

November 2017

Dear Friends of Trinity,

You ARE justified by works... but not YOUR works.

As we have just celebrated the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation, we continue to stand on the truth that we are not justified to God by our own merits, works, or worthiness. We are justified, forgiven, and reconciled with God only through the merits, works, and worthiness of Jesus Christ alone.

Jesus lived what he taught and walked where others refused to walk. He condemned hypocrites and comforted those who couldn't live up to the expectations of the hypocrites. He ate and drank with both rich and poor. He healed the sick, cast out demons, and raised the dead. He spoke with an authority that could only belong to God. And all the hypocrites could do was have him crucified, thinking that would allow them to continue in their hypocrisies (which they called "traditions").

What they couldn't see, though, was that they were doing to Jesus what had already been written about him in the Scriptures: that he would be handed over to be crucified, die, be buried, and then arise from the dead on the third day. In all of this, Jesus fulfilled every jot and tittle of Scripture.

What could you, or me, or anyone else possibly do to add to that to justify ourselves before God? What could even remotely top what Jesus did? Nothing! And that is the astounding implication of the Good News for us. As such, we take our stand on Jesus Christ alone. Everything else simply won't do.

In Christ,  
Pastor Hoag



NOVEMBER 2017



**“We Give Thanks”**

Our Father in Heaven, We give thanks for the pleasure  
Of gathering together for this occasion.  
We give thanks for this food Prepared by loving hands.  
We give thanks for life, The freedom to enjoy it all  
And all other blessings. As we partake of this food,  
We pray for health and strength To carry on and try to live as You would have us.  
This we ask in the name of Christ, Our Heavenly Father. *(Harry Jewell)*

**Please join us for our Thanksgiving Day Worship Service  
on Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 a.m.**



**CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTIONS WERE HELD ON OCTOBER 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>. The officers for 2018 are:** President: Jeff McDonald; Secretary: Kim Blecke; Financial Secretary: Jan Prospero; Treasurer: Tim King; Directors of Outreach: Bob Blecke; Director of Parish Education: Judi Donovan; Director of Social Ministry: Jeanine Welsh; Directors of Spiritual Life: Ed Tatro and Diane Sewing; Directors of Property: Dan Bay and Jeff Lorenz; Director of Youth Ministry: Michelle Hoag. Thank you for your willingness to serve in this capacity.

The next Church Council Meeting will be on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.



**Members, who have not received offering envelopes in the past and would like to request them for the year 2018, please, fill out a request with your name, address, and telephone number and give it to Judi, Church Secretary or place in Janice Prospero's, Financial Secretary, church mailbox. Request forms are on the table in the hallway. Also, members who desire to discontinue use of envelopes, please contact Judi or Janice.**

**UPDATE**

Update from our Church Council President, Jeff McDonald

We took delivery of the church's new copier in October, and we were able to recycle both of our old copiers in the process. We anticipate paying for this in November but we have already set aside the funds for it. We also saw Pastor's new office finished in the month of October, so the next step of moving our church secretary into his former office and making the current secretary's office a general purpose church office are due up next. One other noteworthy project on our property committee's plate is to replace our external light fixtures that illuminate the church at night. We are planning to swap out those fixtures with LED lights that will not only be more efficient to operate, but that will allow us to use different colors of light during different church seasons. Thanks to ongoing advances in this technology, the cost to convert these fixtures to LED is much lower today than it would have been years ago.

Our stained glass window repair project remains at the top of our list, but we are putting this off until 2018 while we continue to raise money for this project. Our total as of the October council meeting for this project stands at just under \$22,000. We believe the actual cost will be closer to \$50,000 to preserve our stained glass windows for many years to come, so we have a ways to go here but we continue to make progress.

We will be tackling the 2018 budget at our next two council meetings and will be presenting this to the congregation at the annual meeting in January. Our thanks to Tim King for starting his work on this already and for keeping our church finances in good order.



**Member Updates**

**Baptism:** Harrison Albert Cramer, born July 31, 2017, baptized October 8, 2017  
Jack Murphy Longmire, born August 26, 2017, baptized October 22, 2017

Living Lutheran ... Re-Connect. Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Library. Please join us. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Hoag.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study – 8:30 a.m. Please join us.

Confirmation Class – Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Choir Practice at 7:00 p.m. New members are always welcome – both men and women. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 815.485.6973.

Thursday Evening Bible Study – 7:00 p.m. Please join us.

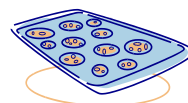


Women's League Luncheon – Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$10.00 each and the luncheon will start at 12:30 pm. It will be catered by Tom Kelly's.

To make reservations, contact Ginny DeCarlo at 815-458-2001 or Pat Fuerst at 815-545-2471.



**Mark your calendar!**



The Annual Cookie Walk will be held on Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. Baked goods from the congregation are needed, and very much appreciated. We can use cookies, breads, coffee cakes or candy. All profits go to the church and community needs. Styrofoam trays will be available in the gym on November 12<sup>th</sup>. You may use these trays to carry your cookies back to church. Please cover these trays with wax paper before placing the cookies on them, so they may be reused. **Baked goods for the cookie sale can be dropped off Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., or early Saturday morning.**

This year, the Cookie Walk will be organized and run by our very own Donna Cuthbert. Donna has stepped up to fill the void left by Women's League. While Women's League will not be running it this year they are helping out in any way possible. We will be looking for much more help from our other organizations and from the congregation as well. There will be a sign up sheet for anyone wanting to help with this wonderful event. Please search your heart and calendar to see if you offer some help with either setup or sale.

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Visit us on the web at [www.trinitynewlenox.org](http://www.trinitynewlenox.org)



**Women's League will once again be collecting stocking stuffers for Salem. Some suggestions are listed below. Please drop of your donations by Sunday, December 10th. Please place these in the appropriate boxes under the hallway table.**

Crossword books  
Alarm clocks  
Blankets  
Calendars  
Pen/pencil sets  
Electronic Games  
Note Cards  
Slippers w/soles  
Scarves/mittens

Hats  
Markers  
Tissues  
Wallets  
Watches  
Tags  
Frames  
Bows  
Hosiery

Socks  
Perfumes  
Powder  
Checkers  
Movies  
Bibles  
Ribbons  
Lap Desk

### **CHANCEL GUILD**



**The Chancel Guild members would like to thank the congregation, family and friends that took part in this year's Salad Luncheon on October 4th. Our guests enjoy the delicious salads and desserts. It was a Great time for everyone to visit, as well. Your support is appreciated. *A special "thank you" to the Women's League ladies, who once again baked and served the delicious desserts.* It is always nice to have the Women's League and Chancel Guild ladies work together.**

A big thank you to the men (both young and "not quite so young" who help carry tables for the luncheon. We appreciate your help.

**The next Chancel Guild meeting is Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** Hostesses: Christine Stark and Debbie Nick. We will be cleaning the altar for the upcoming holidays. All ladies of Trinity are welcome to join us. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 815.485.6973.



## POINSETTIAS FOR THE CHANCEL

What a sight with the altar covered in poinsettias! Would you like to place a poinsettia or two in the Chancel for Christmas? The poinsettias can be picked up after the Christmas Day Service. Order forms will soon be on the table outside the church office, by the flower chart and also on the hallway table. If you have any questions, please call Kay Purnell (815.485.9017) or the church office (815.485.6973).



**ALTAR FLOWERS:** Flowers are placed on our altar every weekend 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. **A 2018 flower chart showing open weekends has been posted in the cabinet across from the church office.** The flower order forms are attached to the cabinet. If you would like to sponsor flowers on a particular weekend, complete the form and place it along with a **check made out to Trinity Lutheran Chancel Guild** in the Chancel Guild mailbox in the church office. Please note the cost of the flowers has increased to \$30.00. If you want a date already chosen, it may be possible to share the date with permission from the person who has already selected the date. The cost for one arrangement is \$15.00. If you have any questions, please call Kay Purnell at (815) 485-9017 or email her at [purnellk51@hotmail.com](mailto:purnellk51@hotmail.com). Flowers may be picked up **after** the 10:30 service. Thank you to all who participate!

## **YOUTH NEWS**



Thank you to everyone who helped or attended the Craft and Vendor Fair. We had another successful fair which raised funds for youth programs. Thanks so much!!



## Youth Events for November

Friday, Nov. 24, 7-11 p.m. - Annual Not-Quite-a-Lock-in - Junior-high and high school youth are invited to help set up the church Christmas tree, watch movies, play games, and play the ever-popular "Romans and Christians."



**SCRIP GIFT CARDS** – An easy way to shop and earn money for our church.

Scrip cards are the same gift cards that you can purchase from retailers, including grocery & department stores, restaurants, gas stations, hotels, home improvement stores, etc. In addition to giving them as gifts, they can be used for daily or holiday shopping. We order the gift cards at a discount and you pay face value so there is no additional cost. The proceeds from this fundraiser are currently being put towards church improvement projects such the gym windows.

**Because the holidays are quickly approaching, we will have 2 order dates in November. The deadlines for turning in orders, along with payment, will be Monday November 6<sup>th</sup> at noon and also Monday November 20<sup>th</sup> at noon.** We will also have one order in December. Your order will be available for pick-up the weekend after the order is placed. Order forms are on the hallway table below the Youth bulletin board. You may place your order/payment in the gold envelope which is hanging on the end of the desk credenza in the church office. If interested in placing orders online, you will need to ask for an enrollment code. Direct any questions you may have to Angie Minett ([minett411@yahoo.com](mailto:minett411@yahoo.com) or 815.467.2537) or Gary Purnell (815.485.9017). You can also learn more online at [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com).



### **MORNINGSTAR SERVING DATES:**

**MorningStar Mission Serving** Trinity has been helping with serving meals at MorningStar twice a month for a number of years. We have been serving the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each month, and need 3-4 volunteers each time. You must be at MorningStar by 3:45 pm. If you are interested in volunteering in another way, please call MorningStar at 815.722.5780. More information may be obtained by visiting their web at [www.morningstarmission.org](http://www.morningstarmission.org) other volunteer positions. November sign-up sheets are on the hallway table.

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**Trinity Pre-School – AM spots still available. Please tell your friend and neighbors.** There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$66.00 per student. For the school year beginning September 2017 the tuition per month is \$105 for two day students, and \$130 for three days students. Children must have turned 3 by September 1, 2017. For further information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 184.485.6973.

**The next Pre-School Board Meeting will be held Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 a.m.**



**Choir:** The Choir practices on **Wednesday, at 7:00 p.m.** in the church balcony. The choir is open to anyone who enjoys singing. New voices are always welcome.



**SIGN UP SHEETS FOR NOVEMBER** are on the hallway table. Stop and sign up to be a Greeter or a Reader.



**Prayer Chain:** Please feel free to contact Ginny DeCarlo or Pat Fuerst if you have a prayer request. You may call Ginny at 815.485.2001 (or email at [vdecarlo1952@gmail.com](mailto:vdecarlo1952@gmail.com)) or Pat at 815.485.6441.





If you have brought food items to church in the past few weeks, your empty container(s) may be on the counter in the gym kitchen area or on the table in the downstairs kitchen. Please stop and pick it up.



***Upcoming Local Events:***

**St. John's Annual Turkey Dinner – Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. 4:00 – 7:00 pm**, Christian Community Center, 11046 Second Street, Mokena, IL. Tickets sold at the door. Adults \$12; Children 4-11 \$5.00; Children 2-4 \$2.00.



**“Healing Hearts” Survivors of Suicide Support Group Meeting – Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>** from 7:00- 8:30 p.m. at the New Lenox Village Hall, 1 Veterans Parkway, New Lenox. Open Forum with no guest speaker.

**Overdose Awareness Clinic – November 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.** This is free to the public and will be held at the AVP Counseling & DUI Services office located at 336 W. Maple Rd. Unit #4, New Lenox.

**Church office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 am till 1 pm.**

