

HOLY TRINITY TIMES

NOVEMBER 2018

The Holy Trinity Times is the official monthly publication of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

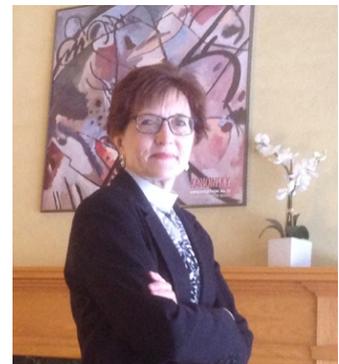
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PASTOR'S COLUMN:

Making Abundance a Reality: The Gift of Giving

The program theme for this year at Holy Trinity is "Living in God's Abundance." I have the impression that the mindset here for many years has been one of scarcity, with the congregation living in fear of never having enough. Maybe that was understandable. The new building required Holy Trinity to shoulder a massive mortgage, and it took all you could do to begin making those payments regularly. (Bravo for that, by the way!)



But stop and think: What if God lived in an attitude of scarcity? What if, in creating the world, God decided to skip animals because they would cost him too much? That God was afraid he might not get to humans if he spent so much cosmic capital on animals?

God did not skimp in creating the universe, and God does not skimp when it comes to all the blessings we receive daily. Everything we have, everything we are, comes from God. There is not one single thing you could come up with that God did not give you. Your new car? God gave you the ability to earn money to be able to buy it. The A on your last math test? God gave you the brains to do math and the gift of knowing how to study. "But I earned it," you might say. "I worked hard." No, God made it all possible.

God does all this because he loves us more than we can ever know. So how can we *not* return God's gifts to God in even greater measure?

This is where you come in. To the casual observer it looks as if we're doing great here at Holy Trinity. We have a warm, worshipful sanctuary and spacious building in which to serve and praise God. We have people of all ages who know Jesus Christ and whose hearts are filled with the spirit of service and the mercy, love and forgiveness that God pours into their hearts every day. When newcomers walk in our doors, they feel welcomed and valued.

But the hard truth is that we are struggling because of a systematic shortfall in giving. Our most recent ELCA Congregation Trend Report (now posted on the bulletin board) reveals a meager per capita giving—the average giving by each member—that has got to be one of the lowest in the synod, although recent reports are compromised because they say we have a lot more members than we actually do. Still, the number is about one-third of what it should be.

The shortfall in giving does more than make it difficult for us to keep up with our bills. It also holds us hostage to our existing situation. We can't move forward as God is calling us to do. In particular we need salaries for a youth director and a custodian. These can't come through fundraising. It's truly amazing what all those involved in our special-event fundraisers are able to accomplish. But all that income goes to pay our bills, which *should* be covered by regular giving, instead of creating new initiatives here at home or making it possible for us to fund mission projects elsewhere.

We need help. We need your help.

I respectfully challenge you to increase your giving. Not by a lot, but just a little. If you give \$10 per week, make it \$15. If you give \$100, make it \$120. If you don't give at all, you are warmly invited to begin your life in Christ as a contributing member of Holy Trinity with whatever amount you can share. If everyone were to do this, imagine the mountains we could climb as we go about the world spreading the good news of salvation by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ!

Perhaps because I'm fascinated with statistics, I have studied the ELCA's Congregation Trend Reports for years. One thing I've noticed is that congregations that are the poorest almost always have the highest rate of giving per capita. On November 11 we will hear the story in Mark's Gospel about the widow with the two copper coins. Those few verses will give us a lot to think about. Let's do that thinking together.

Yours in the power of hope,
Pastor Raabe



All God's Creatures Have a Place in the Choir!

The **Blessing of the Animals** will take place on Saturday, November 3 at 2:30 p.m. (indoors if needed). Bring your pets so they may be blessed as God's beautiful creations who bring love and joy to our lives. Each will receive a special gift. "God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good." (Genesis 1:25)



Seasonal Choir

Because the Holy Trinity Choir opted to take a break from weekly rehearsals this fall, we are assembling a “pick-up” choir specifically to sing for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We have some beautiful and accessible music ready for you. Everyone is welcome to come and sing, members, friends, visitors—even if you think you can’t hold a tune. All noise is joyful to God!

Make a
Joyful noise
Unto The
Lord!

You may attend one or both rehearsals for each occasion: **Sunday evenings, Nov. 11 and/or 18 from 6-7:30 p.m.**, for Thanksgiving Eve (Wednesday, Nov 21 at 6:30 p.m.), and **Sunday evenings, Dec. 9 and/or 16 from 6 -7:30 p.m.**, for Christmas Eve (services at 3:30 and 7:30, we sing at one or both). “The one who sings, prays twice.” (St. Augustine)

Christmas Poinsettias: It’s that time of year



Help us build a beautiful poinsettia garden for Christmas! You may pre-order poinsettias now through Sunday, December 2. They are \$15 each and will come from America’s Best in Cottage Grove in red, white or pink, with foil covers in red, green or gold. Order forms are on the Welcome Desk. You may designate each plant to be in honor or memory of a loved one.



Coming Up at Holy Trinity

November is Holy Trinity’s month to host the Marshall-Waterloo Food Pantry. Volunteers are needed for Saturday mornings from 9-10 AM and Wednesday evenings from 7-8 PM. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Volunteers should arrive 10 minutes prior to pantry opening. Thanks for helping out!

Women of the Bible beginner study group continues every Tuesday in November at 6:15 pm at the parsonage (224 Howard St). Just stop in and join the group and its discussions.

Second Harvest Appreciation on November 11: As anyone knows who has witnessed a Second Harvest Mobile Food Bank giveaway at Holy Trinity on the last Friday of every month, each of our volunteers plays a vital part in this life-giving ministry. Lori Peppard of Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin will be with us at our 9 a.m. on November 11 to thank all of our volunteers and host a special reception between services. Please be present that day to show your appreciation as well.

Packer Sunday is November 4. You may wear Packer gear to church if you like (or whatever your team of choice may be). We'll have themed treats between services.

Sunday, November 18, is Pie Day. Lend a festive touch to the season: Bring a pie, take a pie, or both! We will sample other donated pies during our fellowship time between services. Have your labelled pies in the kitchen before the 9 a.m. service, or you may bring them ahead of time and store them in the refrigerator. A freewill offering will be received.

Our **Sunday School Christmas program dates** are December 9 at 10:30 a.m. for pre-K through 1st grade, and December 16 at 10:30 a.m. for 2nd-6th grades.

Property Committee meets Monday, November 5 at 7:00 pm.

The Church Council meets following the late service on the 2nd Sunday of the month. November's meeting is Sunday, November 11 at 11:30. All Holy Trinity members are invited to attend any meeting. Please contact Council President Elesa Kinder with questions you'd like the Council to address by the Monday prior to the meeting.

The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) meet the second Tuesday of every month. The November gathering is set for **Tuesday, November 13** at 1:00 pm. Tiffany Chadwick is the hostess. All women of Holy Trinity are invited to attend.

Quilting Day is Saturday, November 17 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. All are welcome to come join in the fun and fellowship of this ministry.

"Engaging the Texts" is a monthly scripture study that delves into at the readings for the coming month to discern patterns and connections. We will meet at the parsonage, 224 Howard St., on Monday, November 5 and Monday, December 3, both from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Quilt Tying will be happening on Tuesday, November 20 at 1:00 pm.

AA meetings are held every Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm.

The November Second Harvest Food Bank will be **Friday, November 30** from 2-5 pm. This ministry provides much-needed food to area families and is open and available to all people. Volunteers are always needed for the following, so come help out and bring a friend:

- 12:30 pm *Unload the Second Harvest truck; all food is moved by hand jack (we are especially in need of someone to help with this)*
- 1:30 pm *Set up food for distribution*
- 2:00-5:00 pm *Distribute food*
- 5:00 pm *Break down boxes, move pallets, and vacuum carpets*

Registration for recipients begins at noon. In these colder months there is seating in the narthex between 12 and 2 p.m.

You can check out church events and schedules on the up-to-date calendar on our website at www.holytrinitymarshall.com. Share comments or suggestions for the website with Kathy Schluter or Pastor Raabe.



The Chili Cook-Off & Silent Auction was a huge success, raising approximately \$2,500. Congratulations to the chili winners: Aaron Sale (unique), Darlene Raisbeck (spicy), and Laurine Martin (traditional). Thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make this happen (committee planners, volunteer helpers, confirmants, those who donated food and silent auction items, as well as everyone who attended and purchased food and bid on the silent auction items). Holy Trinity is blessed to have all of your helping hands!

A special shout out to the team of Barb Anderson, Linda Baldrige, Jill Baneck, Kim Erb, and Elesa Kinder. Job well done.

Altar Flowers: Having fresh flowers on the altar is a welcome reminder of the beauty of God's creation in the midst of our worship. Please sign up on the Flower Chart in the narthex to offer flowers for a specific week. You may dedicate the arrangements in honor or memory of someone, which will be acknowledged in the bulletin.

The Bounty of Blessings envelope fundraiser ends November 26. Let's clear the board this month! Take an envelope from the bulletin board, put that amount of money inside, fill out the back of the envelope (for contribution statement purposes), and return it to the church. Even the lower-numbered envelopes will add up quickly! The word "bounty" comes from the Latin "bonus," meaning "good." If all of the envelopes are taken, what a fun way to raise \$5,000 toward our financial obligations. Thank you!



Holy Trinity online: Visit our web site at www.holytrinitymarshall.com, and follow us on Facebook to stay abreast of up-to-the-minute church news. If you're new to Facebook, type **HolyTrinityLutheranChurchWI** into the search bar, and click "Like" when our page pops up. Send news and photos to the office for posting. You can also give us a rating. 😊

Pew pads: We need your contact information! The purpose of the pew pads is not only to take note of attendance, but also to collect contact information. Please sign each week for all family members (and if you've given us your contact information there already, once is enough.) We especially need cellphone numbers and email addresses, for church use only.

Our **Prayer Team** consists of many dedicated "prayer warriors." Please let us know if you would like to add yourself or someone else to that list of those prayed for, or if you would like to become a Holy Trinity prayer warrior yourself. Prayer requests may also be put in the box in the narthex. Please allow us to support you or your loved ones in this way.

Our Fellowship Hall is available for renting. If you'd like to rent the hall, call the church at 655-4246 or email htcstaff@holyltrinity-marshall.com with date and time you want to rent the hall.

Women of Holy Trinity: Our Bible Study Team invites you to a study of the women of the Bible on Tuesday evenings from 6:15-7:15, through December 11, at the parsonage at 224 Howard St. The study will be based on the book *Women of the Bible*. It is a beginners' Bible Study. If you are interested, just stop in and join us. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to anyone on the team: Kim Erb @ kimmarieerb@gmail.com; Cheri Harwood @ mac9harw@gmail.com; or Laurine Martin @ LMARTIN@amfam.com

To sew quilt tops at home, contact Linda Baldrige @ 655-4178/Laurie Weisensel @ 235-5759.

Sunday Worship helpers (greeters, ushers, lectors, communion assistants) are also needed. There's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, and one for snacks and coffee-making for each service. Confirming parents, please let Pastor Raabe know if you did not receive the electronic sign-ups for worship helpers through the end of the year.

YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

Elesa Kinder, President	608-333-2238, elesa.kinder@gmail.com
Barb Anderson, Vice President	608-655-8090, pmohrmann3031@charter.net
Laurine Martin	608-655-4069, lmartin@amfam.com
Kayla German	608-655-4422, kaylgerm@marshallschools.org
John Baneck	608-512-5947, baneckj@ayresassociates.com
George Socha	608-770-1745, gsochasr@gmail.com
Chad Chadwick	608-395-7161, chadchadwickcc@gmail.com
Susy Pawl	608-655-3437, susyasnuffles@gmail.com

Council meetings take place at 11:30 a.m. on the second Sunday of each month. All are welcome to attend. If you have concerns you would like the Council to address, please bring those to the attention of Elesa Kinder by the Monday prior to the scheduled meeting date.

Council Highlights – October 21, 2018

The balance in the petty cash fund at the end of September was \$1,751.28. Total YTD giving is \$85,010, with \$105,302 needed by the year. The checking account was \$1,184 in the red at the end of September. The mortgage currently stands at \$345,963; the starting balance this year was \$366,611; we continue to make our monthly payments of \$3,485.

Katrina Millner has succeeded Darlene Raisbeck as Financial Secretary. Many thanks to Darlene for her faithful service this year, and for Katrina's willingness to take this on.

Jack Erb was present to represent the Endowment Investment Committee. He reported that Ryan Russell at Edward Jones, who is holding \$5,000 for us, said he needs another \$5,000 in order to be able to invest it mutual funds on our behalf.

It was decided that three Christmas Eve services are too many and that two should be held, at 3:30 and 7:30 p.m.

thank you

Our thanks and gratitude to those who gave so much of their energy and time in October for the sake of this body of Christ! These include our secretary Kathy Schluter, our organists, Altar Guild members, Sunday School teachers and helpers, as well as those serving on Council or other leadership teams, Women of the ELCA, Second Harvest Food Bank leaders and volunteers. Thanks also to those who took the quilts to the train, participated in the Trunk 'n Treat event, prepared the newsletter for mailing, ordered supplies and cleaned the church, watered the plants, kept track of church finances, counted money, took photographs, brewed coffee and provided snacks, baked bread for communion, provided assistance at worship such as ushering, reading, or helping with communion, put information in the Courier, did maintenance work around the church and parsonage, mowed lawns and the labyrinth, handled fellowship hall rentals, took out trash, and who assisted in any other way. Your dedication to your church home is appreciated so very much!



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

--To schedule weddings, baptisms, or other events

--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
- You know someone who is a shut-in and would like a visit from the pastor
- 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
- You need a ride to worship or a church event

Deadlines: Bulletin, **9 a.m. Tuesdays**; Newsletter, **the 20th of each month**. We must have your information by these dates and times or it will not be included.

Pastoral Care

Please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Raabe for any pastoral need, particularly if you are ill or must go into the hospital. Also, call the office if you would like to receive a visit with Holy Communion in your home or apartment.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Attention all Thrivent members: You are now required to register for Thrivent Choice annually. If you are a Thrivent customer, Thrivent Choice Dollars have been accumulating throughout the year. Please direct Choice Dollars several times during the year to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church by simply following these steps:

1. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice
2. Click on "Choice Dollars" and log in
3. Search for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Marshall
4. Click on "Direct Now" or
5. Call the Thrivent Member Center at 800-847-4836
When prompted say "Thrivent Choice", then say "Choice Dollars," and a representative will process your request.



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. Todd Schultz is the new director.

Community Senior Food Program

This lunch program is every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. at the Marshall Library and is for those 60 years and older and is free, or a small donation may be given by those who are able. To order your meal, you must call 608-837-4611, ext. 113, no later than noon the Monday before.

The Salvation Army of Dane County's bell-ringing campaign runs from November 9 through December 24. There are many shifts and locations available. By ringing a bell for just 2 hours you can raise over \$90 to help house the homeless, feed the hungry, and provide mentoring and education to at-risk children. A great way for individuals or families to volunteer together. Please go to ringbellsdane.org to sign up or call 250-2235 for more information.

RSVP's Vets Helping Vets Program

If you can spare a few hours to drive veterans to medical appointments, contact Tom Poppe at (608) 238-7901 or via e-mail at tpoppe@rsvpdane.org.

FoodShare Helpline 877-366-3635

Many individuals and families are struggling to make ends meet. FoodShare Wisconsin may be able to see your food budget stretch further. This Program is for anyone with low or no income. It includes working people or those receiving Social Security, SSWI, SSDI, or Unemployment. The FoodShare Program's income guidelines are:

1 Household member	\$1,862 maximum gross monthly income
2 Household members	\$2,522 maximum gross monthly income
3 Household members	\$3,182 maximum gross monthly income
4 Household members	\$3,842 maximum gross monthly income

Call the FoodShare Helpline today to complete a confidential pre-screening and make an appointment for free application assistance.

Cold weather season is coming. Do you need help paying your energy bill? The Wisconsin Home Energy Plus Program may be able to help with winter heating bills. **Find out if you qualify by calling Wisconsin Home Energy Plus Program at 1-866-432-8947 OR in Dane County call Madison phone 267-8601.**



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