFERENTIATE with UNDERSTANDING and EMPATHY. Let me explain.

To change a negative impression, we must first understand that negative impressions are hardly ever created by facts. They often arise from a lack of understanding and empathy. That other person is going to have their own thoughts and feelings and point of view, and they are not necessarily going to be the same as mine, **and that's OK!** That's what we call differentiated thinking. So I need to listen closely to what they're saying and work at really understanding their point of view and their feelings.

And then, second, we respond to them compassionately with understanding and empathy. I'll improve their negative impression of me by making them feel heard and valued. If they are feeling some hurt, showing care for their painful emotions will almost always lighten those hurts.

Psychologist Steven Stosny talks about **The Marital Paradox**: If you contradict an accusation by a partner, you're proving it true. If you agree with it, you're proving it false.\* He goes on to explain: "Almost every criticism and complaint – even if it's mostly false – will have a kernel of truth about it. And if you pay attention to the truth of it, you have improvement. If you focus on the part you disagree with, it's just going to be a power struggle. You'll hardly ever convince the other person by introducing facts. Over time observing the marital paradox helps produce a closer relationship." *Dr. Lehenbauer derived most of the ideas in this article from Dr. Steven Stosny, "Negative Impressions In Love," You Tube, 10/9/2019.* 

The Rev. Dr. Ronald Lehenbauer, DMin, MDiv, LMFT completed certification in pastoral counseling at the Post-graduate Center for Mental Health in New York, NY and also is certified as an Imago Relationship Therapist. A member of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors and The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Dr. Lehenbauer is a NY state licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, providing counseling for adults and couples at LCC's Woodside and Mineola sites.

Call us at 1-800-317-1173 for more information or to set an appointment at any of our nine sites over the metropolitan New York area.



## Jr. Youth

6TH THYOUGH 8TH GYADE



### February & March 2020

### **Quick Calendar**

### Saturday February 8th Coney Island Aquarium 12–5pm \$25

February 28th FUEL YSR 7-10 \$2

March 13th Church Member Only FUEL YSR 7-9pm \$2

> March 27th All FUEL YSR 7-9pm \$2

April 3rd Church Member Only FUEL YSR 7-9pm \$2

### <u>Upcoming Events</u>

### BABY SHARK!

Join us as we head to Coney Island to Visit the Aquarium. The all new Shark Exhibit is getting chomping reviews, lets go check it out.

> Meet in the Youth Room 12:00pm - 5:00pm Cost is \$25 plus Food

## CHURCH Member FUEL

In an effort to foster fellowship between our Confirmation Students, Trinity will be having select Church Member Only FUEL events in March. These are open to all Trinity Members.

7-9pm Meet in the Youth Room Cost: \$2

### Trinity Lutheran Church's Lutheran Women's Missionary League



## Country Line Dancing

with Cathy Politis

Friday, February 7, 2020 at 6:00 PM in the MPR

No partner necessary, No dance experience required! Please wear closed-toe, non-slip comfortable shoes!

\$12.00 per person

All proceeds will go to support LWML Missions



Registration begins January 26, 2020

Please call Heien Peter at 516-938-6914 to register

Checks made payable to Trinity Lutheran LWML can be mailed to: 33 Winding Road
Hicksville, NY 11801