

HOLY TRINITY TIMES

MARCH 2020

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

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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PASTOR'S COLUMN: Images of God in Prayer

The psalms provide us with infinite opportunities for prayer. This month we are going to be looking at some of the psalms of lament Wednesdays at noon starting March 11. It's hard for me to pick a favorite psalm, since each addresses us in a different situation and season of life. But Psalm 131, just three short verses, is especially close to my heart:



O Lord, I am not proud;
I have no haughty looks,
I do not occupy myself
with great matters,
or with things that are
too hard for me.

But I still my soul and make it quiet,
Like a child upon its mother's breast;
My soul is quieted within me.

O Israel, wait upon the Lord,
From this time forth and forevermore. *(ELW translation)*

The psalmist invites us to set aside all our worldly concerns and become like children, opening ourselves to God in utter trust in God's loving caretaking. How, then, may we think of God?

To Jesus, God was "My Father," but at times both Jesus and Paul called God "Abba" – "Daddy." There are also compelling scriptural images of God as "Mother." For Isaiah, "God formed me in the womb" (49:5) and God says through the prophet, "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you" (66:13). Human beings, male *and* female, are made in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27, 5:1-2). In Matthew we have the beautiful image of Jesus desiring to gather his children to him "as a hen gathers her brood



under her wings” (23:37), while John’s Gospel uses a woman in labor as a symbol of the resurrection (16:21).

Early Christian writers bring in maternal images when speaking of God; John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople (d. 407 AD) names God not only as Father but as Spouse, Sister, and Mother. Best known are the feminine names for God used regularly by medieval women mystics and especially Julian of Norwich (1342-1416), the greatest English mystic of her age: “But our true mother, Jesus, he alone bears us to joy and to endless living...”

Julian was an anchoress, one among many women of her time who chose to dwell exclusively in a small cell attached to a church. The breadth and dimension of her visions of Christ are unparalleled, and she documented them in great and elegant detail.

Our hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, contains a passionate hymn based on Julian’s writings opens us to this maternal image of our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer:

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

- 1 Mothering God, you gave me birth
in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of ev'ry breath,
you are my rain, my wind, my sun.
- 2 Mothering Christ, you took my form,
offering me your food of light,
grain of life, and grape of love,
your very body for my peace.
- 3 Mothering Spirit, nurt'ring one,
in arms of patience hold me close,
so that in faith I root and grow
until I flow'r, until I know.

(ELW 735, text and music by Jean Janzen, b. 1933)

As we ask ourselves, “With what shall I come before the Lord....?” (Micah 6:6), let us open ourselves on our 40-day journey to new ways of experiencing God that will unleash in each of us the creative power of the Holy Spirit.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Raabe

**Wednesday Noon Lenten Study:
The Lost Language of Lament**



Led by Pastor Nancy Raabe
March 11, 18, 25, and April 1 at 12 noon at the parsonage, 224 Howard St.

Why do we need the psalms? Because they lay bare our humanity and vulnerability before God. The psalms of lament, the largest category of the 150 psalms, give authentic expression to what it means to be human.

Praying these psalms, we come to understand that we cannot truly praise God until we have named our suffering. We come to understand worship as the journey from lament to praise. These psalms also invite us to pray to God on behalf of the oppressed and marginalized who have no voice.

Yet the language of these psalms can be deeply unsettling, and in fact many are omitted from the lectionary so that we rarely if ever encounter them in our worship life. What can we do to recover the lost language of lament?

Psalms we will consider include:

- Psalm 13: Lament over the hidden God
- Psalm 22: Lament of the forsaken
- Psalm 44: Lament of the rejected
- Psalm 69: Lament from the brink of despair
- Psalm 88: Lament of the abandoned
- Psalm 102: Lament of the reviled
- Psalm 109: Vengeance against the wicked
- Psalm 137: Lament of the exiled and vengeance against their captors
- Psalm 140: Vengeance against one's oppressors

We will also take a look at the structure of the Book of Psalms, consider issues in translation, explore how these psalms can help us to better come to terms with the tension between resisting and surrendering to God that affects us all, and try our hand at writing our own psalm.

Come for all four sessions or just drop in when you can. Light refreshments will be served.



WORSHIP IN LENT



PERFECT LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR is our theme of our Lenten midweek services at 6:30 pm on Wednesday March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1. Rooted in the pattern of Evening Prayer, and including communion, each service provides a pair of scripture readings exploring dimensions of God's love for us and the love of Christ we share. Please join us for this contemplative experience as we journey through Lent together.

Please note there is no service on Wednesday, April 8 during Holy Week. Instead we look forward to worshipping with you on **Maundy Thursday on April 9 at 6:30 pm** and **Good Friday on April 10 at noon and 7:00 pm** and of course **Easter Sunday on April 12 at 8:00 and 10:30 am**.



ANNUAL REPORT Copies of the Annual Report and approved 2020 budget are in the office if you'd like to stop in and pick one up; contact the office if you'd like them mailed to your home. Please let the office know.



ATTENDANCE January 26-February 23, 2020

Sunday	9:00 am	10:30 am	Wed 6:30 pm
Jan 26-29	47 @ 10:00 one worship for annual meeting		20
Feb 2-5	45	15	26
Feb 9-12	36	0	21
Feb 16-19	50	0	33
Feb 23	45	0 (not held)	Not Available @ printing



2020 GIVING TOTALS/\$11,702 Needed Each Month

January	Current Offerings Rec'd	Mortgage Offerings Rec'd
	\$7,152	\$2,556
February	\$5,083	\$2,891



WE NEED USHERS AND GREETERS! One of the Council's priorities for this Spring is hospitality. How can we truly become a "welcoming church"? It starts the moment people walk in the door and then into the sanctuary. Won't you consider serving our church in this way? Visitors have commented that they are confused by our communion practice, so a regular rotation of ushers would be helpful to lead them forward in an orderly way. Ushers also keep an eye on the congregation from the rear in case there is anyone who needs assistance. Let's show in our faces, warm welcomes, and handshakes how delighted we are that people come to worship with us.



"Palms and Pancakes" on February 23 was a big success, thanks to all those who prepared and burned our palms and worked so hard to prepare and serve a scrumptious breakfast. We hope this becomes an annual tradition on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday.

Now it's time to be thinking ahead to **Easter brunch** on Easter Sunday, April 12! Last year we had a great turnout between services for a meal of breakfast casseroles, hard-boiled eggs, pastries, and fruit. There is a display on the "Over and Above" bulletin board with reminder cards you may take for whatever item you would like to bring. Breakfast casserole recipe ideas are on the Welcome Desk, or bring your own special dish. Brunch will be served from 9:00-10:30, so have your food offerings at church by 8:30 or they may be brought early and left in the refrigerator.

There will also be an Easter egg hunt between services so please bring any candy donations for the eggs to the office when the office is open.

CHURCH NEWS

The Holy Trinity Women's Book Group will meet at the parsonage on Monday March 2, March 16, and March 30 to continue their discussions.

The Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction is being planned for Sunday March 29 from 11:30-2:00.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Kathy Deneen or the church office. The Silent Auction will run from 11:30 to 1:30 when bidding ends. If you know someone, or a place of business, who would be willing to donate Silent Auction items, please contact them and bring the items to the office. We need to make sure there are plenty of silent auction items as the Silent Auction is a very important part of this fundraiser.

The menu includes spaghetti w/sauce, bread, lettuce salad, milk, lemonade and coffee with prices as follows:

\$7, adults \$5, seniors \$5, children ages 10-17 FREE for children 9 and under

Carry-outs will be available. Free will offerings are given for our wonderful dessert table filled with delicious-ness! There will also be games and activities for the kids, so plan to attend and bring family and friends.



Pastor's Weekly Coffee Hour Thursdays at 12 noon. Pastor Raabe is again hosting a weekly coffee hour every Thursday at noon at Paradiddle's Café in Waterloo, 1003 N. Monroe Street. Reconnect with members, make new friends. Bring your ideas, hopes, and dreams for Holy Trinity, or let's just solve the world's problems.

March is Holy Trinity's month to serve as hosts at the Marshall-Waterloo Food Pantry (117 E. Madison Street, use door in the alley). Hallelujah (we can still say that to each other during Lent): There are only a few spots remaining! Volunteers are needed for Wednesday evenings (7-8 pm) and Saturday mornings (9-10 am). Volunteers should arrive 10 minutes prior to the opening of the pantry. *There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Please consider volunteering for any open spots.*

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.

NOTE: The church is now locked after office hours. If you need to get in at another time, please call the church office to make arrangements.

Sunday worship helpers (greeters, ushers, lectors, communion assistants) are always needed. There's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and one for snacks and coffee-making each Sunday.

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.

Thrivent Choice Dollars -- Attention all Thrivent members: You are now required to register for Thrivent Choice annually. If you are a Thrivent customer, Thrivent Choice Dollars have been accumulating throughout the year. Please direct Choice Dollars several times during the year to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church by simply following these steps:

1. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice
2. Click on "Choice Dollars" and log in
3. Search for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Marshall
4. Click on "Direct Now" or
5. Call the Thrivent Member Center at 800-847-4836

When prompted say "Thrivent Choice", then say "Choice Dollars," and a representative will process your request.

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.



Your Parsonage All Holy Trinity members are warmly invited to use the parsonage at 224 Howard Street for church-related gatherings, whether one-time or ongoing.

The fellowship hall is available for parties and gatherings Please call the church office at 655-4246 (or email the office at htcstaff@holytrinity-marshall.com) with the date and time you are interested in reserving and we'll get back to you. There is a \$25 fee per event to Holy Trinity active members.

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.

Coming Up at Holy Trinity

AA meetings are held every Tuesday evening at 7:30.

Confirmation class meets every Wednesday at 5:15 (**except April 8**).

Coffee with Pastor at Paradiddle's on Thursdays at NOON.

The Women's Book Group meets at the parsonage on Monday March 2, 16 & 30.

Church Council meets on Monday March 9 at 6:00. Members of Holy Trinity are invited to attend any meeting.

WELCA meets on Tuesday March 10 at 1:00 for Bible study. All Holy Trinity women are invited to attend.

(New!!) LENTEN STUDY at NOON at parsonage on Wednesday March 11, 18, 25, and April 1. (This information was not available at the time your calendar was printed. Please make note.)

(New!!) A Sunday School Bake Sale will be held on Sunday March 15 from 9:00-11:30.

Engaging the Texts takes place at the parsonage on Monday March 16 at 2:30.

Quilt Tying will be held at 1:00 pm on Tuesday March 17.

Quilting Day is Saturday March 21 from 9:00-3:00. Come and join in this ministry; all skill levels are welcome. Stay all day or only part if you wish. Extra sewing machines are available. A great time to make quilts and join in some fellowship.

The February Second Harvest Food Bank will be Friday March 27 from 2:00-4:30 pm. This ministry provides much-needed food to area families and is open and available to all people.

Volunteers are always needed for the following, so come help out and bring a friend:

- 12:30 pm *Unload the Second Harvest truck; all food is moved by hand jack (we are especially in need of someone to help with this)*
- 1:15 pm *Volunteers should arrive to prepare food for distribution*
- 2:00-4:30 pm *Distribute food*
- 4:30 pm *Break down boxes, move pallets, and vacuum carpets*

Registration for recipients begins at **1:00 pm**. There will be limited seating in the narthex between 1:00 and 2:00 pm; otherwise, church doors open at 2:00 pm. Upcoming Second Harvest Food dates are March 27, April 24, and May 29.

Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction will be held Sunday March 29 from 11:30-2:00.



Council Highlights – February 11, 2020

Pastor Raabe opened with a devotion on God's Word proclaimed as truth in the midst of God's people, based on 2 Timothy 3:16.

Officers elected: New members Gary Waalkens, Carol Woldt, and Stephanie Woodley were welcomed to Council. Pastor Raabe led a detailed discussion of the roles of Council members, using a document provided by our Synod Council vice-president. It was agreed that a sense of well-defined roles has been missing, especially for officers. New officers were then elected to one-year terms: Gary Waalkens as President, Richard Tooley as Vice-President, and Carol Woldt as Secretary. Pastor Raabe suggested that Council members might wear identifying pins during worship services so that church members might be encouraged to approach them with comments, questions, or suggestions.

Parking Lot Fund: Treasurer Owen Raisbeck has opened a savings account for offerings directed to resurfacing the parking lot, per the Annual Meeting. Pastor Raabe has added this fund as an option for electronic giving. Richard Tooley brought up the idea of a fundraiser for the parking lot. What if people were to sponsor parking spots? The lot will cost \$8K - \$10K to resurface. Line repainting would be done after this with visitor and handicapped spaces clearly identified. Richard believes filling in the cracks would be waste of money. Handicapped signs in parking spaces need to be relocated and possibly new ones ordered.

Financial report: A worrying trend is that giving to the Building Fund is down; since January we have been about \$1,000 short per month of what we need to pay out for our mortgage. The end of the month showed a slight negative checkbook balance.

Property Committee: John Ray is in the process of repairing the dishwasher and replacing parts.

10:30 service: Discussion about the viability of this service since attendance has been down dramatically in the last several months. Will carry forward to the next meeting.

Report of the Constitution Review team: A detailed comparison was made by Liz Vent and Richard Tooley between our constitution and the ELCA model on which all ELCA member constitutions are based. In consultation with Pastor Raabe, minor inconsistencies were cleared up. The main goal of this team is to produce an electronic version of the Constitution (which we lack), using the ELCA model and adding modifications that were approved in past years by congregational vote.

Fundraising: Selling coffee from Lutheran World Relief was discussed instead of candy. This comes directly from farmers and helps support this vital ELCA ministry.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

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, susyasnuffles@gmail.com
Stephanie Woodley	608-371-7233 swoodley1@outlook.com
Kayla German, student rep	608-655-4422, kaylgerm@marshallschools.org

[One seat remains vacant]

COMMUNITY NEWS

RSVP Driver Services Program in the Marshall/Cottage Grove area urgently needs drivers. If you are interested and/or need more information, please contact Mary Schmelzer at 608-441-7896 or mschmelzer@rsvpdane.org.

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 February for the sake of this body of Christ! These include our secretary Kathy Schluter, our organist Carol Johnson-Hohol, Altar Guild members, those serving on Council or other leadership teams, Women of the ELCA, and our Sunday School staff. Many thanks to our hard-working Second Harvest Food Bank volunteers and to all who made the Palms and Pancakes event a success. Thank you to our Property Committee for all the work they do to maintain the church and parsonage. Thank you to those who plowed snow and shoveled sidewalks. Thanks to everyone who supplied paper for newsletters and bulletins, prepared the newsletter for mailing, ordered supplies and cleaned the church, watered the plants, kept track of church finances, counted money, took photographs, brewed coffee and provided weekly snacks, baked bread for communion, provided assistance at worship such as ushering, reading, or helping with communion, put information in the Courier, handled fellowship hall rentals, 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

--You need a ride to worship or a church event

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Staff office hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00am – 12:00noon

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

Kathy Schluter, office staff

Pastor Nancy Raabe e-mail

Pastor Nancy Raabe phone

Web site

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pastor@holytrinity-marshall.com

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