

April 2024

Dear Friends,

I write this in gratitude to all of you for the surprise celebration of my 25 years as your pastor. Thank you so much for the cards, gifts, blessings, and well wishes. I am truly a blessed man! Your support and care over the years have been tremendous and I am thankful to our Lord for each one of you.

A lot happens in 25 years. I am amazed that the Lord makes messengers of His grace out of unworthy sinners such as myself. His forgiveness and mercy given in Jesus' death and resurrection has carried me (and you) through this life, giving strength, courage, and hope.

I'm looking forward to serving you further with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I have no idea how much longer the Lord will keep me in the Holy Ministry. But I am confident that His Word will continue to be given and will accomplish the purposes for which He has sent it. God abundantly grant you His grace and favor, and may the glory of the face of Jesus Christ continue to shine brightly at Trinity and upon you!

Pastor Hoag

**THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH FOR HELPING CLEAN OUR CHURCH THIS!
IT LOOKS PHENOMENAL!!!
EACH OF YOU ARE APPRECIATED.
AGAIN – THANK YOU!!!**

*****Pastor Hoag and members of the Church Council want to remind you that they will never use online methods to solicit money or gift cards out of the blue. If you ever receive a text, email, or social media message asking you to purchase gift cards or to send money, ignore and delete the message and contact Pastor Hoag*****

Gentle Reminder for Everyone: donations to the church can be made to the church directly, or online at -

-Our Website: www.trinitynewlenox.org

-Our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/TrinityNewLenox/>

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

President's Message:

I would like to extend a thank you to all those ambitious individuals who were able to come out and help with the March 9, 2024, Spring Cleaning Day. We were fortunate to have had a great turn out resulting in a very productive day. Thank you, Rex Toepke and Steve Tomany, for organizing and delegating. Thank you, Jennifer, for all the advertising. Thank you also to the Chancel Guild for the cleaning they did the week before. Not only did our workers accomplish a lot, the camaraderie between everyone was fun and fulfilling.

Highlights discussed during the March Church Council meeting are as follows:

- Pastor reported Confirmation of new members who participated in the Adult Instruction Classes will take place during the 10:30 service on Easter Sunday.
- Property reported receiving some shelves for organizing storage areas. More are needed.
- Outreach reported plans are in process for "New Member Sunday" scheduled April 7, 2024. "Back Home with Jesus Sunday" is tentatively scheduled for October 20, 2024.
- Youth is considering scheduling a basketball night for Junior High level and beyond.
- Parish Education continues to make plans for the Sunday School picnic in May to include the congregation.
- Parish Education reported the preschool board is actively searching for candidates for Director and Teacher. Three resumes have been received.
- Social Ministry discussed the preparation for the Easter Breakfast. Sign-up sheets for volunteers to help are located across the Church Secretary's office.
- A discussion was held about allowing non-members to use envelopes for giving. Past policy has been to not issue envelopes to non-members. More discussion to follow.
- A review of the Sunday School and Church Service schedules for next year has been initiated and will continue to be discussed in future meetings.
- The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 14, 2023, at 7PM.

Gary

Hearing Devices will be available beginning Sunday 03/31/24 for anyone who is hearing impaired. Please ask an Usher for help.



Bible Study:

-Wednesday 8:30am

-Thursday 7:00pm



Contribution statements for income tax purposes are available for members using the offering envelopes. If you have not received a statement in previous years and would like to request one, please contact the church secretary or Tammy Doerrer @ tammydoerrer@gmail.com . If you received a statement in the past, you are on the list to automatically receive one each year.

EACH ONE REACH ONE: We have several shut-ins, or members in need of support or encouragement, here at Trinity. If you are interested in doing your heart and their heart some good by reaching out to them just to say "Hello", please talk with or email Jennifer (the Church Secretary tlcsecretary508@gmail.com) for a list of names.

TRINITY FREE LIBRARY: Need a Book. Take a Book. Bring One Here for Others to Share. We have several locations within the Church that have books that can be borrowed. We have the library box right outside our parking lot doors - these books are for children and adults. We also have a library in the corner downstairs for children. ENJOY!

TWO Large Print Hymnals are Now Available! These can be found on the table in the Narthex near the bulletins and must always be returned after the service.

Thank You Jan Falk for Gifting the Church a Second Large Print Hymnal

OUR PROPERTY TEAM IS IN NEED OF: INDUSTRIAL TYPE SHELVES. If you have any that can be donated, please contact: Steve Tomany - Director of Property / sltomany@gmail.com (815)-485-3163

*****NEW MEMBER SUNDAY***: SUNDAY APRIL 7TH - Between Church Services**

TLC Youth Group:

An Instagram page has been created where you can find information and invites for fun activities.

Please follow: [tlcyg_ni](#)



BUY RAISERIGHT GIFT CARDS – Do you go to Starbucks, shop at Target or Jewel, etc.? Then, why not purchase a gift card for yourself ahead of time or as a gift! A portion of the proceeds go to our high school youth. It costs you only the face value of the gift card. It's a win, win! There are forms with the full list of participating stores outside of the Pastors office, or you can learn more at www.raiseright.com. Any questions contact Angie at minett411@yahoo.com or 815-228-4902. Thank you so much to all our current and newbie participants, we greatly appreciate your support!

The Next Raiseright Order Deadline is April 7th.

The cards will be ready for pick-up the following week.

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting our efforts! Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



Did You Know Pastor Hoag is a Rock Star!!!

the Band Also Includes Our Very Own (former) Property Manager: Dan Bay!

Come See the Band "Side Effects!" on the Following Dates and Locations:

-May 11 -- Quarry Ballroom, Thornton IL, 7-10pm

-May 21 -- New Lenox Commons, 5-8pm

all new dates will be posted in the weekly bulletin.

Member News!!!



2023 Baptisms:

- Beckett Jeffrey White 05/18/23
- Mattie Nicole Casagrande 07/30/23
- Archie Michael Studer 10/08/23
- Ada Jane O'Sullivan 10/29/23
- Elize Marie Blecke 12/09/23
- Madison Alexandria Longmire 12/10/23

2024 Baptisms:

- Mason Wyatt Pezan 01/20/24
- Benedict Wojnarowski Bendoraitis 03/17/24**
- Noah John Dobbs 03/23/24**
- Patrick Henry Hollis III 03/31/24**



2023 Weddings:

- Sean David Russell and Paige Amber Batinich 11/03/23
- James De Young and Alena Batinich 12/21/23

2024 Weddings:

- Devin O'Neill and Nichols Bechtold 02/03/2024



Trinity Preschool News:

REGISTRATION FOR 2024-2025 IS OPEN

Please Tell Your Friends and Neighbors

There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$70.00 per student. The school year begins September 2024. The tuition per month will be:

-2 Day, 3-Year-Old, Tuesday & Thursday: \$125.00

-3 Day, 4-Year-Old, Monday, Wednesday & Friday: \$160.00

Children must be 3 or 4 by September 1, 2024.

For additional information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815.485.6973.

Next Preschool Board Meetings:

-May 2024 T.B.D.



Sunday School News:

**We have so many exciting things ahead, and we encourage you to join us!
Bring a friend or family member, too!
This year our focus will be to “Be the Light” as we share the Truth of God to our family,
friends, and community!”**

Children’s Sermon: Every Third Sunday of the Month

The Sunday School will be collecting non-perishable food, and monies, to donate to our New Lenox Food Pantry indefinitely. This is to help those around us during these challenging times. Please bring canned goods and dry boxed items. To see items most needed by New Lenox Township Food Pantry, please visit their website (www.newlenox.org), or Facebook. A donation box is located downstairs by the Sunday School rooms, and upstairs by the library. They have also mentioned to us that they can do the most to help with financial donations – you can donate directly on their website or add an envelope with a note in our offering basket. Thank You!!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENT CALANDER

April

- **Saturday, April 20th 10am-12pm - Pets in the Park**
Family Fun Event - Pet Blessings and Fun! Bring your pets and join the Sunday School staff and students for some fun in the park! We will have pet blessings on the playground, snacks, and fellowship.
- **Sunday, April 21st 10am-11:30am – Comfort Dogs**
Welcome the Comfort Dogs in the Gym

May

- **Sunday, May 5th, 9:00 am - Mothers’ Day Tea & Donuts for Dads**
(Note: Date Change)
- **Sunday, May 19th, 11:30 am – Last Day of Sunday School & CHURCH PICNIC**
Please watch for details about our all-church picnic along with some special events for that day.

2024 Vacation Bible School (V.B.S.) Dates: June 10 - 14



Chancel Guild News!

Chancel Guild would like to thank the following people for purchasing Lilies to use to decorate the Chancel Area for the Easter services. Lilies ordered may be picked up following the 10:30 a.m. service on Easter Sunday or during the week after Easter Sunday. The Lilies will be stored in the gym. Call the church ahead of time to find out when our secretary will be in so she can open the door for you (815) 485-6973, or call Kay (815) 485-9017 to come open the door. Lilies not picked up by Monday, April 8, will be disposed. (Note the date - April 8 not May 8 as stated on the order forms).

Thank You! - Debbie & Biff Aiken; Allene Bachmann; The Benedict Family; Denise Buchanan; Glenda & Dominic Cotrano; Janet DeForest; Lois Dobbs; Sheri Eichwedel; Pat Fuerst & Family; Wendy & Tom Kaun; Christina, Gunnar, & Kevin Kipper; Dana Knodel; Cheryl & Les Koenig; Jason, Jakob, & Jennifer Kojro-Badziak; Robin & Paul Krol; Sharon & Jeff Lorenz; Sharon & Phil MacFarlane; Jennifer Mudrock; Judy Niemann-VanderVeen; Emily & Michael Perkins; Kay & Gary Purnell; Dawn Roiland; Jan & Doug Schlak; The Tinker Family; Jan & Rex Toepke; Mr. & Mrs. M. Voight; Susan & Daniel Willenborg

Attention Ladies of Trinity - Our meetings are at 9 a.m. the first Saturday of January, March, April, May, September, October, November, and December. Ladies of TLC please consider joining our awesome Chancel Guild. For more information, please contact Jennifer Mudrock, Wendy Kaun, Denise Buchanan, or Kay Purnell.

Chancel Schedule for April:

April 6-7: Kay Purnell and Debbie Crawford
April 13-14: Debbie Crawford and Jan Schlak
April 20-21: Jan Schlak and Sharon MacFarlane
April 27-28: Sharon MacFarlane and Allene Bachmann

Altar Flowers - Fresh flowers are placed on the altar to remind us of the "Garden of Eden" and "Jesus' Garden Tomb." They are part of the beauty of the Creation. Chancel Guild very much appreciates the congregation's support and help in keeping fresh flowers on the altar. **The posted 2024 Altar Flower Sponsor Calendar is almost completely filled.** We have lined up sponsors all the way through December. Such good news! Chancel Guild extends its gratitude to all its weekend sponsors. If you have any questions, email Kay Purnell at purnellk51@hotmail.com or call her at (815) 485-9017.

April Altar Flower Sponsors:

- April 7 The Fandl Family
 In Memory of Katherina's husband, Adolf Fandl, and
 Katherina's sister, Frieda Schuch
- April 14 Jennifer Kojro-Badziak
 In Honor of Jakob's Birthday
- April 21 The Michael Perkin's Family
 In Thanksgiving for Family and Friends at Trinity
- April 28 Allene & Kim Bachmann
 In Memory of Allene's Daughter, Sheri Sievert

Social Ministry Announcements:

Coffee Hours: Coffee Hours are hosted every Sunday after the 9:00 service. Additional Coffee Hour Hosts are always needed. If you would like to help, please contact Jennifer in the Office at tlcsecretary508@gmail.com or Jan Toepke at toepkej@gmail.com.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Lenten Suppers. The food was delicious and appreciated by all who attended.

ALSO thank you to Deb Aiken for organizing the Easter breakfast and to everyone who volunteered their time to help with the preparations, cooking, serving, and baking.

Coffee Hour Schedule:

- April 7 Christina Kipper and Liz Benedict
 14 Sandy Peters
 21 Kay Purnell
 28 Rita Larson and Denise Buchanan May 5 Rita and Denise
 12 Sandy
 19 Kay
 26 Sandy
- June 2 Sharon MacFarlane
 9 Christina and Liz
 16 Kay
 23 Rita and Denise
 30 Sandy

Next Social Ministry Meeting: will be **Friday, April 5 @ 9:00am at the Church.** This committee sponsors service projects for our congregation and the community. It also directs social programs and events of the congregation. We have a small, dedicated group but would welcome new members to be able to expand our programs. Please consider joining us!

Next Food and Fellowship: will be **Tuesday, April 9.** All adults are welcome to attend! Please join us for lunch and an afternoon activity.

IMPORTANT KITCHEN INFORMATION: To alleviate the accumulation of food and drinks in the kitchen refrigerator/freezer, instructions will be posted. Following an event, if there is leftover food and there is not an event where it could be used in the immediate future, please take it with you. If you would like it used at a future event, please contact the people hosting so they are aware it is there. Labels will be available to date and identify who items belong to. Thank you for your help in this matter!

USHER SCHEDULE 2024

1st Sunday

9:AM	Tom Kaun	815 485 9604	kauntd@gmail.com
	Biff Aiken	815 954 0682	biffdebaiken@gmail.com
*10:30AM	Brett Carr	815 370 6651	brettdcarr@gmail.com
	Paul Krol	815 575 1315	p.krol@sbcglobal.net

2nd Sunday

*9:AM	Edward A. Tatro**	815 485 5760	etatro4@aol.com
	Tim King	815 463 0415	tim.king1@comcast.net
10:30AM	Tom Buell	815 485 3769	tombuell@sbcglobal.net
	Bob Blecke	815 353 7561	robert.blecke@yahoo.com

3rd Sunday

9:AM	Mike Gardner	815 485 9623	mgardner1453@gmail.com
	Gary Purnell	815 485 9017	gpurnell3@hotmail.com
*10:30AM	Cameron Hoag	779 279 4223	cam.hoag21@gmail.com
	Dana Knodel	708 822 2902	knodel.dana@yahoo.com

4th Sunday

*9:AM	Steve Tomany	815 485 3163	sltomany@gmail.com
	Randy Varju	815 485 7204	randy.varju@aah.org Cell 815-685-136
10:30AM	Phil McFarlane	815 806 1219	philmacp40@comcast.net
	John Buell	815 756 0194	jbuell7528@gmail.com.

5th Sunday

9:AM	Rex Toepke	815 485 2638	rtoepke@usa.net
	Jeff Lorenz	815 463 0833	jlorenz2367@gmail.com
10:30AM	Paul Krol	815 575 1315	p.krol@sbcglobal.net
	Diane Sewing**	815 592 3911	dianesewing@hotmail.com

Alternates:

Zack Horn 630 664 9224, Dan Wheeler 708 932 1054, Virgil Seitzer 331 588 4264,
Craig Black 8152780330 cbnb33@sbcglobal.net, Scott Benedict 815 953 8105
maxem02@yahoo.com

*Communion.

Members who have an interest in serving the Lord and our congregation as an usher, helping to assist with the sanctity of our services, should contact Ed Tatro or Diane Sewing. {noted above**}

SUGGESTION BOX RESPONSE(S):

SUGGESTION: "...consider adding a time for two minutes of silent prayer into the church service..."

ANSWER: *this is in the process of being reviewed*

SUGGESTION: "May I Suggest Doing Devine Service 2 or 3 In Place of Matins Occasionally"

ANSWER: *IMPLEMENTED IN 2023*

SUGGESTION: "Maybe Buy One or Two Large Print Hymnals for People with Bad Eyesite. The Large Printouts Are Only the Hymns"

ANSWER: *IMPLEMENTED IN 2024 – TWO Large Print Hymnals are Now Available! These can be found on the table in the Narthex near the bulletins and must always be returned after the service.*

Thank You Jan Falk for Gifting the Church a Second Large Print Hymnal

SUGGESTION: "Next Year (2024) for Reformation Sunday Suggest We Wear RED to Church That Day" (Thursday October 31st, 2024)

ANSWER: *YES, we will add a note to the Bulletin Insert*

SUGGESTION: "Next Advent (2024) Write in the Bulletin Something About Each Candle as We Light It"

(Sun, Dec 1, 2024 – Tue, Dec 24, 2024)

ANSWER: *YES, we will add a note to the Bulletin Insert*

SUGGESTION: "Turn Church Lights Up During the Service and Lower Them During the Sermon. It Is Hard to Read the Hymns with the Lights Low for Us with Bad Eyesight"

ANSWER: *NO, Unfortunately, we just have very poor lighting in the church. The lights are up as far as they can go throughout the service."*

SUGGESTION: "Use Battery Candles for Candlelight Service Instead of Real Candles – the Candles Sunday School Uses for Their Program"

ANSWER: *NO, not feasible currently.*

SUGGESTION: "I think it would be good to title the sermons. It would be a refresher after we leave church."

ANSWER: *IMPLEMENTED IN 2024*

Church Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00am to 2:00pm