



# THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

APRIL 2021

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

## HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## WHAT'S ON TAP FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER?

We are glad you asked!

### March 28, Palm/Passion Sunday

- The **online service** features a dramatic reading of the Passion story from Mark with a full cast of characters.

- The **drive-in service** at 10 a.m. starts off with a grand palm procession around the parking lot led by Jasper the donkey. Palms will be handed out as you arrive; wear your good walking shoes and join us in a jaunt around the lot as we sing "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" before returning to our cars. The service also includes a re-telling of the Passion from Mark's gospel with three readers accompanied dramatically by percussion. Don't miss out on this festive worship experience.



### Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7 p.m.

- In-person worship in the sanctuary; a beautiful service with contemplative music and a confession based on the 10 Commandments;



photos projected on the wall of our confirmands serving as "helping hands" at home or in the community; our first experience of Holy Communion in more than a year with real bread and wine; concludes with the stripping of the altar in preparation for Good Friday as Psalm 22 is sung.



## Good Friday, April 2

Online only: We'll share a Tenebrae service characterized by the gradual extinguishing of candles as the Passion narrative from John's Gospel is read, interspersed with stanzas from powerful Lenten hymns. The service ends in darkness as we ponder the death of Christ on the cross.

## Easter Sunday, April 4

- 7 a.m.: Sunrise worship with communion in the parking lot. Our last drive-in service!
- 9 and 11 a.m.: In-person worship in the sanctuary with festive hymns. Registration is required—call the church or email Pastor Raabe with the number in your party, [pastor@holytrinity-marshall.com](mailto:pastor@holytrinity-marshall.com).
- 10 a.m.: Really big Easter egg hunt! Kids of all ages are welcome. Bring your own baskets; we'll provide bags for all the candy you will be taking home.



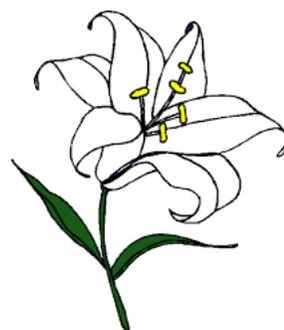
Let's walk through this climactic week together as the community of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church!



### Pastor's Column: THIS JOYFUL EASTERTIDE

"Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day prison," we sing in the exuberant Easter hymn of this name (ELW 391), "our faith had been in vain. But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, ari-----sen!"

We will meet this hymn on Easter Sunday. George Woodward's text comes from 1 Corinthians 15, Paul's great "Resurrection" chapter. In 15:14 Paul lays it on the line to the church in Corinth: "And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." Without Jesus' death and resurrection, without Good Friday and Easter, he would have been just another prophet. But the Resurrection is real. It really, truly happened. It is even mentioned as having taken place by Josephus, a Roman historian writing in the late first century AD.



This is news—this is good news! It was good news then and it still is today. And news needs to be told!

Jesus was not resuscitated, in the manner of Lazarus in John 11, who was brought back to life but who (we presume) eventually died. That is, following his resurrection Jesus did not resume a life in which he was still subject to death. He had *transcended* death. He was no longer subject to its power. Paul

testifies in Romans 6:9, “We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.”

As one theologian has written, humanity’s clear “no” to God in its sin is returned with God’s “yes” to all creation. Even with all our waywardness, our obstinacy—even so, Jesus is risen! And not because anything that we have done...in fact, the opposite. We keep doing things that show us to be unworthy of such a gift. But this is the truth of grace: God’s grace keeps coming at us anyway because God loves us that much. What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

This is the good news of the Christian gospel, and it is good news *for us*. God has redeemed us, we who once were lost! Think of the redemption counter at an arcade where you trade your tickets in for prizes. God has bought us back with the death of his Son, but has taken the process one cosmic step further in Christ’s victory over death. The Resurrection enables Jesus to be with us in a way that only faith can understand, and at the same time it shatters the power of all those earthly obstacles that try to separate us from God, the biggest of which is our own shame—the idea that we are unworthy. You ARE worthy—God loves you that much! There is a five-letter word that sums this up: G-R-A-C-E. Whatever you are going through, cling to God’s grace with all your heart and soul and strength.

On our own, this prescription can simply be too hard to fill. This is where the church comes in. The church is the body of Christ in the world. Just as you need your physical body to experience life on earth, you need Christ’s body as the church to know life in Christ. Through the church faith is nurtured and strengthened. Through the church the good news of forgiveness, salvation, and eternal life are proclaimed. Through the church, members of the body of Christ are equipped to become the *means* of grace, agents of salvation for others. Through our liturgy and song, through our preaching and teaching, through the words we speak and the works of our hands that arise from our faith, the Christian gospel is spread in our families, through our towns, across the nation, and around the world. This is how God’s kingdom breaks in.

So why do we bother with Holy Week? Why not just jump straight to Easter and forget about all that sad stuff?

Because in the Christian story there is no resurrection without death. And Christ’s death needed to be a certain kind of death: It had to be a humiliation deep enough to encompass all the forms of suffering that humans must endure in a world where people purposely inflict pain on others.

Here is the key to that understanding: *The crucified Christ is the defining revelation both of God and of the human condition.* God loves the world, but the world, still ruled by Satan, is full of pain. The ego and its hunger for accomplishments tries to get us to ignore our pain. But it was *on the cross* that God chose to reveal God’s self fully to us—hidden in the form the one despised and rejected by the world, the one who suffered just as we do so that we may come to know this crucified God in our own suffering.



What kind of God is revealed on the cross? A God who loves us so much that he was willing to enter into a world of pain and suffer the worst of what human beings can do to each other, so that he can be with us in the worst that we must endure; a God who, in life's darkest moments, tells us that death is not the end and that the promise of eternal life is real; a God whose victory over death is an actual, actual sign that this promise is true; a God whose power is revealed in weakness, one whose death brings life through death. Here on the cross, only faith is able to recognize God in the crucified Christ. Here on the cross, as Martin Luther wrote, we see Christ as the very mirror of the Father's heart.

Therefore I encourage you to enter fully into the Easter story this year. Don't take a shortcut to Easter Sunday. Share in the grand procession of palms on March 28 that greets Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, and grasp—in the same service—the truth of what awaits Jesus at the end of that "Via Dolorosa." Participate in the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday as we remember Jesus' own Last Supper and the commitment to love and acts of service he showed the disciples, knowing all that was coming the next day. Experience the reality of Jesus' death on the cross on Good Friday through powerful hymns and a service that concludes in darkness. Awake on Sunday and be astonished, once again, by the earth-shattering news of Easter. Let it make headlines in your life, and then go and share this good news.

Yours in Resurrection hope,  
Pastor Nancy Raabe



### SUNDAY SCHOOL: IT'S BAAAAACK!



With the Easter egg hunt as our official kickoff, our **Sunday School resumes** in the fellowship hall on April 11 and will extend through mid-May. We have new teachers, a fresh curriculum, and are eager for children of all ages to be involved. Families, you'll be receiving more information. If you think you may not be on our Sunday School mailing list, please [send a note](#) to Superintendent Susy Pawl at [susyasnuffles@gmail.com](mailto:susyasnuffles@gmail.com), or call her at 608 345-5832, or you can call the church office.

### SECOND HARVEST MOBILE FOOD BANK: Always "fourth Fridays," new time is 3:30 p.m.

To allow us to continue in the high school parking lot, distribution will now begin at 3:30 p.m. Please do not arrive to get in line before 2:30 p.m., as the buses need that space. Volunteers are asked to come at 2:15-2:30 p.m. and park in the church lot. Thanks to all involved for your cooperation so that we can continue this important ministry.

## 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 the 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 nonprofits 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 very grateful to members who have chosen this option as a way to make a sizable annual gift. You may now use our online giving, through [holytrinitymarshall.com](http://holytrinitymarshall.com), to make a gift directly to our Endowment.

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. Please contact Endowment Investment Committee Chair Jack Erb with any questions at [jackaerb@gmail.com](mailto:jackaerb@gmail.com) or 608-215-5098, or speak with Pastor Raabe.

## WELCA NEWS

From President Marilyn Osterlie:



Hi all, we have found that we need to change our April WELCA date to Tues. April 6th at 12:30. This is the month we usually have lunch out, so instead we plan to order Party Subs for a get together in the Fellowship Hall. We will ask for a donation of \$5.00 and WELCA will cover any excess charge. Remember this is a time for fellowship so plan to attend and wear your favorite spring bonnet. 😊

I would appreciate a RSVP so that I have a count for the subs. Coronavirus protocol will be observed. Happy Spring! (To RSVP, call the church office or send an email to [waomho@frontier.com](mailto:waomho@frontier.com).)

Peace, Marilyn

## REST

*<sup>31</sup>Jesus said to them, 'Come away with me. Let us go alone to a quiet place and rest for a while.' Many people were coming and going. They could not even eat. <sup>32</sup>So they went away in a boat to a lonely place by themselves. <sup>33</sup>The people saw them going. Many people knew them. The people ran from all the towns and got there ahead of them. (Mark 6:31-33)*

In Mark's Gospel things happen quickly. By the beginning of Chapter 6 Jesus has taught far and wide, casting out demons and stilling storms. The pace is hectic and crowds are following him everywhere. Then he and the disciples receive the shattering news that John the Baptist has been beheaded. They gather his body, carefully place it in a tomb and regather around Jesus, nervous and on edge. But people won't leave them alone. Mark's Gospel tells us, "Many people were coming and going. They could not even eat."

So Jesus says to them, Mark 6:31-32: "Come away with me. Let us go alone to a quiet place and rest for a while."

"Rest for a while." This is not an invitation, but a command. In fact, it is one of the 10 Commandments. But how often do we listen?

We Americans not only love to work, but we are accustomed to pushing ourselves beyond our limits. I believe the typical American work schedule, at least pre-pandemic, is part of the reason we have become such a secular culture. Leave home at 7, get to work at 8, break for lunch for an hour, work until 5, get home at 6, collapse on the couch, eat dinner, watch TV and go to bed. Where is there time to hear God's voice in the midst of that?

Lack of adequate rest can ruin families, damage souls, even kill us. When we push ourselves like that we can lose sight of what we enjoy in our work, we find that things we used to love doing have become a chore, we fail to be fully present for others, and we lose our ability to hear God speaking to us.



Human beings were not made to work 24/7. How do we know that? Because God created us in God's own image, and we know from the great act of creation that God is one who works and then rests.

What if we were to think of every day of life that God gives us as a great act of creation? How can we build into each day rhythms of rest alongside those of work in a way that frees us to hear God's voice?

Here is an idea. What if we were to sprinkle "God pauses" throughout our day? A few minutes here and there to pause, remember your breath, center yourself in the cosmos, and give yourself over into God's hands. Or instead of an hour for lunch, trim that to half an hour and take two 15-minute breaks in the morning and afternoon to put yourself in the midst of nature, even if it's just gazing out a

window, and think of how your molecules and atoms are the same as those shared by all living creatures. Remember, in the words of Joni Mitchell, that we are stardust!

Taking frequent God pauses throughout the day has been my Lenten discipline this year. Each time I find that I'm able to resume work with greater energy and clarity.

And how did it go for the disciples in Mark 6? Let's hear the passage again:

<sup>31</sup> "Jesus said to them, 'Come away with me. Let us go alone to a quiet place and rest for a while.' Many people were coming and going. They could not even eat.

<sup>32</sup> "So they went away in a boat to a lonely place by themselves."

BUT....

<sup>33</sup> "The people saw them going. Many people knew them. The people ran from all the towns and got there ahead of them."

They were going to need all the God pauses they could get! Let us pray:

*<sup>1</sup>For God alone my soul waits in silence;  
from him comes my salvation.*

*<sup>2</sup>He alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall never be shaken.*

(Psalm 62:1-2)

Peace,  
Pastor Raabe

### **Council Highlights, March 9**

We have a new Girl Scout troop meeting at church on the first Thursday evening of each month. They will get involved in service projects, and will host a Girl Scout Cookie sale at the church on Palm Sunday. (Pastor's note: Please see the new "Holy Trinity Partners" page under the Outreach area of our web site to hear one of their members read a children's story.)

Susy Pawl has plans ready for Sunday School opening on April 11. A motion was approved to allow Sunday School to resume inside.

COVID-19: There is an uptick in Madison numbers probably due to the UW students. Without students, the numbers in WI are very good and support our re-opening plans.

A motion was approved to move the money in our Endowment Fund into a managed growth fund, since as cash it is currently accumulating very little interest. We anticipate this will allow it to grow at a rate of about 5% annually.

The Endowment Investment Team and the Bylaws Committee will meet to discuss how the interest from the fund should be used. It is recommended that the principal should not be touched without agreement from both committees.

Wendy Franke presented recommendations for inside worship from the task force. Twenty to 40 can be seated at each service. Dan Timpel agreed to head up the organization of ushers.

### YOUR 2021-2022 CHURCH COUNCIL

Gary Waalkens, President	608-655-4989	<a href="mailto:gwaalkens1952@yahoo.com">gwaalkens1952@yahoo.com</a>
Dan Timpel, Vice President	608-575-2211	<a href="mailto:dktimpel@gmail.com">dktimpel@gmail.com</a>
Carol Woldt, Secretary	608-712-8947	<a href="mailto:bearcollector20@yahoo.com">bearcollector20@yahoo.com</a>
Cheri Harwood	608-469-2142	<a href="mailto:mac9harw@gmail.com">mac9harw@gmail.com</a>
Lynn Weyer	608-417-9196	<a href="mailto:lyweyer@gmail.com">lyweyer@gmail.com</a>
Stephanie Woodley	608-371-7233	<a href="mailto:swoodley1@outlook.com">swoodley1@outlook.com</a>
Wendy Franke	920-350-2838	<a href="mailto:frankew1115@gmail.com">frankew1115@gmail.com</a>
Pastor Nancy Raabe	614-214-2639	<a href="mailto:pastor@holytrinity-marshall.com">pastor@holytrinity-marshall.com</a>

*We are still in need of a Council youth representative. All confirmed members up to age 30 are eligible. Please contact Pastor Raabe if you would like to be the voice for youth in our church!*

### CHURCH NEWS

**The Women of the ELCA (WELCA)** will meet on April 6 at 12:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall for subs, dessert and coffee. All required safety procedures will be observed.

**Bible Study on 1 Corinthians:** This is a group that works through a Facebook page associated with our church, and which also meets occasionally on Zoom. Contact Pastor Raabe if you'd like to join.

**Second Harvest Mobile Food Bank:** The drive-up distribution date this month is **April 23** starting at the new time of **3:30 p.m.** Volunteers, please come at around 2:30 p.m.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:htcstaff@holytrinity-marshall.com) and let us know that.

**Our web site, [holytrinitymarshall.com](http://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 organist and secretary, Sunday and Wednesday ushers and worship leaders, everyone who supplied candy and

prepared eggs for the Easter Egg hunt, and who are working on Holy Week and Easter, our hard-working Second Harvest Food Bank volunteers, those who have been readers for our online and parking lot services, dedicated Council members who have been meeting twice monthly since last April, those so willingly donating time and materials to maintain the church, and those who keep our grounds looking so well-manicured and our parking lot clear.

*thank you*



**Contact the church office at 608-655-4246 or [htcstaff@holytrinity-marshall.com](mailto:htcstaff@holytrinity-marshall.com)**

--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

--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-1:00 PM 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**

**Wisconsin Home Energy Plus Program at 1-866-432-8947 or 608-267-8601**