

News from the Pews

March 2023

Lent began last month with Ash Wednesday. The theme for Lent, as stated in the book of Joel, could be summed up as “Return to the Lord.” The point is that we need to return to the Lord, because sin has separated us from Him. And that is not a good thing.

Lent is not a pleasant time in the church calendar, but is a very important time nevertheless. We’ve gone through Advent, which was a time of anticipation of the coming of Jesus. Then we celebrated Christmas, when Jesus actually came. After that came (the) Epiphany, which revealed to us that the Jesus, who was born in a stable at Christmas, was in fact God in flesh.

So now that we know who Jesus is, Lent shows us our need of Him. Being separated from God by sin had and has, devastating consequences. God is the only source of life, of love, and of joy. So, because of Adam’s sin, the original sin nature that we were born with, left us oriented towards death, hate, and pain. Lent calls us to realize the reality of our sinfulness, and its horrific implications, and thus seeing with our eyes and heart, our need to return to the Lord.

But the million dollar question is: how can I return to the Lord? This is the problem, because, on your own, you not only cannot return to the Lord, you, won’t want to. This shows us the importance of Christ the

Savior. You return to the Lord through the Holy Spirit and by God’s power, on the basis of Christ’s death and resurrection. Your sin is a major problem, but Jesus is the answer. After spending 40 days in Lent, being reminded of your sinfulness and its seriousness, you are told on Holy Week of your salvation – Jesus dying and rising for you.

So, this Lent, pray for the Holy Spirit to lead you into meaningful self-reflection. Pray for the power to see your sin, repent, and believe in the promise of God to save you. Lent is about reality – the reality of your sinfulness, and the reality of God’s love for you in Christ Jesus! Have a blessed March and see you in church!

In Christ,

Rev. Wagner

*“Jesus said to him,
I am the way, and the truth,
and the life. No one comes
to the Father except through
me.”* John 14:6



Scheduled Services

9 a.m. Sundays
In-person and
livestreamed

6:00 p.m. Mondays
In-person only

Bible Study on

Sundays is at 10:30 in the Sanctuary – Enjoy Coffee & after church services and prior to Bible Study. **Time changes March 12th. Spring ahead!**

Lenten services:

3/1..... 11am Chapel service w/ Noon lunch
5:30 meal . **6pm Bible Study**

3/8..... 11am Chapel service w/ Noon lunch
5:30 meal . **6pm Bible Study**

3/15..... 11am Chapel service w/ Noon lunch
5:00 meal . **6pm Worship Service**

3/22..... 11am Chapel service w/ Noon lunch
5:30 meal . **6pm Bible Study**

3-29. No services

4-6. **Maundy Thursday** 11am. 7pm

4-7. **Good Friday** 11am. 7pm

4-9. **Easter Sunday** 7am. & 10 am



Easter Breakfast served in the gym – check bulletin for more info

4-10. No Monday Service

Guidelines are still in place for in person worship:

...Please wear face masks upon entry and exit into church if you are unvaccinated

...No mask is required while seated on the left side

... Please leave masks in place if seated on the right (Pulpit) side of the sanctuary.

... Sit in alternating pews as marked on the pulpit side, not required on the lectern side.

... Help yourself to the Order of Worship

... Offering plates are in the rear of the sanctuary..

Facebook:

Find the orders of worship, along with easy to share video and audio versions of the sermons at

<https://www.trinitylombard.org/sermons>.

Services and Bible classes air live on Facebook @TrinityLombard

(<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard/>)

and can also be viewed live at

<https://www.trinitylombard.org/>. Worship is online each Sunday morning at 9 am.



February was an exciting month at Trinity; the students roller skated for two weeks in the gym.

The older grades assisted younger

students. You might have caught Mr. Baerenklau and myself roller skating with the students or through the hallways.



February was Heart Awareness

Month, and we partnered with the American Heart Association for the Kids Heart Challenge. We raised funds and learned how to take care of our hearts. We had 19 students participate. We raised over \$1700 for the American Heart Association as a school. Our big winner is Penny Woods; in third grade, she raised over \$400. Great job!

In March, we will celebrate Lutheran Schools Week (LSW). We kick off LSW with a Minute to Win It event with root beer floats on Friday, March 3, at 6:30 p.m. The students in fifth through eighth grade are creating all of the games. On Monday, March 6, the theme is underwater, and students are encouraged to wear underwater shirts and

accessories. Tuesday, March 7, the students are going to the Shedd Aquarium and are to wear spirit wear (green or Trinity t-shirts). Dress your best will take place on Wednesday, March 8, along with students attending a Lent service and a Lent lunch if you placed an order. Thursday, March 9, is the students' favorite day of the year, PJ day, and the teachers make breakfast for the students. Friday, March 10, is Grandparents and Special Person day, with the dress theme being cowboys. Wear your favorite cowboy attire to school on Friday. Early dismissal for Easter break will be on Friday, March 10, at 11:30 a.m. The week will finish with the students singing in church on Sunday, March 12.

Blessings,

Julie Messina

Principal


7th & 8th Grade Teacher

Trinity Lutheran School

Lombard, IL

630.627.5601. ext 205

tislombard.org

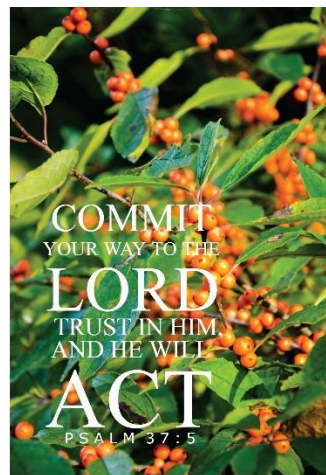
 **Help Benefit Trinity by Directing Your Thrivent Choice Dollars®**

before March 31. Eligible Thrivent Financial members with available Choice Dollars® have until March 31, 2023, to direct them. Don't miss this easy opportunity to benefit Trinity. Go online to

Thrivent.com/thriventchoice, where you will be prompted to log in, or

3

call 800.847.4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.



Your 2023-2024

Commitment to Trinity

During the season of Lent, we reflect on God's great love for us and

respond with gratitude. We make our annual giving commitments before the Lord to support the work of His church on earth. We give thanks for God's great blessings and ask you to prayerfully consider your financial commitment to Trinity Lutheran Church as we go about our Savior's will.

Your pledges will help plan financing for Trinity's ministry in the year that runs from July 1, 2023, through June 31, 2024. If you did not yet receive a commitment letter in the bulletin or via email, you may download one here: <https://tinyurl.com/commit2023>. You may also request a printed copy to be mailed by calling Trinity's office at 630.629.8765.

This information helps your church leaders to plan for the coming year.

All women of Trinity are considered a part of Mary/Martha and LWML. There is no membership, just an invitation to gather together as sisters in Christ's name.

You are personally invited to come and enjoy a time of friendship.

For more information, or any questions, text or call Arlene Solyom at 630-715--7764

2023 LCMS Life Conference

March 2 - March 3



The world today pressures people on all sides to reject God's design for human life.

The 2023 LCMS Life Conference, which is part of *Making Disciples for Life*, is set for March 2–3, 2023, in St. Louis and online.

The conference will provide Lutherans with the resources to faithfully proclaim what God's Word teaches about life, health, marriage and family.

Presentations at the 2023 conference will focus on three main subject areas: advocacy for the sanctity of human life and God's design for marriage and the family; teaching God's Word speaks to people of all ages so they learn the truth about life, health and family; and sharing Christ's love and mercy with a focus on life, health and the family.

Online registration

Online participation is unlimited.

An online registration, which is \$29, can be used by an individual, couple, family or group.

<https://calendar.lcms.org/event/2023-lcms-life-conference/>

Registration provides access to view recorded sessions for 60 days after the conference ends.

Participants attending virtually can register until March 2.



March 11th

Prayer for Salvation Service

Do you have loved ones, friends, neighbors or coworkers, who do not yet know our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ?

We invite you to join us in praying for those special people. Let's pray together that the Holy Spirit would awaken in them a desire to learn about and love Jesus.

Simply write out the first name(s) or "anonymous" ON A SLIP OF PAPER AND DROP IT INTO THE BOX IN THE Parish Hall or email the office at secretary@trinitylombard.org. We are holding a dedicated prayer service on Saturday, March 11 at 10am to lift up lost hearts.

Remember...we ourselves witness every day, knowingly or unknowingly, how we witness, is how others see our trust in the Savior. How have you witnessed this past month?

Rest in His goodness and grace.
Blessings,
Board of Evangelism

And when you pray tonight.. Pray for a fighting spirit. May you never give up no matter how difficult life gets. The reality is no one is immune to challenges. You need to overcome them and have a story to tell. May you never run out of strength and continue to fight. With Christ, all things are possible.



from Lutheran Hour Ministries

Lutheran Hour offers several ways to enjoy devotions. You can read them online, listen to them or print them out to read.

www.lhm.org/lent/

Man of Sorrows, People of Joy paints a



revealing picture of Jesus as He winds His way to the cross. Using Matthew's Gospel as its source, we see Jesus as

teacher, healer, comforter, and Savior. Our Shepherd's crucifixion and resurrection now make joy and true life available to His followers—to those who through faith entrust their lives to Him. Our Lord Jesus, though divine in nature, took on human form and thus became intimately acquainted with our griefs and sorrow (see Isaiah 53:1-6). That God

would send His Son to bear our sins and die on our behalf is testament to God's unbounded love—a love that declares believers innocent through the Savior's triumphant resurrection.



New Name: The March for LifeChicago is now the Illinois March for Life

New Location: The rally and march move from Chicago to Springfield, IL

New Day: Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

SAME MISSION: Save Midwestern Lives by marching for life in the public square!

Why move to Springfield, IL?

Springfield is Illinois' state capitol.

In the last 6 years, lawmakers in Springfield passed the Repeal of Parental Notification (2021), the Reproductive Health Act, which allows abortion through all 9 months, removed health inspections of abortion clinics, and more (2019) and HB 40 Tax Payer Funding of Abortion (2017).

As a result, at least 4 regional abortion clinics have been built in IL near the border of WI, MO, & IN since 2018.

Recently, an abortion organization launched a bus to travel around the IL state border to offer abortions to those in neighboring states.

Illinois abortions are no longer concentrated in Chicago and no longer limited to just Illinois residents.

Illinois' state laws are detrimental to preborn lives across the Midwest, so we **have moved to march where those egregious laws were made.**



My Faith Votes.org (non-LCMS)

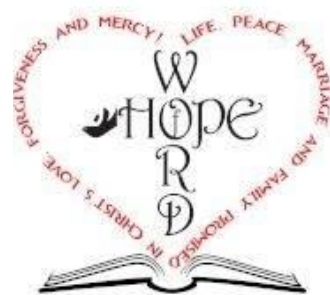
**THIS IS A DEVOTIONAL RESOURCE
DESIGNED TO HELP CHRISTIANS THINK,
PRAY, AND VOTE**

“Four Prayers that Shaped America Devotional” is well worth looking into.
<https://www.myfaithvotes.org/four-prayers-that-shaped-the-nation-devotional>



**hosted by Zone 6 at St John's Church,
Wheaton, IL**

Registration & Coffee 8:30 – 9 am
March 4 @ 9:00 am - 11:30 am



Love for a Broken Heart

Are you grieving the loss of a child through abortion? Are you struggling with guilt, sorrow, or anger? Do you

know that God wants to heal you and bind up your sorrows? He can free you from the hurt and pain. “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11) There IS hope for your future – a Word of Hope that can begin to heal your broken heart. If you or someone you know is hurting because of an abortion, call Word of Hope at 888.217.8679 or email info@word-of-hope.org. It's caring and completely confidential.



Lutheran Women in Mission - LWML

Registration for the 40th Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary

League (LWML) opened January 9, 2023.

The Winter Issue of the "Lutheran Woman's Quarterly" includes information to walk you through the exclusive online registration process (early registration fees apply).

Join us as we **"Celebrate the Lord of the Nations" in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 22–25, 2023.**

If interested text Arlene Solyom for more details. 630-715-7764

SHAW LOCAL News Network

Opinion | Letter: When a nation turns from God February 05, 2023

What happens when a nation turns from God

What happens when a nation turns from God? Sin abounds, acts of lawlessness and unrighteousness prevail without consequences, the truth is suppressed and evil flourishes. American citizens are the real victims of what our government leaders, many liberal professors, a disturbing number of clergy and the media are allowing. The nation was built on the principles of the truth found in God's road map for us, His word. Our leaders once knew and depended on that. However, for many people today, this is no longer the case. That is why much of what is happening to our country doesn't make sense.

God's word is just as relevant today as when it was written. To paraphrase Romans chapter one, God reminds us that those who depart from His truth are without excuse. "For although they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie. For this reason, God gave them up to dishonorable passions and a debased mind to do what ought not be done. And, being filled with all manner of evil, they encourage others to do the

same." This is what's happening right now in our communities and schools.

Proverbs 3:5 through 6, written around 1,000 B.C., is true today: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he shall direct your paths." We have been like sheep without their shepherd, just wandering around according to our feelings. It's time to trust Him who is trustworthy.

Jim Doll (contributor)
Algonquin

Note from NFTP editor: Sometimes we don't realize that there are Christians like us, who are willing to speak up boldly. SHAW is an independent secular newspaper for Northern Illinois. They published this letter to the editor. Not an article filled with hate, but an article filled with truth.



FREE WEBINAR

CHURCH & CULTURE:
Equipping the Parents in Your
Congregation With a Biblical
View of Gender

Our partner, Alliance Defending Freedom, is hosting a webinar on March 2nd.

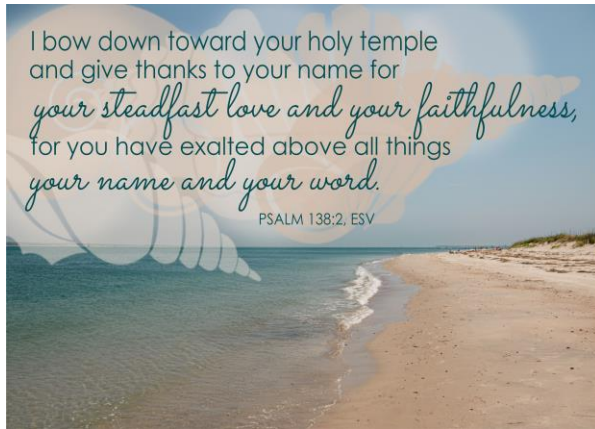
A panel of denominational leaders will join ADF attorneys for this discussion.

Church & Culture: Equipping the Parents in Your Congregation With a Biblical View of Gender

12:00 PM ET Thursday, March 2nd

<https://event.on24.com/.../7C3CD6710638D01E456E75EE9846D651>

[#alliancedefendingfreedom](#) [#church&culture](#)
[#LCRL](#) [#lutherancenterreligiousliberty](#)



All of the Psalms are teaching us something. Psalm 96 teaches that God is great and is the only true God. This psalm instructs us to proclaim the greatness of God to every nation. The mission of the church is to tell the world that the Lord reigns. Learn how to be bold in your witness to our great God.

Acts 17:26-27 (ESV) And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

We see from these verses that God created every human being from one man, Adam. So, despite the way we often talk, there is only one race of people, the human race. The color of one's skin is no more important than the color of one's hair or eyes.

☺

According to these verses in Acts, God created every nation so that they would seek God and have a relationship with Him. So, the primary purpose of every human being is to have a relationship with their creator. That relationship is essential for this life and for the life to come in eternity.

Acts 17:30-31 (ESV) The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead. "There is only one way to have a relationship with God. That is by repenting of your sin and putting your trust in Jesus Christ, the one risen from dead who will return again to judge the world. That's why we are to witness every day to all people, to our neighbors and to our coworkers. We are to be believing witnesses. The Holy Spirit does the calling thru the Word of God. Be loving but bold in your faith.

Our neighbors in today's world are from all over the world. We are missionaries in our own back yard. Pray that God will use you for His glory, even in your simple everyday life.

(gleaned from the Greatness of God..Beyond our Borders)

All news articles for the next month's newsletter may be submitted **if possible by the 20th of the month in order to get proofread and approved by Pastor by the 1st of the month.**

Thank you. Send to

vinjud60@yahoo.com

Questions ... call or text - Judy

Cuchetto (630)698-2208 at any time.