



THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

JANUARY 2025

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

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor Lisa Nelson

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Pastor office hours: Tu, 11:00am-2:00pm, Wed, 5:15pm-6:15pm

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Office manager: Need to fill secretary position

Hours: ?

FROM PASTOR LISA

Connecting with nature is a spiritual practice that we do without even knowing it. God created this world, and God became a physical human being in Jesus. So when we connect with God's creation, we are connecting with God. It doesn't matter if you're looking out a window, watering indoor plants, or enjoying the great outdoors. When you do any of this, remember that God is connecting with you through this creation.

What's your favorite season? For my husband, it's fall. The cooler temperatures, the changing leaves, the smell of fall in the air. For me, it's summer. I love being in the garden, digging in the earth, watching things grow, and puttering around the yard. Winter is a long season in this part of the world. I know some of you enjoy winter sports and for your sake, I hope we have snow. For some of us, the cold and dark can be challenging. What I find most challenging is the lack of color. When the skies are overcast and the snow gets dirty, everything looks gray.

Last winter, I started looking for that single splash of color amidst the gray. The red of a cardinal or even the stoplight. The lone evergreen, growing across the street. This year I spray painted some bicycle wheels red, blue, and yellow and hung them on the back fence. So at least I can look outside and see some color.

I also appreciate the dark tree limbs silhouetted against the evening sky and the beauty of a fresh snowfall or hoarfrost. Sometimes, we have to train ourselves to see beauty in this world. And sometimes we have to train ourselves to see beauty in others...or even ourselves.

None of us is perfect, and it's so easy to imagine that others are upsetting us on purpose. But most often, whatever someone does that bothers you, they do out of their own insecurity. Isn't that true about ourselves? That our challenging behavior, and we all have some, comes from insecurity?

So instead of reacting to someone's insecurity, try to offer them understanding. Train yourself to respond with empathy, the understanding of the feelings of

another, and compassion, feeling for someone who is experiencing difficulty.

The Dalai Lama said in his book, *The Art of Happiness*, "If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion." This winter we can practice compassion, as well as seeing the beauty in this world, in each other, and in ourselves.

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT – *submitted by Gary Waalkens*

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year.

Our annual meeting will be on January 26 after service. Please plan on attending we need a quorum or 25 people in order to have the meeting.

I will be doing a first communion class in March. It is a four-week class so I will have the service for the students on the first Sunday in April. If you have a child or children in the fifth grade this year let me know if you want them to attend this class. I need to know by February 15 so I can order enough materials for the class. I usually have the classes on Wednesday evenings from 5pm to 6pm. If that doesn't work for you let me know what day and time would. I am flexible.

We need more ushers and readers. I would like to have four teams per month. The second and third Sundays are filled we need a team for the first and fourth and occasionally the fifth Sunday. Please consider forming a team to help us usher and read on Sundays.

I really enjoyed the program put on by the Sunday School. Once again Susy and her staff and the children did a great job.

The confirmation class put on a fantastic show. Kudos to Kathy Deneen and the young people and the members of the congregation who helped with this spectacular event.

As always keep Holy Trinity and its people in your prayers. God bless you all.

DECEMBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS *submitted by Carolyn Madaus*

The meeting was called to order. All members were present.

President's Report

- Everyone needs to help with upkeep of the church.

Larry and Gary both work to take care of heat, sound, lights, salt the sidewalks before service. There should be a checklist for ushers, who should come around 7:45am to handle pre-service duties. Gary will make up the duties of the usher.

Treasurer's Report

-The November 2024 Financial Report was reviewed and approved.

Pastors Report

- The children have appreciated lighting the advent candles. The Children's Christmas program is during worship on Dec 15 and the Confirmation Christmas program is during worship on Wednesday Dec 18. I plan to attend the Children's program rehearsal on Dec 14 to get to know the kids, and hopefully parents, better. Christmas Eve worship is at 7 pm. There are no Wednesday worship services on Dec 25 and Jan 1.

Old Business

2025 Budget was reviewed and accepted.

One nomination to date for church council: Matt Stensven. We still need other candidates. Pastor may reach out to a student.

The parking lot lighting is still being worked on.

New Business

We have a church secretary candidate to try for December. Gary asked Kathy to help the secretary. She can call Kathy anytime. Gary asked if Kathy will do the annual report.

1st communion course will be in March for 4 weeks and the service will be in April. Should be put in newsletter.

Larry Legro has opening prayer in January.

The meeting ended with prayer.

Next meeting is at 6:00PM on Tuesday, January 14th, 2025

YOUR 2024-2025 CHURCH COUNCIL

Gary Waalkens, President*	608-655-4989	gwaalkkens1952@yahoo.com
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Owen Raisbeck, Treasurer:	608-225-3149	owenraisbeck@yahoo.com
Laurine Martin, Financial Secretary:	608-712-4069	laurinemartinbk1010@gmail.com

Larry Legro VP Council 12-19-24

Even though I resigned from the property committee 7-31-24 I am still doing some property things such as shampooing spills on our carpets using my own shampooer and soaps.

I implemented a small thermostatically controlled heater (which I own) under the left kitchen sink to keep the pipes from freezing. This heater needs to use the outlet for the garbage disposal located underneath that sink. Thus, the disposal is not active and the switch on the wall must be left on to power the heater. We do not want a frozen and possibly burst water pipe under that area. LED light bulbs are not very compatible with outdoor fixtures so I have been replacing them as needed for door lighting in the dark. Please keep all double hallway doors closed during heating season to save on the furnaces working overtime. FYI: the sanctuary has two furnaces, the narthex, library, offices and back rooms are heated by one furnace, and the kitchen and fellowship hall are heated by two furnaces.

Holly has gone on to a full time job in Madison. The January Council meeting will be my last as a council member for now, but I am charged with being chair of the finance committee so I will need

end of December account statements from all those who have any kind of account for the church. Audits are also required as detailed in our Church Constitution and the finance committee (so far there are no volunteers to assist) and the committee will need to see the end of the year bank statements of all who receive them. I suspect these will be available within the first week of January. Object: to track the net worth of Holy Trinity and transparency of the funds at the end of this 2024 fiscal year.

FIRST COMMUNION A 1st communion class will start in March and will last for 4 weeks. The 1st communion will be in April. If you have someone in 5th grade or above who you would like to take this class, contact the office or Gary Waalkkens.

CONFIRMATION: EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY FROM 6 TO 7 P.M. (see calendar)

EVERY WEDNESDAY COMMUNION WORSHIP IS AT 6:30 PM UNLESS MARSHALL SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED OR THE TEMPERATURE IS 20 BELOW OR MORE.

EVENT PLANNING The event planning committee will be resuming on Wednesday, January 8th at 6:30p.m.

NOVEMBER FINANCIALS

<i>Income received in November</i>	<i>\$ 5,070.21</i>
<i>Obligations paid in November</i>	<i>6,346.65</i>
<i>Deficit for November</i>	<i>-1,276.44</i>
<i>BALANCE ON HAND</i>	<i>\$11,185.37</i>

NO MARSHALL-WATERLOO FOOD PANTRY FOR JANUARY 117 E. Madsion St. (Hwy 19), Waterloo
 Two to three volunteers are needed to serve the 12:00 noon-1:00pm shift the first Wednesday of every month. **Due to the holiday, there will be no Wednesday – noon pantry for January.** There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

SECOND HARVEST MOBILE FOOD PANTRY Second Harvest Food Bank has taken over operation of the Marshall mobile food bank. They have changed the food bank dates to the **SECOND MONDAY** of each month at 3:30 pm in the high school parking lot. Therefore, the next few distribution dates are:

Monday-January 13	3:30 pm	high school parking lot
Monday-February 10	3:30 pm	high school parking lot
Monday-March 10	3:30 pm	high school parking lot

RENTALS OF FELLOWSHIP HALL The fellowship hall is available to rent. The price for active members is a one-time event fee of \$25.00. The fee for all others is **\$50.00 per hour**. If you are thinking you may

be interested in renting the hall, please contact the church office by calling 608-655-4246 or sending an email to htcstaff@holytrinity-marshall.com, to check on scheduling and details. **REMINDER: No beer, wine, or alcohol of any kind is allowed in the building or anywhere on the church property.**

JOB OPENINGS AT HOLY TRINITY

Volunteer Coordinator to work with our Council and leadership teams to help recruit ushers, readers, communion servers, and other volunteers as needed. A wonderful way to get to know people. *Please contact a Council member or the church office if you are interested.*

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 their 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 non-profits 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 could also choose to designate a portion of the proceeds of your IRA to Holy Trinity each year. We have been grateful to members who have chosen this option as a way to make a sizeable annual gift.

You may now use our online giving, through holytrinitymarshall.com to make a gift directly to our Endowment Fund.

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.

Dan Timpel has joined the Endowment Memorial Committee. He will replace Jack Erb. If anyone has questions or wants to make a donation to this fund or the memorial fund they should contact Dan Timpel, Todd Madaus, or Owen Raisbeck.

HEADS UP! WAY UP!!!

If you wish to submit an announcement for a bulletin, you **MUST** submit it to the office (htcstaff@holytrinity-marshall.com) by the Wednesday prior, as bulletins are printed on Thursdays.

For articles to be included in the newsletter for the following month, **they MUST be received in the office by the 22nd or they will not be included!** Waiting for late articles puts more stress on office staff and newsletter helpers. Getting your newsletter information in on time is a courtesy to others involved in the process. Your cooperation is needed and appreciated.

CHURCH NEWS

Every other Sunday	Youth Connect 8:45 am
Every other Wed	Catechism at 6:00 pm
Wed Jan 8	Event Planning Committee at 6:30 pm
Mon Jan 13	Second Harvest in HS parking lot, 3:30 pm
Tues Jan 14	WELCA 12:30 pm/Council meets, 6:00 pm
Sat Jan 18	Quilting Day 9-3
Tues Jan 21	Quilt Tying 12:30 pm

Quilts for LWR As quilt-making continues here at Holy Trinity, we always have an ongoing need for the supplies that go into making the quilts. Thank you to all our members and friends who keep an eye out for fabric that family members are disposing of and fabric that is available at garage sales and estate sales. We continue to request new bed sheets, used bed sheets, tablecloths, large pieces of fabric, etc. Even well-worn sheets are useful as the middle layer of a quilt. We welcome anyone who wants to get involved in making quilts either by meeting at church, by sewing at home or by cutting fabric squares at home.

One of our quilt groups meets at church 12:30 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month to sort donations, prepare donations for use in a quilt, and tie the layers of a quilt together. Our other quilt group comes to church on the 3rd Saturday of each month starting at 9:00 am. Sewing machines will be provided.

Please join in various quilt tasks on our quilt days for whatever amount of time you have to contribute. We are grateful for all the support we receive from our Holy Trinity family that allows us to donate quilts to the Lutheran World Relief mission of providing quilts to people in need in the US and around the world. **Please continue to provide new fabric that can be cut into squares for making quilts. It's then possible for someone to take the next step and cut 11-inch squares of fabric and donate them. **

ELCA MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS. Per Constitution and bylaws of the ELCA, a person must give a monetary gift and receive Holy Communion at least once every calendar year to be a member. Holy Trinity is required to keep records of both giving and communion. (If you put cash in the collection plate, that is not a contribution of record. We need to know your contribution came from you. (There are extra contribution envelopes on the Welcome Desk.) Please fill out a communion card at least once a year and on the day that you commune. That way we can make a record of it. Place your last name and first name of each person taking Communion on the card along with the date. You may place the card in the offering plate or hand it to an usher. You may also request a visit from the Pastor on this card.

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

Our website, holytrinitymarshall.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!

Our thanks and gratitude to those who continue to give so much for the sake of this body of Christ such as our organists, office secretary, treasurer, custodian, ushers, readers, communion assistants, WELCA, Altar Guild, those who lead Sunday School, and worship leaders.



Thank you also goes out to those who serve on our Church Council, Call Committee, and the Event Planning Committee. Thank you to our quilters, volunteers who continue to work the Second Harvest mobile food bank, and volunteers on the Wednesday noon shift the first of each month at the Marshall/Waterloo Food Pantry. Thank you to the person who cares for our grounds. We also appreciate the helpers who assemble the newsletter for mailing and everyone so willingly donating time and materials to maintain the church. Apologies if anyone was missed. Thank you all.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Marshall-Waterloo Food Pantry The Marshall/Waterloo Food Pantry is on 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. If you or someone you know needs help, make use of this resource.

The hours are Wednesdays from noon-1:00 pm and again Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 pm. Saturday hours are from 9:00-10:00 am.

Second Harvest Mobile Food Pantry is Monday –January 13 at 3:30 in the HS parking lot.

Did you know that Staples will take several electronic items in-store for recycling? Call your local Staples store with questions or check their website.

Foodshare Helpline 877-366-3635 If you are in need, or know someone who is, contact this agency to see if they can help.

Wisconsin Home Energy Plus Program at 1-866-432-8947 or 608-267-8601 is available if you need help with your utility bills. Give them a call to find out if you qualify.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM PASTOR LISA AND YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL