

December 2024



Trinity Lutheran Church

Villa Park, IL

Always Growing in Christ

The Lion's Roar

Amos 3:8

"The lion has roared; who will not fear?"

The Lord GOD has spoken; who can but prophesy?"

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened." Matthew 7:7-8

So I'm Asking

Back in 2008, I sat down with some leaders in the congregation and formulated a 5yr, 10yr and 15yr plan for Trinity. That plan ran out a couple years ago and I am happy to say we accomplished some of the things we set out to accomplish: a remodeled Trinity Center, ministry to disabled, doubled the size of the preschool, a larger area dedicated to youth ministry, a music school. As time went on, it became apparent that the music school was not sustainable so we closed it and of course, we had to close the preschool last spring due to many factors including changing needs and building limitations.

One of the things on our list that has never gotten off the ground is a senior apartment building. We dreamed of buying the land adjacent to us where Brust funeral home is and building an apartment building for senior citizens. Julia Pokryfki (nee Suriano), an architect, checked out zoning and she says it is possible to build a three-story apartment building there. Lutheran Church Extension Fund has a division that invests in new construction and they say that the money is there and the debt can be serviced with rental income. The Brust family is waiting to hear an offer from us for the land.

We dreamed of calling a Deaconess to serve the people in the building and also to serve senior citizens at Trinity. We dreamed of having a full kitchen and dining area in the building where volunteer groups could cook occasional meals for the residents and where pastors could lead Bible studies. We dreamed of having a sky bridge connect directly to the Trinity Center so that people could walk across or be pushed across in wheelchairs for worship and fellowship events. We dreamed for some of our seniors who were able to be here physically but just lived too far away to make regular trips to Trinity.

The dream has not died. But I am lacking someone or someone's to pick up the torch and push it forward. I believe that this is a very possible thing to achieve by setting it up as a separate 501c3 with its own Board of Directors some of whom will be from Trinity, some from the residents and some from the community. This would be an amazing ministry but I do not have the time or the expertise to lead the charge. **So, I'm asking.** Will someone step forward and pick up this torch? Will someone commit himself or herself to making this dream a reality for our church and for our seniors who would get first refusal for an apartment? Think about it. Pray about it and see if God is calling you to help Trinity take this huge leap forward.

What an amazing Christmas gift to our senior citizens if someone would step forward to lead us in this endeavor.

Pastor Rogers



Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

Advent Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18

5:30 p.m. - Advent Dinners

7:00 p.m. - Worship Service

Hanging of the Greens will occur after the December 4th service

Christmas Eve December 24th at noon and 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day December 25th at 10 a.m.

New Year's Eve December 31 at 7 p.m.

The banner features the text "GIVING TUESDAY" at the top, followed by a dark blue box containing the hashtag "#GivingEveryTuesday". Below this, it says "Time, Talents, Resources" and "Trinity Lutheran Villa Park". At the bottom left, it states "Giving Tuesday: December 3, 2024" next to a red icon of a hand holding a heart. On the right, there is a circular photo showing people at an outdoor event with a red car and a green table.

Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is December 3, 2024. This year, our goal was to celebrate #GivingEveryTuesday, drawing attention to the impact of donating time, talents, and funds on a more regular basis. Each week focused on a different ministry supported by Trinity.

Creating a weekly generosity ritual gives each of us the opportunity to celebrate our love for Christ on a regular basis as we approach "Giving Season" and beyond. As Trinity continues to thrive, we can continue our good works in serving our community and bringing the word of Christ to those who need it.

December 3rd is the BIG Giving Tuesday push to support Trinity. You can donate via the button below, Trinity's Facebook Page or by writing a check and marking the envelope "Giving Tuesday."

Please continue pray for Trinity, as well as the missions we support as we head into this Giving Season.

Dorcas Guild Meeting

Tuesday, December 3 7:00 p.m. Trinity Center

Please bring a white elephant gift and an appetizer to pass!



Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 7 9:00 am - 11:00 am

\$10 and \$5 (under 12) - Pancakes, bacon, fruit, juice and coffee

Photos with Santa

Fun activities with the kids

Donate a new or gently used coat to Outreach House

Santa Paws 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

\$10 suggested donation

Proceeds benefit Trinity's Youth Ministry Events

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Start your Christmas season at Concordia University Chicago with the Lessons and Carols service on:

Saturday, December 7 (4 and 7 pm)

Sunday, December 8 (4 pm)

Pre-service music begins 20 minutes prior to the start times.

Parking and admission are free. Free will donation.

The service will also be live-streamed on

Sunday, Dec. 8 at 7 pm:

www.cuchicago.edu/events/streaming-video/



Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia plant, \$20.00 foiled, for the altar for Christmas please forward your request to the church office in an envelope marked "Christmas Poinsettia" with your name. Plants may be picked up after the 10:00 am service on Christmas Day. **Orders are due by Monday, December 10th.**



Not So Silent Night

Friday, December 13, 2024

6:00 PM

If you would like to perform in the talent portion of Not-So-Silent Night (Trinity's congregational Christmas party) please contact Mary Stahlke at 708-552-1271 or mary@trinityvp.com

Here are the important dates for this event:

Sunday, Dec. 1 Deadline to sign up to perform

Friday, Dec. 6 7 pm Dress rehearsal

Friday, Dec. 13 6 pm Not-So-Silent Night

[source of photo: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Christmas_Tree_and_Presents.jpg]

Save the Date

January 2 - 4 - High School Retreat

January TBD - Bingo

February 16 & April 27 - Dart Tournaments

February 21 - 23 - Winter Xtreme

Wednesdays, March 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9 - Lent Soup Suppers

July 19 - 23 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans

Saturday, September 27th, 2025 - 5th Annual Jim Van Ewyk Memorial Golf Outing & Fellowship Dinner

Worship Services

Saturdays 4:30 pm

Sundays 8 am & 10:30 am