

December 2022

Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of 2022 and the start of 2023 we pause and reflect on this past year, filled with pain and sorrow but also joy and exuberance. We have dealt with the perpetual changes and challenges that life brings to us. In fact, we can get so caught up in them that life seems to be merely a rollercoaster of fortunate and unfortunate events. But life is more than that.

Life has a trajectory. It's going somewhere and has an ultimate goal: serve God and serve your neighbor. So says Jesus.

Serve God and serve your neighbor is exactly what Jesus did! He came, not to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.

The birth of Jesus marked the end of God making temporary appearances in various forms. God now assumes and clothes Himself with human flesh, goes through human gestation and birth, and lives a fully human life from birth, through maturity and manhood, to death on the cross, and final victory over death by resurrection. And He was given the name Jesus, which means "Savior".

*God hides Himself in human flesh so that human beings could be hidden in God through Jesus Christ! It means that God is always with us and we are always with God.*

This is the joy and the wonder of Christmas. I pray that our Lord increase your joy and wonder during Christmas Time and always.

Pastor Hoag

## DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

### **An update from Church Council President, Gary Purnell:**

President's Message:

The Church Council Election results are in. Please join me in welcoming Jennifer Kojro-Badziak as our new Council Secretary. We have two open positions yet to fill, Property Director and Social Ministry. Otherwise all other positions are as they were last year. The new Council will begin in January.

On Sunday, November 20, Pastor Derek Mathers from the English District visited us to discuss the results of our reVitalize survey. He emphasized he was here to help us understand how the survey is used to provide feedback on how we view ourselves as a congregation based on 10 factors of vitality. The Council will use this information in deciding what factors we will focus on initially for improvement. The event was well attended. I extend my thanks to all who came.

December is a very busy month for our Church Family. The Cookie Walk will be held on December 3rd, followed by the Church Christmas party on December 4th just to name a few of the activities. I appreciate the amount of work and effort that goes into planning these activities and sincerely hope you will consider participating when you can.

Other highlights discussed during the November Church Council meeting were as follows:

- Dan Bay discussed a list of potential projects for consideration for next year. More research is needed for setting priorities and budgeting for expenses.
- Outreach reported the service project to reach out to our college students and service members was completed.
- The Sunday School children's sermon will be moved to the 9AM service on the 3rd Sunday of the month starting in January.
- A new sign emphasizing our preschool will be researched.
- Social Ministry will recommend how the proceeds for the Cookie Walk will be used. Suggestions for resuming the pot luck luncheon at the annual meeting were made.
- Tim King presented a draft budget for 2023 for discussion at next month's meeting.
- The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Dec 11, 2022, at 7PM.

Have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

Gary

## **Member News!!!**



### **2022 Baptisms:**

- Gabriel Wojnarowski Bendoraitis 01/09/22
- Matthew Robert Longmire 02/20/22
- Russell Roy Goebig 04/03/22
- Mary Elizabeth Niemann 05/07/22
- Kanerick Matthew Dobrez 07/02/22
- Alita Sue Hicks 07/03/22
- Landon Paul Ondera 07/10/22
- Everly Jo Youngberg Sunday 08/14/22
- Alessi Anastasios Zarvos Sunday 08/21/22
- Persephone Mae Sheffer Sunday 08/21/22
- Roan Roy Seville's Sunday 11/26/22**



### **2022 Weddings:**

- Camden R. Meade & Francesca T. Prospero 06/11/22

**The Giving Tree** which benefits “Morning Star Mission” is in the hallway. Donations may be placed in envelopes and deposited in the box next to the tree.

**Morning Star Mission \*Stars of Hope\*:** Stars of Hope is a yearly event sponsored by Morningstar Mission to give kids and families within our community an opportunity to receive Christmas Gifts during the holiday season. The Stars Will be in the Narthex. Please Take a Star, or Multiple Stars, and Support a Child. The suggested gift amount is a minimum of \$50, per Star. The gifts should be wrapped, and then placed in a Christmas Gift Bag, provided by us. You will then place your Star on the outside of the gift bag. Please NO Garbage Bags. The gifts will be picked up by Jennifer Depolo the evening of 12/06, or the morning of 12/07. THANK YOU!!! **UPDATE: All of the Stars (Kids) Have Been Spoken For!!! WOW!!!**

Even if there are no remaining Stars, there are other ways to donate to MorningStar Mission. Please Visit ... <https://starsofhopeusa.org/donate/>

**A limited number of Trinity's 75th Historic Christmas Ornaments are avail for a \$15 donation**, in the copy room or the hall social area\*. These are part of the New Lenox Area Historical Society's Heritage collection honoring New Lenox History. They are beautiful glass ornaments with a painted depiction of our church and 75th markings from 2015. We will also take orders for the earlier\* Trinity Lutheran Church historic ornament. Plus, there are copies of the History of Trinity Lutheran, from its beginnings in the early 1940's to the 75th Anniversary, available for a \$10 donation. The earlier ornament and history will need to be ordered. These unique pieces of history would make a great present for family and friends. \*(sample ornament displayed in the hall social area).

*The New Lenox Historical Area Society has other collectible New Lenox Historic Site (schools, businesses, landmark buildings, etc) Ornaments available by contacting the Historic Society at 815 485-5576*

**The Annual Church Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 4 from 5-7.** Social Ministry will provide pizza. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the hallway. Please indicate if you will be bringing a salad, dessert, or soft drinks. The Youth Group and Sunday School will have games and crafts in the gym for the children. There will also be a Christmas Carol Sing. Family and friends are welcome!

**Looking for High Schoolers to help with the Church Christmas Party.** Sunday, December 4th 4:30-7:30 Approximately. You will be working game stations in the gym. Dinner will be provided. A fun way to collect school service hours! Please call Christina at 815-546-3201 to sign up.

**Blood Drive:** Will be held on **Thursday December 22nd** in our church parking lot, between the hours of 3 pm until 7 pm.

**Good Samaritan Help Needed for Neighbor with Disability:** a neighbor is looking for someone who can shovel around her car, when it snows. She lives in an apartment complex near the Fire Station on Route 30/Maple Street. They plow the lot, but they do not take care of the cars. With her condition, she cannot do the work. You will have to bring your own shovel. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jennifer Kojro-Badziak at [tlcsecretary508@gmail.com](mailto:tlcsecretary508@gmail.com) or 815.485.6973. Thank You!!!

**Celebrate the Sounds of Christmas:** Christ Lutheran Church in Orland Park 12-16-22 at 7:00 pm. For more information, please log onto:  
<https://www.christlutheranorland.com/events/>

*the flyer is attached to the email*

**\*If you would be interested in being a Lay Reader, please talk with Pastor Hoag\***

**Trinity has several talented individuals in our congregation.** The following website [www.trinitynewlenox.org](http://www.trinitynewlenox.org) is intended to be a referral source for members of Trinity who might need one or more of these services and who would prefer to work with a fellow member of the church. Trinity offers this as a free resource to members. Trinity does not warrant or guarantee the services provided. We simply want to provide you with contact information of other Trinity members whom you might wish to consider for the services they provide. Trinity disclaims any liability for any personal injury, property, or other damages of any nature whatsoever, whether special, indirect, consequential, or compensatory, directly or indirectly, resulting from the publication of, use of, or reliance on, this list or any services provided. If you have a talent or service you'd like to have listed on our site, please contact Jennifer Kojro-Badziak at [tlcsecretary508@gmail.com](mailto:tlcsecretary508@gmail.com) and I will get you added! And be sure to check back often, as we continue to add other member services to this page.



**Trinity Pre-School - UPDATED**

**Registration for 2022-2023 Is Still Open  
Please Tell Your Friends and Neighbors**

There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$65.00 per student. School year beginning September 2022. The tuition per month will be:

**-2 Day, 3-Year-Old, Tuesday & Thursday: \$120.00**

**-3 Day, 4-Year-Old, Monday, Wednesday & Friday: \$150.00**

Children must be 3 or 4 by September 1, 2022. For additional information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815.485.6973.

**\*\*\*TRINITY PRE-SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR, WILL BEGIN IN JANUARY 2023 - Please Tell Your Friends and Neighbors\*\*\***

***Next Pre-School Board Meeting: February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 10:00am-10:30am***



### **Sunday School News:**

**Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>:** Children's Sermon at the 9:00 Service

**Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup>:** Practice for Sunday School Christmas Program 10:00 am – 11:30 am

**Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup>:** Sunday School Children's Christmas Program 10:30 am Service

**Friday December 23<sup>rd</sup>:** NO Sunday School Gym Night

**Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup>:** NO Sunday School

**Wednesday December 28<sup>th</sup>:** 1-Day Vacation Bible School (additional information to follow)

**Sunday School is Looking for Volunteers:** Teachers and Helpers – High School Age to 101. Please contact Michelle Buell @ [mbuell3769@gmail.com](mailto:mbuell3769@gmail.com) or Beth Parker @ [elizabemarie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:elizabemarie@sbcglobal.net) if interested. Thanks!!!



### **Chancel Guild News!**

#### **POINSETTIAS FOR THE ALTAR:**

Advent is a time of anticipation as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. To honor and celebrate this special time, Chancel Members will be decorating the Chancel Area with Poinsettias. If you would like to help decorate by purchasing a Poinsettia for them to use, please fill out an order form and put it along with payment in the large, labeled envelope in the General Office or in the Chancel Guild mailbox. Turn it in no later than Sunday, December 18, 2021. The cost for each plant is \$22.50. Your poinsettia can be picked up after the last Christmas Day service. If you have any questions, email or call Kay Purnell at [purnellk51@hotmail.com](mailto:purnellk51@hotmail.com) or (815) 485-9017.

**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 December:**

December 4 – Wendy Kaun / Jan Schlak  
December 11 – Jan Schlak / Allene Bachmann  
December 18 - Allene Bachmann / Doris Bay  
December 23 – Christmas Flowers (Set Up at 9:00 am)  
December 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00 pm: Allene Bachmann / Doris Bay  
December 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE 11:00 pm: Jennifer Mudrock / Denise Buchanan  
December 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY: Kay Purnell / Sharon MacFarlane

**December Altar Flower Notice:**

Chancel Guild Members would like to thank those of you who sponsored a weekend this last year. We appreciate your support in helping us keep fresh flowers on the altar. **A new 2023 Altar Flower Calendar has been posted.** You will find it in the glass case hanging on the wall across from the general office. If you would like to reserve a Sunday for 2023 in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birthday or wedding anniversary, in thanksgiving of God's Blessings, or for any other special occasion, please fill out a sponsor order form and put it in the Chancel Guild mailbox. The forms are located on a hook attached to the case housing the calendar. If you have any questions, please contact Kay Purnell at purnellk51@hotmail.com or (815) 485-9017.

Flowers left in the refrigerator will be disposed of after 1 week.



### December Altar Flower Sponsors:

- Dec. 4 Rita Larson  
In Memory of Rita's husband, Terry Larson  
Sharing with  
Lucille, Eleanor, & Michael Perkins  
In Celebration of Emily's Birthday
- Dec. 11 Lois Dobbs, Linda Dempsey, & George Ruhle  
In Memory of Adelaide Ruhle
- Dec. 18 Heinz Sewing  
In Memory of his Parents Julius & Clara Sewing's Anniversary
- Dec. 25 Sharon & Phil MacFarlane  
In Memory of Richard MacFarlane

### Social Ministry Announcements:

**\*\*\*THANKS AGAIN TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE OUR CRAFT FAIR A SUCCESS!!!\*\*\***

**The Cookie Walk Has Returned:** Donna Cuthbert Will be Heading This Up. [\(815\) 651-6381](tel:8156516381)  
or [rusty351@ameritech.net](mailto:rusty351@ameritech.net)

(2) Sign Up Sheets Are in the Hallway

-Sign Up for December 2<sup>nd</sup>: SET-UP & SALES (with times)

-Sign Up for December 3<sup>rd</sup>: SALES DAY

\* the trays are out for people to take home, and bring back with their baked goods

\* the baked goods should be brought in on Friday 12/02 anytime between 9:00am – 2:00pm

\* we are still looking for volunteers

**Coffee Hours:** Beginning in October, coffee hours will be hosted every Sunday after the 9:00 service. Volunteers are needed to help with the additional Sundays. If you can help out, please email Jan Toepke at [toepkej@gmail.com](mailto:toepkej@gmail.com).

### **Coffee Hour Fall Schedule**

November 6 Sharon MacFarlane

November 20 Kay Purnell

November 27 Denise Buchanan

December 4 Rita Larson

December 11 Christina Kipper and Liz Benedict

December 18 Sandy Peters

## **Food and Fellowship:**

**Next Food and Fellowship will be held on Tuesday, December 6:** Lunch will be a catered buffet. The cost will be \$15. Please sign up by Sunday, November 27 so that we have a count for ordering food. There will be an envelope in the office for payment. Following lunch there will be a fun holiday game! Come join us for an enjoyable afternoon of food and fellowship to celebrate the holiday season.

**Social Ministry:** Next Meeting - Monday, December 12 at 7:00. We will meet at the home of Jan Toepke.

**Funeral Baked Goods Donations and Hosting:** On the table outside pastor's office there is a volunteer list for congregants willing to help donate baked goods and to also help serve at wakes and funerals here at Trinity. In the past we have provided coffee, water, and baked goods per the request of families who are holding funeral services at Trinity. This simple gesture provides comfort to bereaved families and is a wonderful opportunity to serve the Lord. If you have any questions, please email Jan Toepke at [toepkej@gmail.com](mailto:toepkej@gmail.com).

**Ushers:** Thanks to all the ushers for serving our congregation at weekly worship. Ushers, if you cannot serve on your regular Sunday, please call for a substitute in advance from the substitute list that was previously emailed. There is also an usher schedule, with sub's and regular's contact information, in the Usher Guide found in the Narthex lectern. If you have questions while serving check the Usher Guide or speak with pastor.

If anyone would like to serve by ushering at one of our services, please contact Ed Tatro (815 485 5760) or the Church office. Having substitutes is always a blessing. Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**Usher Schedule:** As we return to our traditional Lutheran services and communion, we will need at least two ushers per service. Reminder to all ushers, if you cannot serve on your regular Sunday, please call for a substitute from the usher substitute list emailed and/or in the copy in the usher guide at church. If you have questions while serving check the Usher Guide at Church or speak with pastor.

Please plan to arrive 30 minutes before service and follow the procedures noted in the usher's loose-leaf notebook in the narthex. Thanks in advance!

Alternates:    Zack Horn        630 664 9224  
                   Robert Stark    708 307 4069  
                   Bob Jackman    815 933-3864

\*Communion Services (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at Late Service, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at Early Service)

\*\*Co-Chairs Worship and Spiritual Life

### **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday**

9:00 AM

-Tom Kaun 815 485 9604 [kauntd@gmail.com](mailto:kauntd@gmail.com)

-Biff Aiken 815 954 0682 [biffdebaiken@gmail.com](mailto:biffdebaiken@gmail.com)

10:30 AM

-Brett Carr 815 370 6651 [brettdcarr@gmail.com](mailto:brettdcarr@gmail.com)

-Paul Krol 815 575 1315 [p.krol@sbcglobal.net](mailto:p.krol@sbcglobal.net)

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday**

9:00 AM

-Edward A. Tatro 815 485 5760 [etatro4@aol.com](mailto:etatro4@aol.com)

-Tim King 815 463 0415 [tim.king1@comcast.net](mailto:tim.king1@comcast.net)

10:30 AM

-Tom Buell 815 485 3769 [tombuell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tombuell@sbcglobal.net)

-Bob Blecke 815 353 7561 [cgm964@comcast.net](mailto:cgm964@comcast.net)

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday**

9:00 AM

-Mike Gardner 815 485 9623 [mgardner1453@gmail.com](mailto:mgardner1453@gmail.com)

-Gary Purnell 815 485 9017 [gpurnell3@hotmail.com](mailto:gpurnell3@hotmail.com)

10:30 AM

-Cameron Hoag 779 279 4223 [cam.hoag@gmail.com](mailto:cam.hoag@gmail.com)

-Dana Knodel 708 822 2902 [danacowboy1@yahoo.com](mailto:danacowboy1@yahoo.com)

### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

9:00 AM

-Steve Tomany 815 485 3163 [tomany@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tomany@sbcglobal.net)

-Randy Varju 815-685-1363 [randy.varju@aah.org](mailto:randy.varju@aah.org)

10:30 AM

-John Buell 815 726 3601 [jan.buell@yahoo.com](mailto:jan.buell@yahoo.com)

-Phil McFarlane 815 806 1219 [philmacp40@comcast.net](mailto:philmacp40@comcast.net)

### **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

9:00AM

-Rex Toepke 815 485 2638 [rtoepke@usa.net](mailto:rtoepke@usa.net)

-Jeff Lorenz 815 463 0833 [jlorenz2367@gmail.com](mailto:jlorenz2367@gmail.com)

10:30AM

-Paul Krol 815 575 1315 [p.krol@sbcglobal.net](mailto:p.krol@sbcglobal.net)

-Diane Sewing 815-592-3911 [dianesewing@hotmail.com](mailto:dianesewing@hotmail.com)



**RaiseRight Fundraiser (Formerly ShopwithScrip) - This is a gift card fundraiser.** They are the same gift cards you can purchase from retailers, including over 300 brand-name grocery stores, department stores, restaurants, gas stations, hotels, home improvement stores, etc. We order the gift cards at a discount, and you pay face value for the gift cards. (For example, you pay \$25 for a \$25 Speedway gift card - the youth group obtains the card at a discount and keeps the difference.) You can purchase gift cards by filling out an order form (located on the table outside Pastor's office) or by placing your order online at [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com). If interested in placing orders online, it is simple to do with our church's enrollment code. Contact Angie Minett for the code or with any questions you might have at [minett411@yahoo.com](mailto:minett411@yahoo.com) or 815-228-4902.

**This is a good time to start thinking about holiday shopping. There are many low denomination cards available perfect for stockings, teacher gifts, coworkers, bus drivers, etc. Consider ordering gift cards to give or to spend when shopping. Take note of the additional order dates for the month of December: Sun, Dec 4th and also Sun, Dec 11th. The orders will be ready for pick up the week following each deadline.**

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



**Bible Study News:**

- Wednesday at 8:30 a.m.
- Thursday at 7:00 p.m.



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. If you received a statement in the past, you are on the list to automatically receive one each year.

**REVISED Vanco eGiving Page:**

You can preview your NEW eGiving page here, by logging into your [new myVanco site](#).

**How do I log into new myVanco?**

- Your account is already enabled with myVanco.
- [Log into myVanco](#) with your new username and password. Your email address will be your username for New myVanco. If this is your first time logging into myVanco, you will need to reset your password.
- After you've reset your password and accessed NEW MyVanco, you can add any additional administrative users to your new eGiving page by navigating to Settings > MyVanco users > Add a user. Once this process is complete, those users will get an email to reset their passwords.

If you should need any additional information, to help you navigate through this revision, please call Jennifer Kojro-Badziak 815.485.6973 or email [tlcsecretary508@gmail.com](mailto:tlcsecretary508@gmail.com)

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