

November 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?"*

**"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-2**

#### **Endurance After the Election**

I am writing this newsletter article on October 24, 2024. The presidential election is in 12 days. So, probably by the time you are reading this, the election will be over. This has been a tumultuous 18 months with more than the usual drama during a presidential election. We have never in our lifetimes seen a former president run again. We have never seen one of the nominees step down just 4 months before the election. We have never had a woman of color running for the office. We have never had candidates in their late 70's and early 80's running for the office. We, as Americans, have had to take in a great deal these last 18 months and process many points of view right after going through a pandemic and a global shutdown. Tumultuous is too small a word for what we have endured in the 2020's.

Endure is a good word to describe our lives. Some might think it is a negative word, but I don't think so. The word "endure" comes from a Latin word that means "to harden," as metal is hardened for battle. The Greek word means to "bear up against," like shields taking blows in battle. Like the whole book of Hebrews, this passage carries military overtones. Endurance is what the Christian life is. Christians have been hardened against evil by our baptismal waters. We are strengthened to withstand all adversity by the body and blood of Jesus. We are given the inside information by the Word of God so that no matter what we hear from news people or politicians, pastors or teachers, bosses or coworkers, we already know who is in charge and the direction in which we are going.

I can imagine that after the Presidential election, some will be gnashing their teeth in sack cloth and ashes, and some will be celebrating their victory, but the truth is the same. It always has been the same. The truth is in the Word of God and no leader great or small is able to change that. Maybe the new president will be amazing and the nation will prosper. Maybe the new president will be horrible and the nation will circle the drain. But no matter what, we endure. We have been hardened for just such battles and we do not depend on fleeting things

like world leaders and rising or falling governments. Our calling remains the same no matter what.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” President Harris? President Trump? Either way, our calling is to make disciples and we have been gifted and armored for that calling.

The National Youth Gathering the summer of 2025 has “Endure” as its theme and I have been taking the High School youth through the book of Hebrews as we prepare to attend the gathering. I encourage you to read Hebrews. It is not light reading and if you get too bogged down, focus on chapters 11 and 12. The author shows us some of the many people who have come before us and how God led them to accomplish His will even in difficult times. They all endured. I think Hebrews is a particularly helpful book for Christians of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. May God bless us as we continue to endure at Trinity.

## **Trinity Anniversary Dinner**

**Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>**

**6:00 pm**

**Founders Hall**

Come and celebrate another wonderful year in the life of Trinity Lutheran Church. Enjoy a great meal and fellowship with friends and family. If you have not purchased tickets, they will be available at the door for \$15 per person or \$30 per household.

## **WFG Potluck**

**Wednesday, November 20**

**11:00 a.m.**

**Founders Hall**

Come join the fun at the next WFG Potluck. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex.

## **Congregational Meeting**

**Sunday, November 17**

**11:45 a.m.**

**Trinity Center**

Please plan to attend the congregational meeting.

## **Thanksgiving Bake Sale**

**November 23-24**

**Trinity Center**

Dorcas Thanksgiving bake sale Fundraiser will be held Nov. 23-24 in the Trinity center. Take a break from holiday baking and support the Dorcas guild fundraiser.

## **Worship Services**

Saturdays 4:30 pm

Sundays 8 am & 10:30 am



## Thanksgiving Service

**Wednesday, November 23 at 7 pm.**

Please join us the evening before Thanksgiving for service.

## Giving Tree

Coming Soon! The Women of Dorcas will be installing their annual Giving Tree in the Narthex with tags you can grab to buy a gift for someone in need.

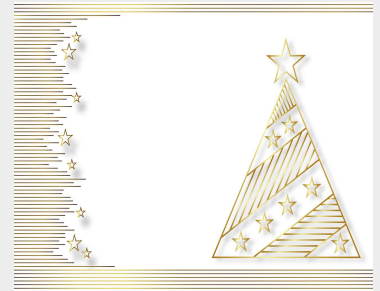
Toys will be donated to York Township.

Toys should be returned to the church unwrapped and can be any amount up to \$25. Thank you for taking a tag or two.

## Dorcas Guild Meeting

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

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



## 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.

## Breakfast with Santa

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

Proceeds from Breakfast with Santa will be split between the Gathering and Winter Xtreme in February 2025.

The youth are hosting the breakfast to raise funds for NYG and Winter Xtreme. Pastor Rogers is making pancakes and Santa Dave will be there for pictures. If you'd like to lend a hand: Set up on 12/6 or help on event day

**GIVING TUESDAY**

**#GivingEveryTuesday**

Time, Talents, Resources  
Trinity Lutheran Villa Park

**Giving Tuesday:  
December 3, 2024**



## Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is quickly approaching on December 3, 2024. Our past endeavors for end-of-year pleas have been largely successful (thanks to all of you!), and we look forward to working with the congregation to end 2024 on another successful note!

This year, our goal is to celebrate #GivingEveryTuesday, drawing attention to the impact of donating time, talents, and funds on a more regular basis. 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. Stay tuned as we approach this date for more details on how and why it is important to help Trinity meet its budget, and our end-of-year financial goals for 2024.

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

## Save the Date

Wednesday, November 27 @ 7 pm - Thanksgiving Worship

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18 @ 5:30 - Advent Dinners

Saturday, December 7 - Breakfast With Santa

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

## 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.

## 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](mailto: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

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