



THE HOLY TRINITY TIMES

AUGUST 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: The doors of the church are still open

Whoever once said “I don’t know why we have this big parking lot” (me) has been firmly set straight. What an asset it has been, and, I might add, the envy of our churches in our area! We are delighted that our new drive-in/outdoor service is finding its place in our life. “It’s good to be back at church,” we have heard more than once on Sunday morning. There are many way to experience it: Set your chairs up next to your car, spread out blankets or chairs on the grass – you can hear well even way out in the Labyrinth—or just stay in your car with your coffee and a Danish. You can even stay in your pajamas – no one will know. As one member said this past week, “Sunday morning at 10 – that’s church! I’ll be there!”



We have so many people to thank: Dave Pawl, who initially loaned us his own PA system and then steered toward a very good one of our own, purchased with Memorial Fund money; our faithful team of ushers, including Denny Woelffer, Larry Legro and Owen and Darlene Raisbeck; a music team including Carol Johnson-Hohol, guitarists Dave Pawl and John Ray and vocalists Sandi Brewer and Wendy Franke, who also had out communion; our greeters and readers; and of course all of you who have attended, responded, sung, taken communion, honked, enjoyed fellowship before and after (at safe distances) and simply relished the chance to be outdoors for worship. We really could not have a better location for this purpose. Please let me know if you’d like to be involved in any of these ways. We even have bubbles now for children, and gluten-free communion kits. Please ask the usher for these as you arrive.

The quote from Martin Luther in last week’s sermon contained this phrase: “We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it....” We don’t know where this will lead. We don’t know what lies ahead. But if we can meet the challenge of this time with vigor and faith, we will remain the body of Christ, alive and active for the sake of the world. Peace be with you,
Pastor Raabe

HOLY TRINITY REGATHERING: MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS and commentary

Twenty-eight member took the regathering survey last month that was made available online and in last month's newsletter. While the Council is not bound by the results, the information has already been very helpful. We will continue to seek your input in this way as we move forward and hope for even better participation. For this survey, a link was emailed to all active members. If you do email and did not receive a link, that probably means we do not have a good email address for you. Please update this with Kathy if you'd like future communications.

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?

77% of the responses were evenly divided between: "I will return the first opportunity we have" and "I will return at the first opportunity but with some concerns and precautions."

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.

25% said when "local businesses are open again" and "local restaurants are open again."

35% said when "schools have reopened and children are back in classrooms."

79% said when "the number of coronavirus cases around me is small."

14% said when "social distancing recommendations have been lifted."

3. What precautions are you willing to take when regathering for worship in the building?

93% said "I will wear a face mask."

75% said "I will sit in areas that are at least 10 feet from other non-family worshipers."

71% said "I will avoid physical contact with others including hugging and shaking hands and "I will remain distanced from others when entering and leaving."

46% said "I prefer the pre-packaged communion" while 39% said "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?

21% said "No bulletins; use the projector instead."

35% said "Include music but no group singing" and "Include a vocalist or instrumentalist but safely distanced from the congregation" and

35% said "Limit the number of people per service to 20; add more services as needed."

43% said "If numbers per service are limited, ask people to sign up ahead of time to attend a given service."

50% said "Keep people from touching door handles by propping sanctuary doors open and having an usher open the main entrance for entry and departure."

18% said "Designate a special service for seniors and others in high-risk categories."

Provide ample hand sanitizer stations.

40% said "Request that all who attend a service sign in when they arrive (if they haven't already signed up ahead of time)."

Two comments were “Clean after the service” and “Limit the number of people to 50.”

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

72% said “The fellowship hall,” while 64% said “Outside on the parsonage deck” and “Outside in the church parking lot or on the grass.

14% said “In the church library,” while 21% said “Inside the parsonage” and “Online via Zoom.”
One person said “Café with outside seating.”

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?

58% said Yes, 8% said No and 33% said Maybe.

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

67% said “Limit the number in each class.”

56% said “Seat children where they cannot touch each other.”

30% said “Prohibit snacks or beverages.

33% said “Encourage children 5 and older to wear face masks.”

60% said “Require teachers to wear face masks.”

18% said “Require teachers to wear gloves.”

26% said “No group singing.”

60% said “Ask kids to use hand sanitizer when they arrive.”

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

10% said “Filled to capacity and “Three-quarters (some empty seats).”

46% said “Half filled (most people have empty seats in front and behind them).”

25% said “One-quarter filled - scattered attendance.”

7% said “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?

66% said “Resume in-person worship in the building immediately.”

25% said “Meet in smaller groups at various times, in various locations, before returning to the sanctuary.”

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

Yes: 75%; No, 3%; Maybe, 21%.

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, 75%; No, 7%; Maybe, 18%.

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: 41%, Tuesday: 27%; Thursday: 32%; Friday: 23%; Saturday: 64%

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

61%, Yes; No, 7%; Maybe, 21%.

Comments: "Yes, I like to think shut-ins can access it." "Probably not but it depends on how indoor service is conducted." "Up to you. Probably for those who did not come, based upon how many actually view these, I think you get a count."

14. How long have you been attending Holy Trinity?

Less than 2 years: 14%, 2-4 years:7%, 10+ years: 79%.

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

- Would nice to be in church, under guidelines, with follow up cleaning after events.
- Not sure how I feel about the Sunday school safety requirements - I'd like to see what the schools do and use that to decide. For the younger kids, we sometimes run around so wearing a mask would limit activities so would be keen to do outdoors and get other parents' thoughts.
- I hope we can do it soon before we lose membership.
- I miss church!
- I have been out and about since March 16th both for work and for various other endeavors, I have worn a mask, I have not worn a mask at these events. I have NOT been in very large groups such as protests, or events. Just grocery stores, etc. I have not gotten sick in any way since then. I have also been in so called hotspots within WI, in fact I know of no one in my immediate family or group of workers or friends who have tested positive. If rules are followed there is no need to be as scared of this (or as not scared of it since you likely will not get the virus). Scared or not, its an individual decision on how to function. Basically, it's similar to if you do not like the weather....move! If you are scared, stay home. This country and its functions will have to reopen at some point or businesses will close (churches too) along with other ramifications.
- I miss seeing my church 'family' and would dearly love to be able to start attending a service again, as soon as it is reasonably safe to do so.
- I feel it's important to get back to in person worship in the church building ASAP. I feel we could be losing members as we stall and over think the reopening.
- How many times did Jesus say "Fear Not." Enough of the fear mongering.

Pastor Raabe writes:

I feel a response to this last comment is appropriate, as many of you may be thinking along those same lines. I can speak for the Council in saying that our decision-making is driven by the deep concern for your safety, not by fear. Please don't dismiss our abiding love for each of you as the foolishness of fearmongering, which is "the spreading of frightening and exaggerated rumors of an impending danger to purposely arouse **fear** in order to manipulate the public." We have no desire to manipulate you. What could our purpose possibly be? For me, our current schedule of an online plus outdoor service is far more taxing than worship used to be.

To be cautious, to be prudent, to make wise decisions on behalf of others is not the same as living in fear. We have said from the beginning that our path forward is charted only by Jesus' great commandment—to love our neighbor just as God loves us:

A scribe came and asked Jesus which is the most important commandment. Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your

strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:30-31)

Our son Martin did not have a good driver's ed teacher such as Marshall is blessed to have in our own Owen Raisbeck. When I hammered into Martin the need to allow at least two car lengths between him and the driver in front of him, I was not telling him to live in fear of other drivers. I was telling him what the best way was to stay safe because there are always unknowns at work. Because we never know what another driver might do, a cushion of space is our best protection.

Right now, a cushion of space is also our best form of protection from the virus. We are living in a sea of unknowns, just as if you were in rush-hour traffic surrounded by angry drivers filled with road rage. What we do know is that this new virus attacks the entire vascular system, not just the respiratory tract; that it can wreak havoc on human organs, even in those who are supposedly asymptomatic; and that the recovery time can be long, difficult, and leave permanent damage.

What we also know, without a doubt, is that the virus spreads most rapidly in social situations where people are not remaining at a safe distance from each other. Outdoors, being at least six feet apart reduces the chance that you are sharing the same air with others. Indoors, face masks are important but we also know that simply wearing a face covering does not automatically insulate you. We have all seen people wearing them too low on the face, or dangling around their neck, or not fitting well so that air easily escapes. Rather, a cushion of space is critical -- and so is reducing the number of people sharing that same air, in which the virus can hang suspended in aerosols for up to three hours. Good circulation and as much fresh air as possible will also help.

We also have a pretty good idea by now that the virus is not going away. Top epidemiologists say it may be on its way to becoming endemic—permanently established in humans like influenza and HIV. The best known of these, Michael Osterholm, who directs the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, said last week the likelihood of this is "100%....There is no reason to think a pathogen like this is going to eliminate itself once it has done what it's done. The idea that we are going to vaccinate this out of the world — that's just not the case. You'd have to vaccinate the entire world continually because it will continue to circulate." Knowing that, our hope and prayer is for a vaccine that can be administered each year like the flu vaccine, one that can provide maximum resistance to as many people as possible.

Where does that leave us in the meantime? Doing whatever we can to ensure the well-being of each of you while keeping us alive and well as the church in worship, prayer, and service. As your called and elected leaders, the Council and I have a sacred trust to shepherd this congregation into the fullness of life. From health comes vitality. From vitality comes a church ready to serve as Christ. From service in the world, as Christ's hands, feet, lips and heart, comes God's kingdom!

We cannot see what lies ahead. All we can do is respond to the challenges that face us with conviction that God has called this congregation to serve the world. All things are possible with God! In the midst of this time the Holy Spirit is summoning us – all of us, you included--to bring all the creativity that we have to bear on our lives together. Let's rise to the challenge!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

We fondly bid Laurie Weisensel farewell as our former Sunday School superintendent and are pleased to welcome Kathy Deneen to that position. Kathy is an experienced Sunday School teacher with a passion for children, a deep knowledge of the Bible and a tremendous ability to find creative ways to have fun. She will work closely with the Christian Education Team and the Council in this very important role as we plan strategically to rebuild our Sunday School. Online registration begins this month; see the article elsewhere in this newsletter. Welcome, Kathy!

We are also delighted that Lynn Weyer has agreed to be our Sunday School art director. Lynn retired in June from her job as the longtime art teacher at Jefferson High School, and will be coming up with Bible-based crafts and art projects to complement our Sunday School curriculum. She also has agreed to lead our Liturgical Arts Team. Thank you, Lynn!



SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION: What lies ahead?

In light of Marshall's decision to begin the school year online, all Holy Trinity families will be receiving an email link to a Christian Education survey much like our Regathering survey. These are easy to take and will help us shape our programs to suit your needs. If you have not received a link by the time you are reading this, please contact the office. All Holy Trinity members are invited to take the survey as well, by going to the main Christian Education page of our web site.



The Christian Education Team (Kath Deneen, Susy Pawl, Gary and Judy Waalkens, and Pastor Raabe) met on July 26 to discuss possibilities that will be mentioned in the survey. They include starting classes in special outdoor locations in September and October, then moving to a format that includes a creative combination of limited screen time with hands-on Bible-based activities. Materials may be sent by mail as monthly packets to each family. If you'd like to lend your heart and hands to our children this year by becoming a teacher, please contact Pastor Raabe.

It is likely 7th and 8th grade Confirmation will be held online until we are back in the building for worship, but we plan for 9th graders preparing for Confirmation Sunday on October 25 to meet in person with Pastor Raabe on the parsonage deck.

Regardless of format, we are asking you to register now for our Christian Education programs. We will be pouring our hearts into this to make it a rewarding experience for your children. Forms will be mailed to families, or call the office at 608-655-4246, or you can go holyltrinitymarshall.com in the Christian Education area to register.



HOLY TRINITY TASK FORCE FOR REGATHERING: AUGUST UPDATE

The Task Force for Regathering—Wendy Franke, chair, Sandi Brewer, Kathy Deneen, and Pastor Raabe – has put together a list of suggested guidelines for reopening the building. This will be reviewed 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 it's 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 amplified 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; how to carry that out; whether to add services as needed, possibly at other times during the week.

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



GREEN LIGHT FOR THE PARKING LOT FUNDRAISER

Dear Friends in Christ.

We are launching our Parking Lot Resurfacing project!

With your help, we hope to complete this project in late September. Your prompt assistance will make this possible.

For this fundraiser we will be “selling” parking stalls much in the same way we sold solar panels a while back. There will be 80 parking stalls, including four Handicap and four Visitor stalls. The cost of this project is \$16,000. From this you can see that each parking stall will cost \$200.

But wait! There’s more!

We have a Benefactor! This benefactor will match, dollar for dollar, all funds raised for this project. That means that a parking stall will cost YOU only \$100!

This wonderful matching gift program extends through August and September. So get on board, and let’s get your names written into stalls on the big parking lot banner that will be displayed at the Outdoor Service every Sunday. You can either go to our web site at : <https://www.holytrinitymarshall.com/give> where a Parking Lot account already established – just select that fund from the drop-down menu. Or simply send us a check or drop it in the offering box on Sundays; make sure to put “Parking Lot Fund” in the memo line.

And you can buy a stall for others – just make sure you list the names that you want to be written into the stalls.

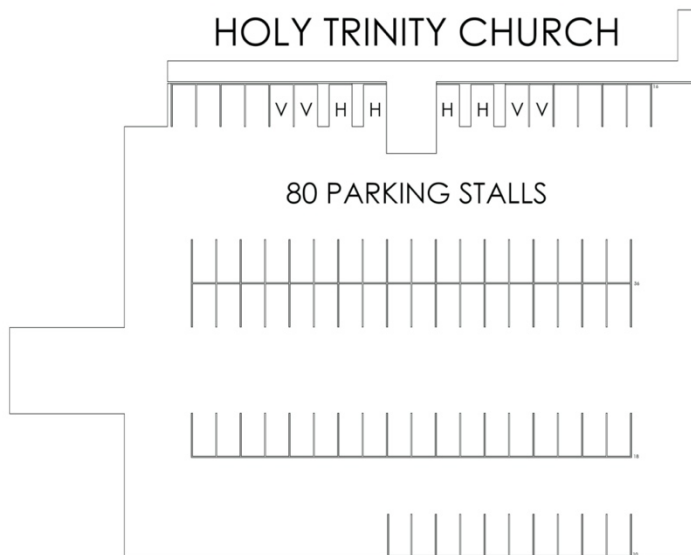
We are pleased to be working with Hallman’s, which as you may know has ties to Holy Trinity. This project will add years of life to our parking lot.

Thank You for your continuing support! God Bless you all!

Richard Tooley
Holy Trinity Council Vice President



A few disclaimers: you will not be purchasing a stall for your personal use, there will not be any assigned parking spaces. The Parking Lot map is for representation purposes only and is not indicative of how the stalls will be laid out. Please direct questions to Richard Tooley at 608-235-8482 or tooley@charter.net.



GARAGE SALE UPDATE: SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2020, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Last month we shared many of the basics about our upcoming Garage Sale. Thanks to a generous gift from a member family, this year we have an extraordinary amount of fine household and kitchen items, bedding, rugs, women's clothing, and pieces of furniture large and small in excellent condition. We are excited about how this will go, while recognizing the need for safety guidelines so that the event is compliant with current Dane County orders.



These will be spelled out in the September newsletter as they affect this event. Under consideration for the Council's approval is a tentative plan to limit the number of people in the narthex and hall and the time that can be spent inside; to provide for ample distancing and one-way aisles for more controlled movement, and maps ahead of time so shoppers may quickly find areas of interest; to move as many of the tables outdoors as possible, weather permitting, and have all checkout take place outside; and to offer shopping carts and bags for quick collection and checkout. We plan to continue our brat fry over the lunch hour on all three days.

We need volunteers especially during these three days! If you can offer a few hours, please call Linda Baldridge at 655-4178 or write to her at lindaleah17@gmail.com. Donations are still being accepted inside the church main entrance on Thursday and Saturday from 10 a.m. – 12 noon.



Second Harvest drive-up distribution: August 14 and 28. For the 28th, check our web site in case the school needs the parking lot and either the day of the week or location needs to change.

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 by Lutheran World Relief.

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.

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, susy@snyffles@gmail.com
Stephanie Woodley	608-371-7233 swoodley1@outlook.com
Wendy Franke	920-350-2838 frankew1115@gmail.com

We welcome Wendy Franke to the Council, filling a vacant term that 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 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.

thank you

Our thanks and gratitude to those who gave so much of their energy and time in May 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, our phone tree workers, and our Sunday School teachers. Many thanks to our hard-working Second Harvest Food Bank volunteers. Thanks to those who pulled information for the PPP application. To confirmation parents and students, thanks for a great year. Thank you to our Property Committee for all the work they do to maintain the church and parsonage especially during this time. Thank you to Glen Gollmer for keeping our church grounds looking gorgeous and to Owen Raisbeck for tending to the parsonage lawn, and to all those who are maintaining the landscaping. Thanks to those who prepared the newsletter for mailing, ordered supplies and cleaned the church, watered the plants, kept track of church finances, counted money, put information in the Courier, and took out trash.

Special shout-out to our Larry Legro, John Ray and Owen Raisbeck for their work around the church and parsonage during the shutdown. Many thanks!

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@holyltrinity-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
home, 608-839-0322

(614)-214-2639 (cell), call or text;

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