



THE HOLY TRINITY TIMES

NOVEMBER 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

Martin Luther + Spaghetti = ?

Our upcoming Martin Luther's Birthday Spaghetti Dinner Drive-Through, of course! Holy Trinity will host this (quite possibly unique) event on Tuesday, November 10 from 4:30-6:30 pm as part of the church's November theme of **#LoveYourNeighbor**. For just \$5 each, enjoy sauce made by our own chefs combined with pasta, salad, and bread into a full meal loaded right into the trunk or rear hatch of your vehicle. Orders will be taken on the spot and prepared fresh for each driver. Pick up dinner for the whole family!



The great reformer Martin Luther was born on November 10, 1483.

While we are not sure whether Luther ever enjoyed a spaghetti dinner, we do know that dried pasta was brought from China to Europe in the early middle ages. As a young monk Luther may have sampled it on his pilgrimage to Italy in 1510, when he walked 700 miles across the Alps to visit Rome.

Pastor's Column: Finding – Not Losing

Loss. It's been the topic of the year, and on into Autumn as the world turns inward in preparation for the new life to come. Especially now we are missing those rituals that marked the season: Watching football games all bundled up, packed tightly together. Tailgates. Fall festivals.



And when we do go back indoors as a worshipping community, singing! What will church be like without singing? This hits Lutherans especially hard—we whose heritage is rooted in congregational song. Led by Martin Luther, the Reformation restored the words of our faith into the mouths of God's people. Ezekiel prophesied about God's Word, "Mortal, eat this scroll that I give you'...then I ate it, and in my mouth it was as sweet as honey" (Ezekiel 3:3). We make the words of our faith our own through the miraculous medium

of music, and by the work of the Holy Spirit they change us. To the disciples who begged Jesus, “Lord, increase our faith!” he might have simply answered, “Just sing.”

So what we are to do?

Instead of lamenting over our loss, I invite you to join me in turning the tables in this time. Let’s look at the season of Autumn not in terms of what we have lost, but in terms of what we have found—and can find. Consider first the signs of new life we are finding at church:

- We offer a full online service that is viewed widely each week; previously I never would have considered bringing a camera into our worship experience.
- We have been worshipping outdoors since June 14 featuring a blend of music from different styles. While I have to admit it is now getting chilly out there, will this be our new warm-weather standard? Back in September months ago one member said, “We should worship like this every summer!”
- The receipts from our Garage Sale outdid last year’s by more than 30% (not counting last year’s brat fry). It was an amazing group effort in the midst of many challenges.
- We are coming up with new ideas for things we can do together that will shape our life going forward, which also may become part of our annual rituals. These include the spaghetti dinner drive-through; a “bake and take” pie event prior to Thanksgiving; the beautiful service of “Holden Evening Prayer” every Wednesday in Advent live-streamed on Facebook even if we are back inside by then; carols outdoors by candlelight on Christmas Eve with a live Nativity (after all, Mary and Joseph were outdoors, too).

Now that the pace of life is slower, let’s see what signs of new life we can find around us as well:

Autumn reminds us that Jesus will return. As leaves fall, colors become muted and life turns inward, we too focus on the miracle taking place in Mary’s womb as the Savior of the world, God’s Son, is being knit together into a human being by the same life forces that gave us birth—flesh upon flesh, bone upon bone.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. (James 5:7-8)

Autumn is a time for remembering. Freed from much of the busyness of life, God invites us to remember those who are not able to enjoy the richness of gifts with which we have been blessed—a roof that does not leak, enough food on our plates to fill our stomachs, clothing that protects us from the elements. How can you hold them in prayer, and how might God be calling you through your prayer?

¹⁹When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be left for the alien, the orphan, and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all your undertakings. ²⁰When you beat your olive trees, do not strip what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow. ²¹When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow. ²²Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I am commanding you to do this. (Deuteronomy 24:19-22)

Autumn reminds us of God's abundance. Not what are we lacking, but what do we have? God has given it all! We have our church family. We have gifts for quilting, sewing, carpentry, metalworking. We have gifts for administration, for nursing, for teaching, for companionship. We have culinary skills, craft-making skills. We write poetry and music. We tell stories. We create works of art. We bring joy to others. We care for others and allow ourselves to be cared for.

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the LORD of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. ¹¹I will rebuke the locust for you, so that it will not destroy the produce of your soil; and your vine in the field shall not be barren, says the LORD of hosts. ¹²Then all nations will count you happy, for you will be a land of delight, says the LORD of hosts. (Malachi 3:10-12)

Autumn reminds us of our true calling. Individually and together as the church, we are called to bring in the harvest. This is our vocation as followers of Christ. Hebrews says that the word of God is living and active, and James reminds us that faith without works is dead. We are called to participate in the Spirit's work of bringing all creation into God's love. What can you do, and how?

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:35-38)

Yours in the hope of Christ,
Pastor Raabe



Parsonage Update Thanks to many improvements, upgrades and repairs to the parsonage contributed by members, the parsonage at 224 Howard St. was in very good condition when it went on the housing market at the end of September. After 12 showings in six days, the Council received and accepted an offer for \$253,000, slightly above the asking price. We are now working with the housing inspection report and plan for closing to take place in mid-December. Thank you to all who worked so hard to prepare the house for sale.

The clergy housing allowance explained Clergy have always been provided housing by their congregations. Historically this meant a home close to the church, including furnishings and utilities, of high enough quality that the church was proud to use as a public space and claim it as a church property. The clergy compensation package therefore consisted of salary plus housing.

In recent decades, pastors—especially those who came to ministry as a second career—began to prefer to own their own homes. So churches who did not have parsonages, or who opted not to carry out the obligations of providing a high-quality home for their pastor, instead included a housing allowance as part of the pastor's compensation package. The pastor's compensation

therefore came to consist of salary plus a housing allowance equal to the rental value of a good quality home, plus furnishings and utilities.

The ELCA requires this as part of the pastor's compensation package at the rate of 1% of the fair market value of home plus 12% of that amount for utilities and furnishings. If we agree our parsonage is worth \$250,000 (the sale price), 1% of that is \$2,500; 12% of \$2,500 is another \$300, making the recommended clergy housing allowance \$2,800 per month. Because most churches no longer have parsonages, the housing allowance has become a standard part of the compensation package for pastors in the ELCA.



Madison Area Jail Ministry Christmas Card Outreach 2020 Holy Trinity has been invited to participate in the Madison Area Jail Ministry Christmas Card project. We are asking you to write 10 Christmas cards, without envelopes and not signing your name or the church's name, to bring hope to those behind bars. In addition to the message in the card, please add your own words of encouragement to remind prisoners of the hope that is ours in Christ. Please bring these to church **on or before November 15** so that they may be delivered in a timely way.



Card Guidelines

- ✓ We hand out just the cards so NO envelopes, please!
- ✓ No glitter, sequins, cardboard flaps, ribbons, or wood.
- ✓ The cards should have no personally identifiable information like the last name or a church

Thank you for sharing news with those in need of the greatest gift of all—Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God *with us*, God given *for us*.



Bake a Pie, Take a Pie: Sunday, November 15

We can't enjoy a slice of pie together at church right now, but on Sunday November 15 you can take home an entire fresh-baked pie for your whole family to enjoy. We are inviting you to bring a pie to church that morning and then, for a freewill offering, to take another home. This gives us the chance to enjoy each other's culinary skills. You may also bake and NOT take, and vice-versa. 😊



Instructions:

- ☉ Drop off your pie at church via the kitchen door before church on Sunday, November 15. Alternate drop off time: Saturday, November 14 from 10 am-12 noon.
- ☉ Please include a card with your name, the title of the pie, the ingredients (especially nuts/gluten) and, optional, the recipe.
- ☉ After church on November 15, those present will be invited into the fellowship hall, ten at a time, to browse the long tables and take a pie of your choosing. Please observe all appropriate safety measures and use hand sanitizer as you enter.
- ☉ You are invited to exit by the west door in the fellowship hall and leave a freewill offering as you depart.
- ☉ EAT AND ENJOY!



Some thoughts on worship attendance

What hard times for the church, one might say. But did you know that we are down only a few people in weekly attendance, on average, from where we were at this time last year? In October 2019, over five weeks we averaged 79 people in worship per week. Here in 2020, going back to mid-June and counting our outdoor service plus the views of the online service through mid-October, we are averaging 71.2 per week.



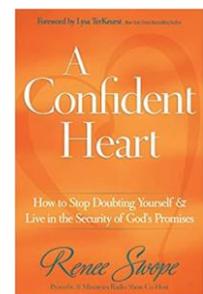
Of course, online is hardly the same as in person. But I believe this demonstrates that our congregation is faithful to our worship life, even in the surprising forms it has had to take on.

For those we have been missing from our faithful Wednesday night regulars, here is some good news: Wednesdays at 6:30 pm throughout Advent we will be worshipping together using Marty Haugen's beautiful service of "Holden Evening Prayer." Whether or not we are back inside, you can also view it livestreamed on Facebook and, by the next day, posted later to our YouTube channel. God bless you all for your faithfulness to Holy Trinity.

A breakdown of weekly attendance figures are available by contacting the office.



Book study opportunity Pastor Raabe invites you to be part of a discussion of the book "A Confident Heart: How to stop doubting yourself and live in the security of God's promises." Often the biggest obstacle to living out our faith is our own doubt—about our worth, our abilities, our relationship with God, and situations in our lives. *A Confident Heart* gives voice to the questions, doubts, struggles, and hopes so many of us have. Author Renee Swope shows us how to identify, overcome, and learn from our self-doubts so that we can live confidently in God's assurance, truth, and grace. Perfect for small groups or individuals, *A Confident Heart* is an authentic, insight-filled and encouraging message for any woman who wants to exchange defeating thought patterns with biblical truth that will transform the way she thinks, feels, and lives.



The group will meet on Zoom on whatever schedule participants agree on. Five copies are available now in the church office for \$10 each or can be dropped off at your front door. If you'd like to join in, please write, call or text Pastor Raabe at 614-214-2639 or call the church office. Zoom may easily be downloaded on any computer or electronic device at zoom.us.



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 November so that you can judge sizes. You may also order directly from our home page, holytrinitymarshall.com.



We are 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 can serve in this way.

Congratulations to our four 9th graders, Joey Gonzalez, Kate Luzenski, Alyssa Radke, and Aliyah Rund-Smith, who were confirmed on October 25. We had a record-breaking attendance of 63 at the Outdoor Service that day. Thanks to the families and all who have walked by and supported these outstanding young people. We are very proud of them! Confirmation for 7th and 8th graders continues on Zoom every Wednesday at 5 pm.



HOLY TRINITY TASK FORCE FOR REGATHERING: NOVEMBER 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 October 6th (parsonage garage) and 20th (Zoom).

On October 6 final details of the parsonage sale were discussed, along with plans shared for the drive-through spaghetti dinner and “bake and take” pie event. The silent auction items that had been gathered for the original spaghetti dinner in March will be held for use at a later time. The decision was also affirmed not to allow any non-church groups to use the building until we are back inside for worship. The September Treasurer’s report continues to show a small positive balance thanks to the PPP loan we received in the Spring and generous member giving.

On October 20 the recommendation was accepted from the Task Force for Regathering that, in order to return to worship, we are looking for a decline for 10 days over a 2-week period in the rate of coronavirus infections and hospitalizations due to coronavirus in Dane County. When Dane County has achieved those markers we will return to worship the following Sunday. We also must have a rotation of three ushers per service in place before we can return. Staffing this month at the Food Pantry was also discussed, along with a plan to sell large and small furniture items from the parsonage on Facebook Marketplace. Two Council seats will be open in January to anyone who would like to be nominated.

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

Second Harvest Mobile Food Bank: Drive-up distributions at 1:00 pm in the high school parking lot on **Friday November 20 and December 18**. Please note that these are **third** Fridays, due to the holidays. In 2021 we will be moving exclusively to the **fourth** Fridays of each month, at the same time and location. Volunteers are always welcome and should arrive at 12:30.

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@holyltrinity-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@holyltrinity-marshall.com and let us know that.

Our web site, holyltrinitymarshall.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!

Time change: Set your clocks back when you go to bed on Halloween night, as daylight saving time ends at 2:00 am on Sunday – November 1. Enjoy your extra hour of sleep and see you at drive-up worship on Sunday.

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, Sunday School teachers, all who have generously donated to the Parking Lot Fund, those so willingly donated their 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 food 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, SSWI, 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 here early. 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.**

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH www.holytrinitymarshall.com

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

608-655-4246

Kathy Schluter, office staff

Pastor Nancy Raabe e-mail

Pastor Nancy Raabe phone

htcstaff@holytrinity-marshall.com

pastor@holytrinity-marshall.com

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

Find us on Facebook and keep up with all the news there and on our web site.

NEWS FROM HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
605 Madison Street, Box 52 – Marshall WI 53559

NOVEMBER 2020

Every Sunday	Drive-In/Outdoor Worship in the church parking lot 10:00 AM (weather permitting)
Every Wednesday	Confirmation class 5:00 PM (via Zoom)
Every Thursday	Pastor's Coffee Hour, 12 NOON (via Zoom)
Tuesday 11/10	Drive-Thru Spaghetti Dinner, 4:30-6:30
Sunday 11/15	Bake a Pie, Take a Pie Sunday following worship
Friday 11/20*	SECOND HARVEST drive-up boxed food distribution in high school parking lot, 1:00 PM *date change due to Thanksgiving holiday

******November is Holy Trinity's month to host the Marshall-Waterloo Food
Pantry on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings; contact Pastor
Raabe or Council President Gary Waalkens if you can help. Thanks!******