

News from the Pews

January 2023

So, how was your Christmas? For me, it seems as if it flew by. It came and went at lightning speed. And, if you are like me, you are probably exhausted from all of the hustle and bustle that came along with the holiday season. This time of year is truly joyous and exciting, but it does seem as if January can bring a bit of a letdown.

But why is that? I guess it's really a part of the same old story. This world certainly has its shares of ups and downs. From that perspective, worldly celebrations can be like a roller coaster. They start with lots of activity and then they end abruptly. Nothing is constant with the world. Things are always changing, and change can be difficult. We like stability and structure, but stability and structure are very hard to find in things of this world.

So, when we crave that stability and consistency, we're encouraged not to look for it in the world because we will only find it in Christ. God and His Word will never change. His love for us is always constant. And more importantly, His forgiveness of our sins, is constant and never changing. Often our sin causes us heartache in more ways than we can count, or even want to admit. But God's constant, unconditional love for us is *always there, always healing, always*

comforting, always strengthening – always. That is one of the themes we will be seeing this month as we enter this season of Epiphany.

Epiphany means a revealing or an opening, as in the opening of one's eyes to be able to see what wasn't seen before. So, the Epiphany in the church is a revealing of Christ and who He is – namely God in the flesh who came specifically for you. God didn't send one of His representatives to deal with sin. He didn't send some sort of intermediary. Instead, He Himself came in the flesh – for you!

So, when the roller coaster ride of the world wears you down and you are yearning for something more permanent and lasting, look to God! Come to His house. Hear His Word. Receive His body and blood. Confess your sins and hear His forgiveness. Pray to Him with your church family. The Lord Christ is revealed to us this Epiphany season, and His love for you, never changes. Thanks be to God!

Have a blessed Epiphany season and see you in church!

In Christ,

Rev. Wagner

“ Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.”

Isaiah 60:1



Worship

JANUARY

Scheduled services

9 a.m. Sundays
In-person and
livestreamed

7 p.m. Mondays
In-person only

Bible Study on Sundays is at 10:30 Resumes Jan 15th in the Sanctuary – Enjoy Coffee & after church services and prior to Bible Study.

- **Beginning Jan 16 Monday in-person services will begin at 6:00pm**
- **Sunday School resumes Jan 15** after fellowship time in the Parish Hall

* Trinity Lutheran Church and School office is closed until 8 a.m. January 9, 2022.

* Trinity Lutheran School resumes on January 9, 2022.

* Trinity Lutheran School Children's Christmas Program has been rescheduled for January 11, 2022, 6 p.m.

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.

The 9 a.m. service is livestreamed on [Facebook @TrinityLombard](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLombard/) and on Trinity's website at [Trinitylombard.org](https://www.trinitylombard.org).

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 a.m. Online.



Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Live Nativity a huge success. We collected lots of

food for the food pantries and had many new families come and visit Trinity. We hope to host the Live Nativity again next year.



Don't worry; you **did NOT** miss the school Christmas Program. With the high winds and dropping temperatures, we thought it would be better to hold Jubilee Christmas when we return from Christmas Break. The program will be on Wednesday, January 11, at 6 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there!

The fifth through eighth grade will attend Walcamp from Tuesday, January 17, through Friday, January 20. They will be participating in many outdoor activities and completing team-building exercises. Keep an eye out for



**TODAY... WISE
MEN STILL
SEEK HIM!!**

Jesus' birthday celebration is past but we can celebrate the 2023 years since He was born every day of our life, because He still lives. He defeated death for each of us. Hallelujah! We pray as we come into this New Year, that all of our loved ones will experience good health, life sustaining employment with fulfilling jobs, and joy in their hearts. We also pray that they will embrace a renewed relationship with Jesus. This is our hearts prayer.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023!!

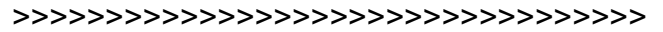


Remember...we ourselves witness every day, knowingly or unknowingly, how we witness, is how others see our trust in the

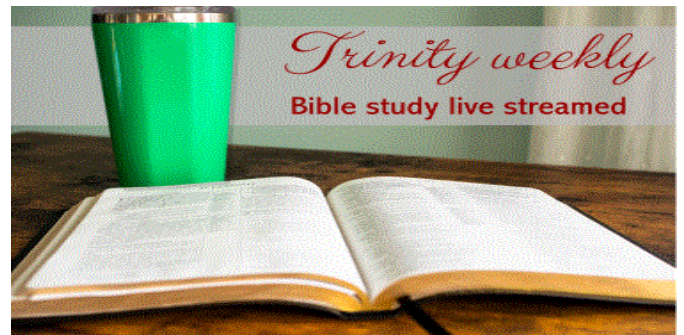
Savior. How have you witnessed this past month?

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.



Studying God's Word together is important! **Wednesday**

morning informal Bible study will resume on January 11. Join in as we develop a special bond as Christians. We begin each week with coffee and conversation at 9:15 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Pastor opens with prayer at about 9:30 and we conclude at 10:30 a.m. **Come and join in! You will be made to feel welcome!**



Pastor offers Online Bible Study, on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. LIVE on Facebook [@trinitylombard](https://www.facebook.com/trinitylombard) .

Pastor Wagner welcomes any of your Bible related questions. *You can interact online as the study is going on. You can also view it on the internet using www.TrinityLombard.org

* All are welcome to participate – live interaction is only through Facebook



January is Sanctity of Human Life Month



Take time to celebrate life this month. Happy New Year to you all. Christmas spills over to the New Year for those of us who believe and it compels even our resolutions for the New Year. So, may you strive for purpose in an increasingly purposeless world. May you yearn for eternal things in a world set on things that do not last. And may your relationship to God and to those whom you love increase and grow this year abundantly!



Listen to *Friends for Life*, a KFUE radio podcast from LCMS Life Ministry. You'll hear encouraging words about life and learn how to speak about the intrinsic value of that life when it feels like the world is trying to drown us out. Enjoy guests who address the theological, the practical, the heartbreaking, and inspiring, as Friends for Life invites you to explore life issues in a way that honors our heavenly Father's value of human life, serves our neighbor, and connects us to others who are doing the same. Listen at <https://www.kfuo.org/category/friends-for-life>.



With Roe overturned, the March for Life Chicago is moving to Illinois state capitol: Springfield for 2023 and has a new name - Illinois March for Life! [#illinoismarchforlife](https://illinoismarchforlife.org)



The *National March for Life in Washington, DC*, will be on January 20, 2023 (<http://marchforlife.org>), but this year the March for Life Chicago has become the *Illinois March for Life*, and will take place on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at the State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois, with a rally at noon and march at 1 p.m. (Central). Details at <https://illinoismarchforlife.org>.

Join Lutherans for Life for interactive online activities during Life Week, January 15-21, 2023 – zoom gatherings, challenges, competitions, fun and purposeful, with targeted opportunities for adults, youth, and families. Get the details at <https://lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2023>.

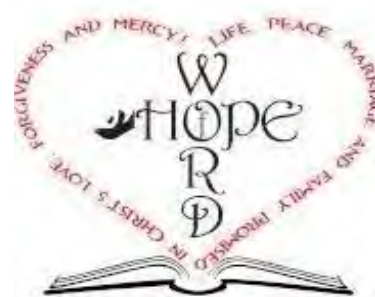


Care Net

“At Care Net, we believe that in order to make abortion unthinkable, we have to not only prevent abortions from happening but also holistically serve women and men by addressing the societal issues and spiritual issues that contribute to them considering abortion in the first place.” —Roland C. Warren, President & CEO of Care Net

Because of you, Care Net is making a difference in our world. **You are the reason we’ve been able to help 940,173 women and men choose life for their unborn children and share the Gospel with more than 2,045,686 million clients during the last 14 years.**

Please visit <https://hubs.ly/Q01wCNns0> to help more women and men choose life for their children.



Need Hope?

Did you know that men, as well as women, can struggle with feelings of depression, guilt, grief, anger or

regret, as the result of an abortion? If you are hurting, Word of Hope can help. Word of Hope offers confidential counseling, support, resources and referrals for anyone dealing with the after-effects of an abortion. If you or someone you know is suffering from grief over an abortion, call 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) opens January 9, 2023.



LWML Convention – June 22–25, 2023 – Milwaukee, WI

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 630.715.7764

New YEAR, New OPPORTUNITIES

Your Past Does Not Define Your Future: A Plan for the Coming Year

New Year's is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it's over), and we look to the future in hope and anticipation, and perhaps with some worry, for what it holds.

The point is that New Year's celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be, what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we've lost. Who we've lost.

New Year's is our own version of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*. And we all play Scrooge. We are visited by the ghosts of our pasts, presents and futures.

St. Paul writes: *"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his*

righteousness endures forever.’ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God” (2 Cor. 9:6–15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord will both supply and increase what we need to give to the church for its work in the world. He tells us that this work God does in us will enrich and bless us in every way, and through this, will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving in years past and change what needs to be adjusted, improved, or done away with altogether.

First, attend the Divine Service to receive God’s gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. If you’ve not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God’s Word, to receive forgiveness and feast on the rich food of our Lord’s body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn’t want your money. He wants you — all of you (Matt. 22:20–22).

Second, pray for the Lord’s help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1–16).

Third, consider what the church is and what the church does. The church is a place of mercy. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection, and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales

this mercy in love toward neighbors. You are a member of the church, of God’s family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God’s mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy through the generous giving of your income to support the work of the church in the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Lev. 27:1–34).

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament’s teaching on supporting the work of the church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what’s left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, or ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church’s work. Are you relying on God’s promise to provide and increase what you need to do His work? If your answer is no to any of these, repent. If God gave you His only Son, will He not provide for you all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it.

So, don’t let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of your income, which is God’s gift to you for this body and life.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry:
lcms.org/stewardship

Lord, thank you God for always listening to our prayers. Help us to trust that You are always listening and caring for all those we love, even when they are far from us. In Jesus name we pray.



Asiago Cheese Italian Sausage Strata

Recipes
Passed Down

Passed down from a
cousin to Vince Cuchetto.



Ingredients:

3 large plain bagels cut
into ½- inch cubes or 6
¾ inch cut slices of
Italian bread

1 lb sweet or hot Italian
sausage cooked and
crumbled

- 1 cup shredded Asiago cheese
- 2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 4 thin green onions thinly sliced
- 3 cups whole milk (2 ½ w/bread)
- 1 cups heavy cream
- 5 large eggs beaten
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 teaspoon table salt
- ½ teaspoon black pepper or to taste
- ½ teaspoon ground mustard

Instructions:

1. Spray a 13 x 9-inch baking with cooking spray. Arrange ½ of the cubed bagels over the bottom of the dish.
2. Mix the Asiago cheese with the mozzarella cheese and divide in half. Place ½ into a plastic bag and into the refrigerator.
3. Sprinkle ½ of the bagel cubes with ½ of the cooked sausage, ½ of the sliced green onions and ½ of the shredded cheese mixture. Repeat reserving ½ of the cheese and 2 tablespoon green onion for garnishing.
4. In a medium mixing bowl, whisk together the milk, heavy cream, beaten

eggs, Parmesan cheese, salt, black pepper and ground mustard.

5. Pour the custard over the bagels (or bread) and sausage. Gently press the bread into the custard. Cover with plastic wrap and chill overnight.

6. To prepare: Remove the plastic wrap and sprinkle the remaining shredded Asiago-Mozzarella cheese mixture on top. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Bake for 45-55 minutes until golden and puffed up. Let stand on the counter for 5 minutes.

7. Garnish with reserved green onion before serving.

Updates & FYIs...

The Lord receives His own!

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

Mark Krohse



Aug 1958 – Jan 2022

Mark Krohse, a beloved child of God, was called to his eternal home on January 1, 2023. He was the loving brother of Ron (MaryAnn) Krohse, Kenn (Marlene) Krohse and Joy (Ron) Kukuk. He was the dear uncle of Kristyn Krohse (Noah Popp) and Joshua (Jean-Marie) Krohse, and fond great uncle to Grace and Keaton Krohse and Karinna and Linnea Popp. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Annabelle Krohse.

He graduated from Northern Illinois University with a degree in accounting and

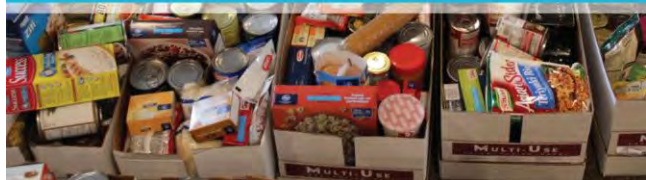
was a CPA. He was employed by US Cellular for 37 years. Mark was a dear friend and neighbor to many including Jim and Linda Blank and family, and Tim and Cathy Moore and family. Mark lived his faith. He had a kind, helpful, and generous nature, and was a dedicated and loyal employee.

Visitation Wednesday, January 4, 3:30-7:30 p.m. at Knollcrest Funeral Home, 1500 S. Meyers Rd. (3 Blks S. of Roosevelt) Lombard, IL 60148. In state Thursday, 10-11 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1165 S. Westmore Meyers Rd. Lombard, IL 60148, Funeral to follow at 11 a.m. Interment Private. Funeral info: www.knollcrest.net or 603.932.1500

In lieu of flowers, please direct memorials to Trinity Lutheran Church 1165 S. Westmore Meyers Road, Lombard, 60148 Illinois, or to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation 733 3rd Avenue, Suite 510, New York, NY 10017.



Food sharing is Caring



A food pantry is different than a food bank in that it provides food directly to those who may not have enough food to eat. Food pantries are often the only source of free healthy and nutritious food in a neighborhood,

Thanks be to God, Trinity Lutheran Church and School contributed to three food

pantries: St. Vincent de Paul, York Center and 1st Bethlehem. These food pantries are serving an ever increasing number of people. We can't say it often enough...THANK YOU..

They welcome the help given. You may bring non-perishables (rice, pasta, mac-n-cheese), canned goods, breakfast cereals, granola bars, etc. Some of you have asked about money. YES, the pantries need money to purchase fresh fruits, vegetables and meat. If you choose to give cash, we ask that you give it to Ron or Dawn Tyler directly. There is a table in the corner of the parish hall where you can place your donations. You may never know who benefits from your generosity (for all you know, it could be your neighbor or a family member), but God does. And He reminds us: "...And the king will answer them, 'Whatsoever you did to the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'" Matthew 25:40

Ron and Dawn Tyler welcome questions. If you need help, you may reach them by calling the church office at 630.629.8765.

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.

