

April 2014

Dear Friends of Trinity,

Easter forever! Yesterday, today, and tomorrow... and always! Raised with our Lord Jesus in Holy Baptism we are Easter forever people!

Easter is for everyone and is intended by God to be a blessing to all people of every race, tribe, and nation. It's not a keepsake to be hidden away and not shared. It's a new reality for everyone. Does everyone know this?

Well, not yet. The Christian hope and confidence is that someday everyone will know it, to the praise and honor of our Heavenly Father.

The Day of Easter is but one day; the Reality of Easter is every day!

Everyone, every generation, every day. The breadth and depth of this blessing is unlimited. People need to know this.

People need to know that ordinary people like me and you are blessed in order to be blessings to others, and that ultimately everyone will be a blessing to everyone else.

We, ordinary people, conduct ourselves as if the Great Day has already arrived. We bring the future into the present because we belong to Christ Jesus, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. We are Easter people!

Have a very Happy and Blessed Easter!
Pastor Hoag

APRIL 2014 NEWSLETTER



Our midweek Lenten Focus Services began on Wednesday, March 12th, with a video series, with teacher and historian, Ray Vander Laan, as he guides us through the land of the Bible. Filmed on location in Egypt, this series transforms our understanding of God and challenge us to be true followers of Jesus. The last two sessions will be as follows:

Week Four (April 2) – Watch With Me: Israel Leaves Egypt (The Red Sea)

Week Five (April 9) – The Lord Reigns: “The Red Sea (The Red Sea)”



Soup and sandwich suppers will be held at 6:30 p.m., just prior to each of these remaining Lenten services. The two remaining organizations responsible for preparing and serving the meal are the Youth & Confirmation Students on April 2nd and the Church Council on April 9th. Please join us.

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday – April 17 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday – April 18 7:30 p.m.

Easter (Saturday) 5:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday 7:00 and 10:30 a.m.

(with a full hot breakfast following the 7:00 a.m. service)



Easter Altar Flowers. The chancel will once again be decorating the chancel area with a variety of Easter flowers. If you wish to order a plant please contact Christine Stark at 815.478.4069 or call the church office at 815.485.6973. Cost of each plant is as follows: Lily = \$11.00; Hyacinth - \$9.25; Tulip - \$9.25; Azalea - \$12.50. Order forms will be in the bulletins and also on the hallway table. You may pick up your plant following the 10:30 a.m. Easter Sunday service. **Orders and payment are due by Sunday, April 13, 2014!**



SEDER MEAL On Holy Thursday, April 17th, at 5:30 p.m. Social Ministry will sponsor the Last Supper, commonly known as the Seder Meal, consisting of foods and drink likened to what was consumed in Christ's time. *A complete chicken dinner, consisting of meat, potatoes, vegetable, desserts and drinks will immediately follow the token foods served at the Seder Meal. We are grateful that almost enough persons have registered to attend the Seder Meal and free chicken dinner; however, each family must place a \$5.00 check in the designated envelope before April 7th to guarantee their attendance at the meal. Pastor Hoag will return all checks to those attending. Also, please sign to indicate whether you will be donating drinks or dessert.*



New Lenox Community Cross Walk, Friday, April 18th beginning at 10:00 a.m. at St. Judes Church in New Lenox, ending up at Trinity at approximately 11:30 a.m.



EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST

Trinity's well-attended tradition of enjoying a full ham and egg breakfast following the 7:00 a.m. service will continue under the first-time direction of Jeff McDonald and Andy Verchimak, with Social Ministry and other members' support. *Please register on the hall table, indicating the number coming and what breakfast "goodie" you wish to donate. All goodies should be delivered Saturday, April 19th from 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. or before the early church service on Easter.* Also, check the table by the gym for some volunteer opportunities to help out this year!

CHOIR Our adult choir usually meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and new voices are always welcome. **During Lent the choir is meeting on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.**, prior to the soup and sandwich supper which begins at 6:30 p.m. For more information please contact the choir director, Julie Verchimak at 815.723.1429.

SOCIAL MINISTRY. All ladies of Trinity are invited to join this committee. The next meeting will be **Monday, April 14th at 7:00 p.m. at Jan Toepke's home.** If you have any questions or would like more information, please call Midge Meents at 815.485.6527, or call the church office at 815.485.6973.

Virgil Switzer's April greeting card – and hopefully the last one to be sent if he is released in Mid-May, is on the seating area table.



St. Matthew's Inner-City Soup Kitchen

Our congregation will focus on better aiding the Mission work of feeding the hungry and homeless at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in the Pilsen neighborhood. We will concentrate on especially collecting the items noted in the bulletins and hand outs. Thanks to Jan Toepke for setting up the St. Matthew's display in the hall, as a reminder that this will be our major charity focus for the coming months. **We are asking that members donate food and paper supplies for their twice weekly meals, to be placed in designated containers and on the card table in the hallway along with a list of supplies.** Suggested supplies are coffee, canned vegetables, rice, soups, cereal, crackers, noodles, beans, canned fruit, powdered milk, toilet paper, paper plates and cups. **Monetary donations, addressed to Trinity with a notation for St. Matthew's, may be placed in the offering basket or left in Midge Meent's office mailbox.**

We'll continue to collect usable rummage goods, which will be delivered on a regular basis. These items are sold at a monthly sale or donated to needy families. *Thank for your support of this most needy Mission.*

Dan Bay has kindly offered to produce a video to better inform our congregation members of St. Matthew's work, needs and plights, so new members, especially, might better understand our dedication to this most-deserving mission. The \$330.00 profit from the Butter Braid sale will be sent to St. Matthew's.

TRINITY'S 8th ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT!!



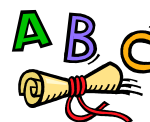
Please join in the fun and bring your kids, grandkids and relatives, along with a camera, baskets and smiles to Trinity's 8th Annual Easter Egg Hunt! **Fifth Graders and younger, please join us again on Saturday, April 19, 2014 starting at 10:00 a.m.** for a lot of fun in a short period of time! Lineup will start at 9:50 a.m. outside the Gym. The Easter Bunny will once again make an appearance for the little ones in the gym!

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

As part of a Service Project for Confirmation Class, we are asking all confirmands to please bring in at least one bag of individually wrapped candy, toys, wrist bands, or other small items that fit inside an egg. PLEASE, NO CANDY CONTAINING NUTS DUE TO ALLERGIES!!! The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 19 at 10:00 a.m.

Do you need Service Hours? Helpers are needed to hide the Eggs downstairs. Meet me, Doris Bay around 9:30 a.m. on April 19 in the Gym and I'll show you where to go. PLEASE SEE THE SIGN UP SHEET ON THE DESK OUTSIDE THE GYM! THANKS!

Trinity Congregation: If anyone would like to donate a bag of wrapped candy or other small Easter related items that fit inside an egg for the Easter Egg Hunt, God Bless You! Items can be left in the office in the marked box by Wednesday, April 17, 2014. If you would like to donate a bottle of juice, water, etc. or some kind of treat for after the Egg Hunt, your kindness is much appreciated. Those items can be placed in the gym on the counter or table by Friday, April 18th. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



Trinity Pre-School – Registration for Fall Pre-School is now open. Please tell your friends and neighbors. There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$66.00 per student. School year beginning September 2014 the tuition per month will be \$100 for two day students and \$125 for three day students. Children must be 3 by September 1, 2014. For further information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815.485.6973.

Pre-School Board Meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2014 at 9:15 a.m. (immediately following early service).



CHOIR: During Lent, the Choir will be meeting on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m., just prior to the soup/sandwich suppers at 6:30 p.m. *The choir will be singing on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. No rehearsal on April 23rd.*

The April Sign-Up sheets for Readers, Greeters and MorningStar Mission are on the hallway table!

SOCIAL MINISTRY

All ladies of Trinity are invited to join our committee. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Midge Meents at 815.485.6527 or call the church office at 815.485.6973. **Our next meeting will be April 14th at 7:00 p.m.** at Jan Toepke's home.

St. Matthew's Outreach:

We will once again be collecting food goods for St. Matthew's every fourth Sunday throughout the year.

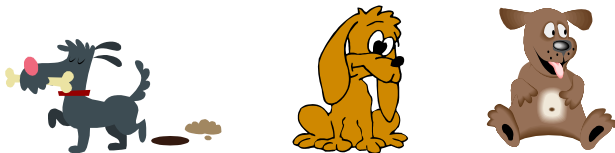
Virgil Switzer. Please sign the monthly greeting card on the hall table. Hopefully this will be the last one to send if he is released in mid-May.



MorningStar Mission: The next serving dates are April 7th and 21st. If you are interested in helping, the sign up sheet is on the hallway table.



Chancel Guild: The next meeting will be **Monday, April 7th at 6:30 p.m.** All ladies of Trinity are invited to visit. Hostesses are Rita Larson and Denise Buchanan.



Women's League The next meeting will be **Tuesday, April 29th at 12:30 p.m.** The program will be: Therapy dogs from Silver Cross Hospital. Hostesses are Ginny DeCarlo and May Schrank.



75 Years and Going Strong!

Guess who is turning 75 next year? If you guessed our church, you guessed right! If you are interested in serving on the 75-year anniversary committee, please contact Jeff McDonald at 815-462-2454 or by e-mail at jjmcd97@hotmail.com. We will be having some planning meetings as soon as a committee is formed. Please consider helping us to make our 75th a memorable anniversary!



Vacation Bible School - Set sail for our "Gangway to Galilee" VBS on June 23-27.
Registration for church members and preschool families will begin April 15; we'll open it up to the community in May. **Cost is \$5 per child. Ages 3-11. Volunteers needed!**
Please see Michelle Hoag to volunteer.

VBS craft volunteers - Anyone "crafty" is invited to come Friday, April 4, 7 p.m. to help us begin to prepare crafts for VBS. Bring your religious and boat/water themed craft ideas that night!

We are still in need of large appliance boxes for VBS! These boxes can be broken for easier transporting. Please place them in the room next door to the downstairs bathrooms.

Youth

High School Youth are invited to Collision: Encounters with the Savior, the 2nd annual Northern Illinois Youth Gathering in Roselle on Friday and Saturday, April 25-26th. **Cost is \$40.00.** Keynote speakers Pastor Bill Yonker and Jeffrey Meinz and will include a service project, worship service, interest sessions, and dance. This promises to be an exciting event! **Talk to Pastor or Michelle Hoag to register.**

Junior High Youth are invited to a spring break evening of open gym and Romans and Christians, Thursday, April 24, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Sign up on the youth bulletin board.

All youth - Don't forget that we serve the Lenten soup supper on April 2. If you haven't already signed up to bring something, contact Michelle Hoag.



ALTAR FLOWERS: Flowers are placed on our altar every Sunday to enhance and beautify our altar area in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birthday, wedding anniversary or in celebration of God's blessings. The flower order forms are attached to the cabinet in the hallway outside the church office. If you would like to give altar flowers, complete the form and place it in the Chancel Guild mailbox in the church office. If you have any questions, please call Christine Stark at 815.478.4069 or email her at candb.stark@gmail.com. The cost of the flowers is \$8.50 per vase or \$17.00 for both vases. The flowers may be picked up after the Sunday service.



Time and Talents Survey Churches function through the efforts of the congregation. There are many ways members can contribute to the functioning of the church. We know not everyone wants to be on a committee, but sometimes there are certain projects where you may be able to help for one or two items. Please pick up and complete this survey form and place it on the counter in the church office. This is a yellow form and is located on the table outside the church office, by the flower chart.

Property News:

You will soon notice new light fixtures throughout the building that our hard-working property team is in the process of installing. So nice are these new fixtures, in fact, that we can now SEE some other things in need of repair (namely, the Church Library could use a fresh coat of paint!). We put out the call and got some immediate response from volunteers, so we will have a freshly painted library before long thanks to members donating their time and talents.

We are still working on figuring out the best place to put an elevator / lift to aid members who might benefit from assistance in getting into the building. There will be more to come on this, but suffice to say there are innumerable rules and regulations that could impact this decision.

There are, in fact, two pretty major items before Trinity this year that we prayerfully ask you to consider supporting. We have been very blessed as a congregation from a financial perspective, and paying off the mortgage early this year was a great example of that. We are hoping to tackle two new projects without going into debt, and we ask that you consider helping to support one or both of these projects. The first is the elevator / lift that we are considering. While we are still exploring our options here, we are likely to encounter costs for this that exceed the very generous donation that was made last year to Trinity. If you are inclined and able to help fund this project, please use a designated offering envelope with "Lift" in the subject line of your check.

The second fairly major expense we are likely to encounter sooner than later is the need to replace our organ. Our congregation bought the current organ in 1972 for about \$15,000 and it has served us remarkably well. The useful life of an organ is 30 or more years, and we're on 42 and counting! But we are probably on borrowed time at this point, so we are asking members to consider helping us build an organ replacement fund with hopes that by the time we need to replace the organ, we will have enough to buy one without a loan. A new organ is likely to cost in the \$35,000 - \$40,000 range. If you are interested in helping Trinity with this, please use a designated offering envelope with "Organ" in the subject line of your check.

Last, if you listen closely you'll hear the carillon working again. This was fixed by Dan Bay using materials he already had and is a welcome (re)addition to the sounds of Trinity. Thanks, Dan!

LOST AND FOUND! We keep accumulating various items, please check the coat rack outside the gym. If any of these items belong to you, please take them home with you.



Idea/Suggestion Box

If you have an idea or suggestion to help the church function better, you need to let us know. Please complete the blue form beside the Idea/Suggestion Box on the table outside the church office. Your ideas or suggestions are important and will be reviewed and followed up by the Church Council.

SHAREFEST NEW LENOX ShareFest is an annual event in New Lenox involving over 103 organizations through “Thirty Days of Service” from September 1st through 30th. During this time, they unite as Proud Americans to meet the needs in the community. . **Their next meeting is Tuesday, April 29th at 12:00 noon and will be held at the Standard Bank Meeting Room, 456 Nelson Road, New Lenox.** This is open to the community. If you are interested or want more details, please call 815.717.2614 or visit www.sharefestnewlenox.com.

Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend in Schaumburg. God’s Desire for Married Couples is Joy and Happiness. **April 25-27, 2014. Pre-registration is required by April 4th.** For more information please contact Pastor John L Heins, Cross and Crown Lutheran Church. 815.623.6853 or via jcheins@aol.com.

Church office hours: Monday, 9-3, Tuesday and Thursday, 1-4 and Friday 9-12.



A unique form of stewardship. Three boys on the playground were bragging about their dads. One said, “My dad scribbles a few words, calls it a song and they pay him \$50.” “Oh yeah?” said another, “My dad scribbles a few words, calls it a poem and they pay him \$100.” “That’s nothing,” said the third boy. “My dad scribbles a few words, calls it a sermon, and it takes six people to collect all the money in the room!”



Are you on Facebook? We are! “Like” Trinity Lutheran church – New Lenox, IL and receive up to date information on current and upcoming church events.”

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



Samantha Paulson	1
Michael Wajchert, Jr.	1
Linda Bleck	2
Nina Dyer	2
Halie Forsythe	2
Lia Krohe	2
Scott Marz	3
Faith Mierop	4
Cheryl Mork	4
Tracy Bailey	5
Zachary Prejna	5
Carol Berkey	6
Sean Leahy	6
Jessica Leja	6
Robert Puttkammer	6
Robert Whitehead	6
Madeline Anderson	8
Scott Baggs	8
Robert Beaudry	8
Ben Kaun	8
Weiland Torkelson	8
Philip Schafer	10
Randy Varju	10
Jim Welsh	11
Pat Czerwinski	12
Tim Gappa	13
Troy Kessel	13
April Tatro	13
Daniel Edens	14
Mark Nagel	14
Barbara Backhus	15
Amy Tatro	15
Cristian Stuart	15
Ryan McDonald	17
Paul Moeller	17

Noel Salazar	17
Troy Schultz	17
Scott Elmlund	18
April Norton	19
Kylie Trautvetter	19
John Buell	20
Daniel Leja	20
Gary Zielinski	20
Jackson Remm	21
Jacob Kocenko	22
Nicholas Sheffer	22
Tyler Baggs	24
Bill Dudeck	24
Karen Wendling	24
Quinton Baxa	25
Mackenzie Schultz	25
Morgan Taylor	26
Susan Willenborg	26
Kyle Lerner	28
Connor Richards	28
Harold Schrank	28
Doris Bay	29
Marlen Bollman	29
Ryan Devine	29
Charles Fleege	30
Ava Krol-Mudore	30
Mike Lyman	30
Matt Varju	30



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Mark and Kelli Simon	15
Brian and Lynn Pigney	24
Raymond and Deborah Koehler	25
Allan and Donna Brunmeier	30