



THE HOLY TRINITY TIMES

OCTOBER 2020

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

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TWO WOMEN, A CASH BOX, AND A PARKING LOT

So what?, you might say. Here's what: In the midst of a pandemic that precipitated the partial shutdown of the economy, belt-tightening across the board, and radical safety measures dramatically limiting how we interact with each other, Holy Trinity pulled off a massive garage sale with flying colors, AND got our large parking lot cleaned up and seal-coated—a project that, even a year ago, seemed like a pipe dream.

How did we manage this when other churches are simply trying to stay afloat? Because of YOU, your love for God, and your commitment to this congregation. We may not be large in numbers, but we are mighty in spirit. In a time when many are hunkering down and lamenting the loss of cherished aspects of life as we knew it, we are tapping into the power of the Holy Spirit and doing more than we ever imagined. And who knows what lies ahead? With God, all things are possible.

The ladies you see here are Garage Sale co-chairs Linda Baldrige and Carol Woldt, but you must also picture supreme organizer Debbie Percy working day and night behind the scenes sorting, cleaning, stacking, arranging and re-arranging the vast number of donated items. When the doors opened at 8:00 am on September 17, the scene was truly a thing of beauty. Many cheerful and dedicated volunteers ensured things ran smoothly. With an array of home-baked goods, the sale netted an amazing \$4,379 for Holy Trinity. Bravo to all for this fantastic group effort!



As for the parking lot, we still must sprint to the finish line this month to make our 100% match. With your help we will get there, so that the project can be paid in full. Thanks be to God!



TASK FORCE FOR REGATHERING: Update on returning to indoor worship

The Task Force, led by Wendy Franke and Sandi Brewer, had originally targeted October 4th for the reopening of the church for inside worship. Positive Covid-19 cases had been on a decline until August 31st. From August 31st (266 positive cases) to Sept 24th (2,392 cases) there has been a drastic increase in cases. For the safety of our congregation, the Council voted at its September 24 meeting to postpone the date for worshipping inside. The trend in cases in Dane County will continue to be closely monitored by the Council and the church will be reopened when the Task Force and Council deem it is safe.

When the church reopens, there will be extra precautions taken. Extensive cleaning and sanitizing will occur. There will also be a wellness check and an opportunity to register your attendance. If someone later tests positive for Covid-19, the people who were at the worship service will be notified. This is as a courtesy, not out of necessity. Only those who have been in close contact need to be quarantined. The CDC (Center for Disease Control) defines close contact as “For COVID-19, a close contact is defined as any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.”

Our outdoor service will continue for as long as we can keep it going. A reminder that you can listen on your car radio in the warmth of your vehicle. We are grateful to each of you for your faithfulness to Holy Trinity and to Jesus’ command to love and care for our neighbor. Your well-being is our highest concern.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SELLING THE PARSONAGE

A special congregational meeting was held on September 27 to discuss and vote on a proposal to sell the parsonage. The reason for the proposal is that the house is not currently occupied and the sale proceeds could be used towards the mortgage on the church.

- At present our mortgage stands at \$284,000 with monthly payments of \$3,500.
- In 2019 the parsonage cost the church around \$3,000 in utilities and insurance.
- The ELCA requires churches without a parsonage to include a monthly housing allowance in the pastor’s compensation package. By standard calculations this would add an additional \$2,000 per month to the pastor’s compensation upon sale of the parsonage.

After discussion, the motion to sell was approved by vote of 31-5. Prior to that, an amendment to the original motion was put forward to apply all the proceeds of the sale to paying down the mortgage. That amendment passed by a vote of 26-4. The Council will stay in touch with the congregation concerning next steps.

We thank George Socha for serving as meeting parliamentarian, and John Ray and Larry Legro for their ongoing work on external parsonage repairs and improvements. Speaking of these two, John is also single-handedly responsible for repainting the entire front of the church and adding beautiful gray to the trim and doors. Thank you, John! And Larry Legro recently cleaned at great length all the carpets in the narthex and fellowship hall following the Garage Sale. Thank you, Larry!



PASTOR'S COLUMN: Our Time is Now

Popular history focuses on big names: Jesus. Muhammad. William Shakespeare. Abraham Lincoln. Martin Luther King. But how many pioneers, priests, and game-changers have been crushed by circumstance and lost in the shuffle?

One is Lajos Ordass (1901–1978), Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary in the mid-20th century. Born Lajos Wolf, in 1944 he changed his name to the Hungarian word for “wolf” to protest the German occupation of Hungary. As Communism crept over and then swallowed up his homeland, Ordass clearly saw that the church could not accept the demands of the state without losing its integrity and Christian identity. His tireless advocacy got him a long imprisonment, much in solitary confinement, the loss of his office, and the status of “persona non grata” for the rest of his life. “For decades,” we read, “he could do no more than write manuscripts ‘for the desk drawer.’”



Yet hear these words of his that leap from dark confinement into the bright realm of the saints:

“For a Christian must be blind if he does not see that while we first sought everything else but the kingdom of God and its righteousness, we, naturally, did not find the kingdom of God; on the contrary, we have lost everything else. Everything!

“I am living today, my Lord, among a people which has lost everything. I implore you, bring us a time when the possibility of starting all over again will open up for us. And then help us mistaken Christians to follow the right order, the one prescribed by you. First the kingdom of God! First you, the King of Truth!”

Sisters and brothers in Christ, at present we have lost that which has been dearest to us as a church—the weekly opportunity to meet together bodily in worship in song, prayer, and fellowship. Even when we do come “back inside,” much of what we knew and loved will be gone.

It is an indelible characteristic of God's people that every lament turns to praise. In the midst of our loss, what new life awaits? Listen again to Bishop Ordass: "I implore you, bring us a time when the possibility of starting all over again will open up for us."

We are there. The time is now. The pandemic is handing us exactly this opportunity. In fact, we have no choice—if in fact we *have* chosen life. Remember Ezekiel 18 from this past Sunday? "Turn, then, and live!" By the wonders of God's amazing grace working through each of you, Holy Trinity is not only surviving but (modestly) thriving. We are able to pay our bills. We are able to undertake improvements. We are able to make major decisions for the future of the church.

Last week our Council and Task Force faced the hard truth that regathering inside beginning on October 4 poses health risks that are too great. Now what? Yes, we still have our online service. Yes, at least through this month we will continue to worship together at 10:00 am in the parking lot (bring a coat and don't forget: 87.7 FM).

For now, though, we need something more to sustain us. What can we do? Where can we go?

Since we closed the building for indoor worship, I have urged you to see this time as one rich in opportunity and alive with hope."O Lord, make haste to help us! Let those who seek our life be put to shame and confounded!...Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the Lord!" (from Psalm 70).

Begin here: "First the kingdom of God! First you, the King of Truth!" Then try thinking small. This summer two of our members took the initiative to purchase flats of 40 small flowers and deliver them to homes of members in the Marshall area to remind them of God's love. Before that, we had the Browne children (on their own) painting bricks with inspirational messages and leaving them around town to brighten people's spirits. What else can we do? How can we, with so much at our disposal, find new and creative ways to share the message of the gospel that people long to hear?

My favorite saying since I've been here is, "Come up with an idea, and we'll make it happen." I renew that invitation to you with all my heart. How can we be messengers of light, and hope, and life, to our entire community?

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Raabe



Mission Quilts for LWR

The women of our quilting group at Holy Trinity have taken to heart, “Touch lives, make a quilt”. On Saturday, September 26 Laurie and Steve Weisensel took boxes containing 63 quilts that were made by our members to the rail car waiting in Madison. This was the site of the “ingathering” of donations to Lutheran World Relief (LWR) from area churches that will be distributed around the world to people in need. The train goes to Baltimore, where the quilts are stored until they are sent where needed.

Thank you to the women who participate in every phase of making these quilts here at church and at home. Thanks also to the many church members who have donated money and supplies to the quilt project. Our quilting group typically meets at the church on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. We welcome anyone who wants to get involved in making quilts. LWR mission quilts connect hands and hearts around the world.



Laurie has been the leader on assembling homemade backpacks containing school supplies for children in need. A box containing those items was also loaded into the rail car that is going to LWR. Thanks, Laurie and Steve, for assisting with donations going to LWR.

Submitted by Linda Baldrige



CHURCH NEWS

Holy Trinity Spirit Wear Thanks to Ameriprint Apparel in Sun Prairie, owned by Kim Erb, store samples and order forms will be available at church in October so that you can judge sizes. You may also order directly from our home page, holytrinitymarshall.com.



Sunday school continues October 4, 11, and 18 from 10:45-11:15 a.m. following the outdoor service.

We are once again seeking a **Sunday school superintendent**. This person should be a visionary who can imagine new ways of rallying children and their families around our program. We have an extensive online curriculum available, but we need ideas for how to implement it. Here is one way you can make a great difference in the life of our church! Please contact Pastor Raabe or Council President Gary Waalkens if you think they can talk you into this. ☺

A Celebration of First Communion will take place in a small ceremony in the parking lot at 1:00 pm on **Sunday, October 4**. Congratulations to Josephyne Browne, Carly Checky, and Mariah Nemeč for completing their First Communion studies with Pastor Raabe over the summer on the parsonage

deck, which began this past winter with Kim Erb. Each student received an “Adventure Bible” at the last class in August.

Confirmation for 7th and 8th graders continues at 5 p.m. on Wednesdays by Zoom. A link to the class is sent out the day before. We are delighted to welcome as co-leader Pastor Tim Knipfer from Bristol Lutheran in Sun Prairie, along with Bristol 7th grader Bennett Moore. A Confirmation “bonfire” and outdoor games are planned for **Wednesday October 28 at 6:00 pm** here at the church. (We promise not to set our new parking lot on fire.)

Confirmation Sunday for this year’s 9th graders takes place at 10:00 am on **Sunday, October 25** at the outdoor service. Congratulations to Joey Gonzalez, Kate Luzenski, Alyssa Radke, and Aliyah Rund-Smith on this milestone in their spiritual life. Pastor Raabe is meeting individually with those four confirmands over the next few weeks.



LUTHERANS + COFFEE Lutherans love coffee, so what better for a fundraiser? Only a few bags of special LWR coffee remain. Purchased through Lutheran World Relief, which directly supports growers in Latin America with no middlemen, bags of regular and bold roast are \$10 each. Contact the office or pick some up on a Sunday. Happy sipping!

HOLY TRINITY TASK FORCE FOR REGATHERING: OCTOBER UPDATE

A reminder that when we do go back inside, these procedures will be followed:

Face coverings will be mandatory. Those unable to wear them may watch the service online.

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

Ushers: Three will be needed for each service – two to guide worshipers entering and leaving, and one for the Welcome Desk to sign in those who arrive for worship.

Seating: Individuals or family groups may choose their seats as long as they are spaced apart from others by three pew chairs and one row.

Communion: Worshipers will receive the packaged communion upon arrival in small bags, as we’ve been doing; use the bag for disposal. We will all commune at the same time.

During worship: No singing or praying aloud. Words to hymns will be projected. We will let the organ serve as the “singing” voice of the congregation as we pray the words silently.

Cleaning and sanitizing: A special sanitizing crew will clean the sanctuary thoroughly before and after each service. Cleaning methods will include a non-toxic ionized spray and thorough sanitizing of all surfaces and bathrooms.

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 weather allows for good ventilation.

Numbers present: Unless we begin to experience a larger attendance, the Council has decided not to limit the numbers present. If greater numbers are deciding to attend we will institute pre-service registration, as many other congregations are doing.

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

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Holy Trinity Congregation Council met on September 24 to discuss many issues facing the church. Among them:

- Because of the large increase in Dane County virus infections in September, the Council voted 6-1 to delay the planned October 4 return to indoor worship. It was resolved to re-evaluate every two weeks based on Dane County statistics. Several Council members made note of schools that had opened in-person that are now moving to online instruction.
- In tandem with this decision, the Council decided not to allow any groups to use the building until we are back indoors for worship, including our Scout troop, Cub dens, and hall rentals. Ministries such as baptisms that are central to the mission of the church may take place, however, as long as the number in an enclosed space is kept to 10 or fewer and proper safety measures are followed.
- Looking ahead to regathering indoors, our Task Force members Sandi Brewer and Wendy Franke will lead the required usher training. Before we can open we must have a rotation in place of three ushers for each service. The Council will also be clarifying in the coming weeks what it means to “quarantine” and how to determine whether this is necessary if you happened to attend worship with someone who then develops the virus.
- It was decided that the vote at the September 27 congregational meeting to sell the parsonage should be a simple “yes” or “no.”
- Owen Raisbeck reported a positive balance in both our General Fund and Building Fund.
- We are still seeking a student representative on Council who is a confirmed member in 9th grade or older. A youth perspective on the Council is very important. We will be returning to Zoom meetings twice monthly, but the student rep need attend only once a month.

YOUR 2020-2021 CHURCH COUNCIL

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Second Harvest Mobile Food Bank

Drive-up distributions at 1:00 pm on Friday October 9 and Friday October 30. **We will be moving to once a month at Firemen's Park for the November 20 and December 18 distributions.** Please note that these are *third* Fridays, due to the holidays, and the change of location due to high school activities. In 2021 we will be moving exclusively to *fourth* Fridays at the same time and new location.

November is Holy Trinity's month to host the Marshall/Waterloo Food Pantry.

At least 3 volunteers are needed for each shift on Wednesdays from 6:45 to 8:00 pm, and on Saturday mornings from 8:45 to 10:00 am. Contact the church office for dates you can help. It's a minimal commitment of time for a major impact on our community. Please be generous.

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@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. And share the link to our online services with family and friends!

thank you

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 service helpers, hard-working Second Harvest Food Bank volunteers, dedicated Council members who have been meeting twice monthly since April, those involved with the Garage Sale and Sunday School, all who have generously donated to the Parking Lot Fund, those who so willingly donated time and materials to maintain the church and parsonage, and those who keep our grounds looking so well-manicured. Special thanks to Dave Kiersten for being on call all summer to keep our cooling systems going and fresh air circulating.



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

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

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, SSI, SSDI, or Unemployment. 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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Note: Church is now locked when the office is not open.

608-655-4246

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