



THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

MARCH 2021

The Holy Trinity Herald is the official monthly publication of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FROM THE PASTOR: A more intimate Lent

Dear friends in Christ,

Our community perseveres. Our Sunday 10 a.m. drive-in worship continues. We are back inside the church Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. for brief in-person Lenten services. And some of our smaller groups have begun meeting again inside the church building.



But we are still a long way from resuming the worship life together that we used to enjoy. We can't plan yet for Easter—inside or out? So in this interim time we continue to explore different ways of being together. Here in Lent, I invite you into a more intimate experience of this season than we've had before. Our informal in-person Wednesday services will be shared live on Zoom (with the Zoom recording posted the next day), while most of the online service will be recorded from home—as we did on Ash Wednesday—except for the hymn that Carol and I will do together. The virtual service will be different in most aspects from the others, so even if you come Wednesdays or Sundays I encourage you to spend half an hour each week in virtual community. One of my mottos is: "You can't have too much worship!" (A personal best came years ago in Alabama during Holy Week when I attended five services in a single day.)

Let's make our online service a sacred time together! Create your own sanctuary space. Arrange for warm lighting. Have a cross in view and a candle ready. At the beginning of the service we'll light our candles and have a few moments of centering prayer as we prepare for confession. After an opening litany or chanted Kyrie we'll

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hear one of our members read the lesson. Then we'll share a brief reflection and the hymn. The prayers will be posted ahead of time on our web site so you can follow along. As you receive the blessing at the end of the service, make a sign of the cross as a remembrance of our baptism and a mark of the journey with Jesus to the cross into which we've been called during these 40 days. We are apart...but as we know well by now, we are also together in ways that transcend time and space. Join me this Lent in worship in all the ways God is making possible.

May Christ accompany you on the road,
Pastor Raabe



Baseball and the Time of our Life

It's almost Spring. And you know what that means: Spring training. In fact, by the time you read this the Brewers will already have played their first game. Players reported to camp on Ash Wednesday. The first game here is April 1, but no fooling: It's happening!



Baseball has always been part of the fabric of our family. One of my cherished memories as a child was playing catch with my father. I'd beg him incessantly to play. He taught me how to throw a baseball, a skill that has served me well in life. I soaked in my brother's Little League games, desperately wishing girls were allowed. I slept with my mitt under my pillow. I fell asleep to the dulcet tones of Vin Scully, the Dodgers' legendary announcer who had a miraculous gift for bringing statistics to life in three spellbinding dimensions. His words were like music: After Sandy Koufax's perfect game, I sent in for a floppy 45 rpm recording of Vinny announcing that landmark 9th inning and listened to it until it's every inflection had been fixed in the deepest recesses of my memory, or until the disc disintegrated—not sure which came first.

When I moved to Boston for grad school I halfheartedly rooted for the Red Sox, but when I got to Milwaukee and met Bill it was the Brewers all the way. How much do we love baseball? Well, we spent both our honeymoon AND our 30th anniversary vacation at the Brewers' spring training camp, plus a few more trips there in between with our kids. (Did we get married in March just so we could do this? Hmmm....never thought of that before.)

Remember last year as we were entering the pandemic and trying to grasp at straws of normalcy? For me, of all the rhythms of life it was baseball that gave me the most hope. Even though spring training became "summer camp" and the season didn't officially begin until late July, MLB still managed to play 60 games. I treasured each one, knowing that it might well be the season's last. Watching every game felt like a sacred obligation. Will there be an outbreak on the Brewers squad? On others, cancelling games? Incredibly the season went on. Playoffs led to the World Series (the Dodgers were long forgotten; I was rooting for Tampa Bay). Baseball managed to happen during the pandemic, and it was magnificent.

Why am I writing about this? Because of time. The time of baseball is the same as that of human life on earth. Each game begins at an appointed time. But its end is unknown. Nine dull innings, or 26 record-setting innings? The length depends on many factors. How many pitches in each inning? How many walks, how many foul balls, neither of which move the game forward? Enough pitches by the third inning to send the starter packing, or a masterly demonstration of brevity that will stand forever in the record books (Charley "Red" Barrett in 1944, playing for the Boston Braves, who shut out the Cincinnati Reds 2-0 in the mind-boggling brevity of 58 pitches)? Or with the onset of dangerous weather, is the game cut short just as it's gathering steam?

In this way, baseball invites us to live fully in the present moment. Our engagement with life, or with this game, cannot be sapped by anxieties over the future. Imagine if you got tied up in knots in the fourth inning with worry over whether the game would be 9 or 15 innings.

I think we need this mindset to cope more effectively with the challenges we are facing in church and in life... How long is the span of our life? Seventy years, or perhaps eighty (Psalm 90)? Or cut short by calamity? We might say, "only God knows," but I wonder even about that. Maybe there are times that even God is surprised. Did God anticipate so many deaths in progress-proud America from Covid-19? How much longer will the pandemic go on? Some say the virus will always be with us, that it will become endemic. Even though we are hopefully in the pandemic's 7th or 8th inning, you could still tie yourself up in knots over what might be coming. Don't go there. All you can do is make the best choices at any given time using all the wisdom and creativity God has given you.

This is why, in baseball and in life, "it's never over 'till it's over." How life-giving it is to not know when the end will come. This allows us to cherish every day with the endless possibilities it brings. Let's grab hold of that and hang on for dear life—for new life. And...play ball!

Peace,
Pastor Raabe



Second Harvest Time Change to 3:30 p.m.

Good news: The drive-through distribution at Marshall High School can continue indefinitely, with one big change now that school is back in session: Principal Eugene Syvrud has requested a later start time to avoid conflict with student traffic. Beginning on March 26 and every fourth Friday thereafter, **distribution will begin at 3:30 p.m.**

Recipients, please do not arrive to get in line before 2:30 p.m. Early arrivals will be asked to park in rows parallel to the outer edge of the lot instead of the circular drive. Volunteers are asked to come at 2:15-2:30 p.m.



Thanks to all involved for your cooperation so that we can continue this important ministry!



Easter Egg Hunt

An **Easter egg hunt** is being planned for Easter Sunday, April 4th after the 10:00 drive in service! All kids under 18 can participate. More information coming soon!

We need plastic eggs and pre-wrapped candy for the Easter Egg hunt! The WELCA ladies will stuff eggs on March 9, so if you can help, please drop off supplies at church by March 8. THANK YOU!

Lenten Activity Eggs – Happening Now!

This is a fun way to celebrate and learn about Lent, Holy Week & Easter as a family! You may pick up a carton of Lenten Activity Eggs in the bin outside the church; be sure to grab an instruction sheet too! They are meant to be used one carton per family. For each major event during Lent, there will be an egg to open, starting with Ash Wednesday and ending with Easter Sunday. The egg will contain an item and you will use the instructions to read a quick explanation of the contents and reference scripture pertaining to the contents. Let each egg's contents be a surprise to open – no peeking! Contact Susy Pawl if you have questions or need assistance getting a carton of “eggs” at susypsuffles@gmail.com or text (608) 345-5832. Please take a couple photos of opening the eggs and share with Pastor Raabe at (614) 214-2639 so we know you're enjoying them.

Spring Sunday School Session - in the works!

We are currently planning to begin indoor Sunday school the Sunday after Easter, April 11th at 10:00 during the outdoor/drive in service. We are so excited to reconnect with the kids as a group inside and are planning fun activities for all ages. More information coming soon.

Also – we need teachers! If you are inspired to be part of our program in whatever way you're able, even on a rotating basis, please send a note to Susy.

Regathering on Wednesdays: Reminders and Protocols

The Holy Trinity Council has voted to begin holding indoor worship again on Wednesday nights, with the understanding that if the virus worsens in our area we may have to move this service fully online. Please make note of the following expectations. If you have any virus symptoms, we kindly ask that you stay home.

Face coverings will be mandatory. Please make sure they are tight-fitting and worn over the nose.

Hand sanitizer stations will be placed throughout the narthex and sanctuary.

Welcome Desk: We ask that you sign in as you arrive, as you pick up your communion.

Seating: The ushers will direct you toward a seating area. Family groups should be well spaced from each other.

During worship: No singing or praying aloud. The organ and piano will serve as the “singing” voice of the congregation. Music for meditation will be provided and words to the hymn will be projected.

Cleaning and sanitizing: A sanitizing crew will clean the sanctuary thoroughly before and after each service. This will include thorough sanitizing of all surfaces and bathrooms.

Fresh air: As the weather warms, doors will be kept open as much as temperatures allow for good ventilation. Our circulating system pulls air in from outside.

Fellowship: It will be hard, but please, no visiting with others until you are outside after the service.

Planned Giving to Holy Trinity

One way to ensure a bright future for our church is to make a planned gift that names Holy Trinity in your will. A bequest is a meaningful way to support the church’s ministry without affecting your cash flow during your lifetime. Your attorney can include it when you prepare or revise your will or you can add a codicil at any time.

Gifts that do not restrict the use, or **unrestricted gifts**, allow Holy Trinity to use these resources where they are most needed. Of course we are also grateful for gifts that are designated for a specific purpose that advances our mission, **restricted gifts**, such as support to a specific initiative or program. Or you could make a gift to the church’s Endowment Fund. At a time when secular nonprofits are realizing the need to build their endowments, churches are still asking for operating support only. An endowment gift helps move us into a more sustainable position.

You may also choose to designate a portion of the proceeds of your IRA to Holy Trinity each year. We have been very grateful to members who have chosen this option as a way to make a sizable annual gift.

Another way to help Holy Trinity is to name the church as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy. This could convey assets in larger amounts without disrupting your current cash flow. Please contact Endowment Investment Committee Chair Jack Erb with any questions at jackaerb@gmail.com or 608-215-5098, or speak with Pastor Raabe.

Fasting in Lent

Lutherans are known for “taking on” things in Lent, in the form of new ways to love and serve our neighbor, rather than “fasting from” habitual foods or behaviors. But how about this new twist on the practice of fasting: Instead of denying yourself something you normally enjoy—chocolate, for instance—and then overdoing it once Lent is over, take the money you would have spent on your habit during that time and use it to help others lead better lives. Here are a few ideas:

- The acclaimed social service organization Lutheran World Relief has many possibilities for giving. Take the “2021 Hunger Challenge” at lwr.org and sponsor a nourishing paste, similar to peanut butter, that helps treat severe malnutrition in young children in South Sudan. Each gift also helps provide antibiotics and deworming medications so their small bodies can fight infections.
- Support green businesses at <https://www.greenamerica.org/green-businesses-products-services>. From the drop-down menu, select Fair/Alternative Trade options such as Ten Thousand Villages or Equal Exchange; or choose minority-owned businesses; or scroll through a dazzling array of other options. (What a great alternative to shopping on Amazon!) Speaking of Equal Exchange, Pastor Raabe had some individually wrapped dark chocolates ready to give you at the drive-in service on Valentine’s Day. Come up any Sunday and claim your two pieces. They need to be eaten. 😊



Launch your own newsletter on green living and use the money you saved to buy start-up supplies.



Holy TeaTime with Pastor Raabe, Sundays at 4 p.m. starting February 28

Whenever I hit the afternoon lull and find my energy flagging, one word comes to mind: “Tea!”

Coffee is for morning, to get the day going. But tea is for the long haul—tea, with its great variety of flavors and mysterious restorative properties, always gives me the lift that I need. “Ahhh,” I sigh when I finally have my steaming cup in front of me. “Everything goes better with tea.”

As we wait for that time when we can all gather again in person to enjoy each other’s company in person, how about sharing weekly afternoon tea together? I invite you to join me on Zoom for “Holy TeaTime” every Sunday at 4 p.m. starting February 28. Many of you are fluent in Zoom by now; if you’re not, all you need is an electronic device. Point your web browser to zoom.us and download this free, safe program. Then all you have to do is simply click on the link that will be posted to our web site all during Lent. It will be the same link every week. Make sure your audio and video are on so we can see and hear you. Then you’re good to go! And don’t forget to use the fun “chat” function.

What will we do during Holy TeaTime? Just talk. Bring in whatever is on your mind, any question, comment, or topic, as long as it is generally directed to “the mutual conversation and consolation of the brethren,” in Martin Luther’s lovely phrase. And of course we will have tea together English style, if possible. (After all, the best TV shows these days seem to be British.) That means a pot, and not a bag. And don’t forget the crumpets.



Luther also said this:

Everything is less burdensome if you have a brother with you; for then the promise applies (Matt. 18:20): “Where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I in the midst of them.” Therefore solitude should be shunned and the companionship of familiar people sought, especially in spiritual perils.

Let’s find each other Sundays at 4 p.m. as we make our way together through Lent.

Peace be with you,
Pastor Raabe



Council Highlights, February 9

The Council voted to re-open the church for Wednesday night worship and for the Boy Scout, Cub Scout, and WELCA meetings. Other small groups may meet as well with approval from the Council. Cleaning policies must be posted around the church to ensure safety procedures are followed.

New officers were elected. Congratulations to President Gary Waalkens, Vice-President Dan Timpel, and Secretary Carol Woldt.

A committee was appointed to work on the bylaws of our Constitution, consisting of Cheri Harwood, Lynn Weyer and Pastor Raabe.

The Council unanimously approved the nomination of Susy Pawl as Sunday School Superintendent.

The Council continues to meet twice a month.

YOUR 2021-2022 CHURCH COUNCIL

Gary Waalkens, President	608-655-4989	gwaalkkens1952@yahoo.com
Dan Timpel, Vice-President	608-575-2211	dktempel@gmail.com
Carol Woldt, Secretary	608-712-8947	bearcollector20@yahoo.com
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Wendy Franke	920-350-2838	frankew1115@gmail.com
Pastor Nancy Raabe	614-214-2639	pastor@holyltrinity-marshall.com

We are still in need of a Council youth representative. All confirmed members up to age 30 are eligible. Please contact Pastor Raabe if you would like to be the voice for youth in our church!

CHURCH NEWS

The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) will meet on March 9 at 1 p.m. in the fellowship hall for dessert and coffee. All required safety procedures will be observed.

Holy Trinity Book Study: The group is reading Brené Brown's *Braving the Wilderness* and meeting on Zoom every other Monday evening starting February 22. Two more copies are available; let Pastor Raabe know if you'd like to join.

Bible Study on 1 Corinthians: This is a group that works through a Facebook page associated with our church, and which also meets occasionally on Zoom. Contact Pastor Raabe if you'd like to join.

Second Harvest Mobile Food Bank: The drive-up distribution date this month is **March 26** starting at the new time of 3:30 p.m. Volunteers, please come at around 2:30 p.m.

Quilts for LWR Please continue to provide new fabric that can be cut into squares for making quilts. It's possible, also, for someone to take the next step and cut 11-inch squares of fabric and donate them. Our quilters are thankful for all who have supported Holy Trinity's mission to make quilts that are sent around the world by Lutheran World Relief.

Offering Envelopes If you are giving electronically and no longer wish to receive weekly offering envelopes, please e-mail htcstaff@holyltrinity-marshall.com and let us know that; otherwise you will continue to receive them. Thank you.

Electronic newsletter To save paper, you may prefer to receive this newsletter electronically if you do not already. Just e-mail htcstaff@holyltrinity-marshall.com and let us know that.

Our web site, holyltrinitymarshall.com, is regularly updated with all the latest news and information that you might need. And share the link to our online services with family and friends!

To reach Pastor Raabe, please call or text at 614-214-2639;
call her home phone at 608-839-0322;
or call and leave a message at church at 608-655-4246.

Our thanks and gratitude to those who continue to give so much for the sake of this body of Christ such as our organist and secretary, Sunday ushers and worship leaders, hard-working Second Harvest Food Bank volunteers, those who have been readers for our online and parking lot services, dedicated Council members who have been meeting twice monthly since last April, those so willingly donating time and materials to maintain the church, and those who keep our grounds looking so well-manicured and our snow plowed.

thank you



Contact the church office at 608-655-4246 or htcstaff@holytrinity-marshall.com

--If your name is spelled incorrectly, your address has changed (post office charges church when things are sent to an old address), you no longer wish to receive the church newsletter, or you wish to have the newsletter e-mailed to you

--Especially to let us know if a member of your family is admitted to the hospital or a nursing home or will be needing surgery

--A baby arrives in your family

--A death occurs in your family

--You know of someone to be added to the prayer list

--A member of your family is deployed

COMMUNITY NEWS

Marshall-Waterloo Food Pantry The Marshall/Waterloo Food Pantry is located in the lower level at 117 E. Madison Street (Hwy. 19) in Waterloo. (Please use the door in the alley.) People may visit the food pantry once each month. Hours are Wednesdays from noon-1:00PM and again Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 PM. Saturday hours are from 9:00-10:00 AM. If you or someone you know needs help, please make use of this community ministry.

FoodShare Helpline 877-366-3635

Wisconsin Home Energy Plus Program at 1-866-432-8947 or 608-267-8601