

THE HOLY TRINITY TIMES

JULY 2020

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

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
605 Madison St. (P.O. Box 52)
Marshall, Wisconsin 53559
Pastor: Rev. Nancy M. Raabe

www.holytrinitymarshall.com + (608) 655-4246

Email: htcstaff@holytrinity-marshall.com

Office hours: may be arranged as needed

Office manager: Kathy Schluter

Pastor's Column

In Passing

*How swiftly the strained honey
of afternoon light
flows into darkness*

*and the closed bud shrugs off
its special mystery
in order to break into blossom:*

*as if what exists, exists
so that it can be lost
and become precious*

Lisel Mueller, *Alive Together: New and Selected Poems*



What is lost does become precious, doesn't it? So many simple joys—sitting down with you for a brief chat when you arrive for church. The joy of coffee and conversation after the service. The joy of looking you in the eye as I say, "The body of Christ, broken for you." The joy of worshiping together. The joy of singing together! And so much else in our lives that made up our daily and weekly routines which is not available to us at this time. We look back longingly at the life we once had and all that we took for granted.



The reality is that we do not have a date yet for resuming worship indoors. But this is not a time for mourning. Friends, we were born in Christ for such a time as this! We find our signpost in Revelation 21:5:

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."

Making all things new: Since mid-March we have been constantly re-inventing our understanding of what it means to be church together. Immediately we moved our worship online, which we plan to continue indefinitely. It's all right there on the home page of our web site, holytrinitymarshall.com. You can either subscribe from there to our YouTube channel to be notified whenever new videos are posted, or simply click on the link on the home page (or the photo). We also post that link every week on our Facebook page.

We also quickly began expanding our web site and adding many new features. For awhile I sent out regular congregational updates by email, and then wrote a series of daily devotions for several weeks to bridge the time until we launched the Sunday morning outdoor service on June 14. Those are still posted on our web site under "A Room With a View." In June the Council began meeting on the parsonage deck, and the Pastor's Coffee Hour has resumed in-person at Paradiddle's Café outdoors on their patio. As your pastor I recommend we be even more vigilant about wearing face coverings in all these contexts.

As we are learning more now about how the virus can spread through aerosols in enclosed areas, we are recognizing the wisdom of delaying initial plans to move worship back into the building. The Council had set a tentative date of August 23 to re-gather, but that may be premature. Other ELCA congregations in our area that had planned to be back inside by this time have delayed their plans as well. Your Council is extremely conscientious and is constantly evaluating local and regional data. Their foremost concern is for your well-being.

In the meantime, we have determined that it is safe for small groups to meet outside as long as safe distances are maintained. Please consider participating in some of these ways as a means of renewing our lives together. These opportunities invite us to get to know one other better so that, when we do come back into the building, we will have been "woven together" in entirely new ways. Stronger together, we will be able to more vigorously serve our community and region as Jesus is calling us to do.

Small group activities include:

- the Pastor's Coffee Hour at Paradiddle's every Thursday at noon
- Campfire Conversations outside at the parsonage every third Wednesday from 7-8 pm
- A three-part study on the book "White Fragility" at the parsonage on three successive Monday evenings – July 27, August 3, and August 10, 6:30 pm
 - A weekly Bible study every Monday at 10 am via Zoom starting July 13

Please send me an email or text, or call the office, if you'd like to be part of the book or Bible study. Our WELCA group has also resumed monthly meetings, outside, on 2nd Tuesdays at 1 pm. Contact me about ideas you might have. All are welcome!

Pastor Raabe can be available to meet anyone on an individual basis. Just call her or text to set up a time.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Raabe

DRIVE-IN/OUTDOOR WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY AT 10 AM

We warmly invite you to gather in your cars, or on our beautiful lawn, for outdoor worship every Sunday at 10 am. You may remain in your cars (it's OK to have the engine and AC running) or spread out on the grass in the cool morning shade. For those with nimble legs, the top of the hill is an ideal spot for lawn chairs and families with younger children. Bulletins and pre-packaged communion are handed out as you arrive, and bathroom access is available. Let's take advantage of these lovely summer days to come together in this way. The comment was heard on June 28: "It's good to be back at church again!"



Hearty thanks to all who are making this possible, including our parking lot ushers, musicians, and various other heavy lifters. Very special thanks to Dave Pawl for loaning us his own PA equipment for our first outing, advising us on the purchase of our own (using Memorial Fund money), and training us to do the PA setup ourselves. We welcome anyone who would like to serve as an usher, reader, musician, or participate in the service in any way.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE We are seeking a new Sunday School Superintendent, or maybe co-superintendents, as Laurie Weisensel has asked to step down from that position after many years of faithful service. We thank Laurie most sincerely for all she has done for our program, for loving our children so well, for putting the song of Jesus into their hearts, and for supervising the curriculum and teachers.

The challenges of our education programs are the same as those schools are facing—discerning how to keep our children and teachers safe while providing them with a solid foundation of learning for their lives of faith. Please prayerfully consider being part of this adventure. We also plan to convene a Christian Education team that would work closely with the superintendent(s). Let Pastor Raabe or any Council member know if you feel God calling you in this way.

Registration for Sunday School and Confirmation will begin in August. We WILL have these programs—we just don't know yet what they will look like. Stay tuned and share your thoughts.

HOLY TRINITY TASK FORCE FOR RE-GATHERING: JULY UPDATE The Task Force for Re-gathering—Wendy Franke, chair, Sandi Brewer, Maria Johnson, Kathy Deneen, and Pastor Raabe – has put together a preliminary list of suggested guidelines for reopening the building. *This is only a draft* and will be scrutinized closely by the Council in coming weeks.

Signage: All approved guidelines and cleaning practices will be posted in multiple locations.

Face coverings: Must be worn at all times for indoor worship and other activities in the building; may be removed only when receiving communion. Those who don't bring their own will be given one upon arrival.

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

Ushers: Four will be needed for each service to guide worshipers entering and leaving, and to encourage them to refrain from congregating indoors. People may visit once they've left the building although face masks will still be recommended. We will be recruiting usher teams

starting next month and will begin usher training when we have a better idea of when we will be back inside.

Seating: People may choose a general area, but an usher will guide them to a safely spaced location within that area. The front two rows will be kept vacant; all worship will be led from the altar area.

Communion: Worshipers will receive pre-packaged communion upon arrival, until such a time as it's judged safe to resume distribution (using gloves) of bread and individual cups of wine.

Attendance: We would like to know who is present at each service. All worshipers will check in with someone seated at the Welcome Desk before moving into the sanctuary.

During worship: Difficult as it will be, no singing or praying aloud. We may have a single vocalist or instrumentalist at times, who will be mic'd to reduce the spreading of aerosols.

Cleaning and sanitizing: A special crew including Task Force members will oversee this significant job, closely following CDC guidelines, so the assurance can be given before each service that "the entire church has been cleaned and sanitized." Cleaning methods will include a non-toxic ionized spray and thorough sanitizing of all surfaces and bathrooms. Details of what is to be cleaned, how, and with what products will be posted. All high-touch surfaces will be removed (tables, chairs, coffee bar) or be placed off limits (drinking fountains).

Signups: No clipboard or bulletin board signups; these will be conducted online or by phone.

Fresh air: Doors will be kept open as much as possible for good ventilation.

Issues still to be considered include: Whether to limit the number of people in a service; whether to add services as needed, possibly at other times during the week; and if the number is limited, how to sign up ahead of time or call the church to "make a reservation."

Thanks to the Task Force for its commitment to this very important work.

NEW GARAGE/BAKE SALE DATES: SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2020

Keep Reading...This is an update regarding Holy Trinity's Annual Garage and Bake Sale. Since our church building may not be open for indoor worship by August, our garage sale leaders have decided to delay this event. And even if we are not back in worship by then, we will include many safe practices that will allow us to have a successful event. Co-chairs are Linda Baldrige and Carol Woldt.



These are the new selected dates: Garage sale preparation dates will be Mon, Sept 14-Wed, Sept 16. The dates for the garage and bake sale will be Thurs., Sept 17-Sat., Sept 19. We were pleased with the response last year to the brat sale that happened during the lunch hour in our church's parking lot on each day of our sale. Perhaps we can offer that added attraction again this year. Watch for more information on this in coming weeks.

Some early planning for the garage and bake sale has already happened. Thank you to those who have offered suggestions and have committed to helping with organizing this event. We will continue to accept garage sale donations at the main entrance of the church on Thursday and Saturday between the hours of 10 AM and 12 noon. If you cannot drop off the items then, leave a phone message at church, 655-4246, or call Linda Baldrige, 655-4178. **Do NOT leave donation**

items outside the church. We are accepting gently used and clean items in good condition. Small furniture and other household items are very popular. Please note that we cannot accept VCR tapes, TVs, entertainment centers, mattresses or box springs, sofa sleepers and reclining sofas, futons, exercise equipment, baby items (such as car seats, cribs and walkers), large appliances, items that are prohibitively large and heavy to handle (such as large furniture items), and hazardous or construction materials. If you have large items to donate or you are not able to make donations during the times listed above, you can arrange a time for drop off by calling the numbers above.

The Council, Task Force for Re-gathering and your Garage Sale Team will be creating safe guidelines by which the sale can take place and sharing those with you in the coming weeks.

NEWS FOR YOU

Your **Church Council** is now meeting twice a month on Tuesdays at 5:00 pm at the parsonage. Any active member may listen in. Bring a lawn chair. The next meeting is July 14.

Our **WELCA** group meets July 14 at 12:30 on Linda Baldrige's deck. Sub sandwiches are being ordered for all and drinks provided. Call Marilyn Osterlie with questions at 608-655-4930.

Join in the Pastor's Coffee Hour Thursdays at 12 noon at Paradiddle's Café in Waterloo. We never seem to lack for interesting topics for discussion.

Campfire Conversations take place in the parsonage back yard on 3rd Wednesdays from 7-8 pm. Next campfire: July 15. Bring a chair and your own beverage.

Second Harvest drive-up boxed distribution: July 10 and 31 from 1-3 pm. Spread the word!

Quilts for LWR Please continue to provide new fabric that can be cut into squares for making quilts. Many friends and members of Holy Trinity have donated fabric that had accumulated at the homes of friends and relatives. Others have purchased fabric at fabric stores, resale shops and garage sales that they in turn donate to this project. 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.

Offering Envelopes If you are giving electronically and no longer wish to receive weekly offering envelopes, please e-mail htcstaff@holytrinity-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@holytrinity-marshall.com and let us know that.

Our web site, holytrinitymarshall.com, is regularly updated with all the latest news and information that you might need. Please use it and write to us with suggestions.

HOLY TRINITY REGATHERING: MEMBER SURVEY

At Holy Trinity, we are considering when and how to safely resume public worship. While we will be following county and church guidelines, we also want your input. Your health and well-being are too important to make any rushed decisions. Re-gathering in the building will require significant planning. The following survey will assist your Pastor, Council and Task Force in their work. **Please check or circle all that apply, remove these pages, and return them to the office by July 19, 2020. You may also drop them in the offering box at our Sunday drive-in services. If we have your email address, you will also have received this electronically. Please fill it out that way if you can. More fun for you and easier for us.** Thank you!

1. When Dane County officials and spokespersons for the ELCA and Wisconsin Council of Churches feel it is safe to resume religious gatherings, which best describes your attitude toward returning to worship at Holy Trinity?

I will return the first opportunity we have.

I will return at the first opportunity but with some concerns and precautions.

I will wait several additional weeks before I attend.

Not sure.

Other:

2. In addition to these authorities declaring it is safe to return to worship, what additional signs would you like to see before you return to indoor worship? Mark all that apply.

Local businesses are open again.

Local restaurants are open again.

Schools have reopened and children are back in classrooms.

The number of coronavirus cases around me is small.

Social distancing recommendations have been lifted.

None of these.

Other:

3. What precautions are you willing to take when re-gathering for worship in the building? Mark all that apply.

I will wear a face mask.

I will sit in areas that are at least 10 feet from other non-family worshipers.

I will avoid physical contact with others including hugging and shaking hands.

I will remain distanced from others when entering and leaving.

I will bring hand sanitizer.

I prefer the pre-packaged communion.

I prefer to receive the bread from gloved servers and the wine in individual plastic cups.

I do not plan to take communion for some time even after we regather inside.

Other:

4. What precautions should Holy Trinity take? Mark all that apply.

No bulletins; use the projector instead.

Include music but no group singing.

Include a vocalist or instrumentalist but safely distanced from the congregation.

Limit the number of people per service to 20; add more services as needed.

If numbers per service are limited, ask people to sign up ahead of time to attend a given service. Keep people from touching door handles by propping sanctuary doors open and having an usher open the main entrance for entry and departure.

Designate a special service for seniors and others in high-risk categories.

Provide ample hand sanitizer stations.

Request all who attend a service sign in when they arrive (if they haven't already ahead of time).

Other:

5. Where would you be likely to attend small-group gatherings? Mark all that apply.

The fellowship hall

Outside on the parsonage deck

Outside in the church parking lot or on the grass

In the church library

Inside the parsonage

Online via Zoom

Other:

6. If you have children middle school or younger, after we have resumed worship inside the building, would you allow them to attend Sunday School and Confirmation as usual?

Yes

No

Maybe

7. What precautions should we take concerning our education programs?

Limit the number in each class.

Seat children where they cannot touch each other.

Prohibit snacks or beverages.

Encourage children 5 and older to wear face masks.

Require teachers to wear face masks.

Require teachers to wear gloves.

No group singing.

Ask kids to use hand sanitizer when they arrive.

None of these.

Other:

8. Assuming church capacity limits were removed, at what capacity would you feel comfortable returning? Mark only one.

Filled to capacity

Three-quarters (some empty seats)

Half filled (most people have empty seats in front and behind them)

One-quarter filled - scattered attendance

None of these, at least right away.

9. When county and church officials feel it is safe to resume worship inside, which of the following would you prefer for Holy Trinity?

Resume in-person worship in the building immediately.

Meet in smaller groups at various times, in various locations, before returning to the sanctuary.

Other:

10. Would you be willing to meet at a different time than you typically attend, to allow people to spread out more?

Yes

No

Maybe

11. Would you be willing to attend worship in an overflow room that has sanctuary sound (narthex, fellowship hall, library) in order to allow people to spread out?

Yes

No

Maybe

12. If you would be willing to attend on a day other than Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings, which might those be? Mark all that apply.

Monday

Tuesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

13. Even when indoor services resume, would you like us to continue to record the service so that it may be viewed online?

Yes

No

Maybe

14. How long have you been attending Holy Trinity?

I am new in 2020.

5-9 years

Less than 2 years

10+ years

2-4 years

15. Please share any additional thoughts about returning to worship in the building.

NAME and phone number or email address:

YOUR 2020-2021 CHURCH COUNCIL

Gary Waalkens, President

608-655-4989 gwaalkkens1952@yahoo.com

Richard Tooley, Vice President

608-235-8482 tooleyr@charter.net

Carol Woldt, Secretary

608-712-8947 bearcollector@yahoo.com

Cheri Harwood

608-469-2142 mac9harw@gmail.com

Susy Pawl

608-655-3437, susypsnuffles@gmail.com

Stephanie Woodley

608-371-7233 swoodley1@outlook.com

Kayla German, student rep

608-655-4422

Wendy Franke

920-350-2838 frankew1115@gmail.com

We welcome Wendy Franke to the Council, filling a vacant seat whose term expires in 2022.

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 12:00noon-1:00PM and again from 7:00-8:00 PM. Saturday hours are from 9:00-10:00 AM

thank you

Our thanks and gratitude to those who gave so much of their energy and time in June for the sake of this body of Christ! These include our secretary Kathy Schluter, our organist Carol Johnson-Hohol, those serving on Council or other leadership teams, and phone tree workers. Many thanks to our hard-working Second Harvest Food Bank volunteers. Thank you to our Property Committee for all they do, especially during this time. Thank you to those who mow the lawns, pull the weeds, and maintain the landscaping. Thanks to those who prepared the newsletter for mailing, ordered supplies, watered the plants, kept track of church finances, counted money, put information in the Courier, and took out trash.

Apologies to those who may have been missed.

Know that each and every one of you is very much appreciated!

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



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH www.holytrinitymarshall.com

Staff office hours: Hours may be arranged, as needed

Note: Church is now locked when the office is not open.

Kathy Schluter, office staff

htcstaff@holytrinity-marshall.com

Pastor Nancy Raabe e-mail

pastor@holytrinity-marshall.com

Pastor Nancy Raabe phone

(614)-214-2639 (cell), call or text;
home, 608-839-0322

Find us on Facebook and keep up with all the news!