

THE HOLY TRINITY TIMES

MAY 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: Living in Holy Saturday

One of the strange aspects of the present time, especially for church leaders, is that we can't plan. Where planning is concerned, we are "at sixes and sevens." Originating in the 1300's, the phrase "on six and seven" referred to a dice game in which throwing on a six or seven meant risking one's entire fortune. One would have to be in a general state of confusion to do that! This is now the general meaning of being at sixes and sevens.



I love to plan. To my mind there can never be too much planning. Maybe this comes from a coaster I vividly remember from my childhood. Things may not always go as planned, but at least there is a road map, and a "Plan B" and "Plan C" if the need arises.



Since I arrived here in January 2018 I've dreamed of having a five-year plan. Where do we want to be in five years, and how can we get there? We haven't been able to get started with that, but at least at the beginning of this year we had nailed down the dates for this year's events and special services. Yet here we are without even our Plan A.

But there's more to it than that. As a church, I believe we as a church are in a "dark night of the soul." This phrase does not refer to depression or despair as many think but to the spiritual crisis that every person of faith endures at some point on the journey toward union with God, when one has let go of all desires, attachments, and attitudes that distract us from God. The body and mind are stilled as the burden of cares concerning the natural world is released. It is a time of deep mystery—yet one in which God is still present.

This is where we are. Life as we have known it has come to a halt. We have had to let go of all the ways we have acted in being the church together. But God is still present and this "dark night" is pregnant with possibility. We are invited to reconsider everything we assumed about church. What, really, IS important? How can we seize on those qualities and create something new?

We might even think this time as an extended Holy Saturday, the day after Good Friday. Christian tradition holds this special day as a time of darkness and stillness in which we ponder the reality of Jesus' death while knowing of the glorious resurrection that is to come. Perhaps—just perhaps—when we return to worshipping together we may be born anew just as Jesus was explaining to Nicodemus in John 3. Here some ideas:

- More fellowship through small groups that meet occasionally or regularly.
- A series of “Potlucks at the Parsonage.” There are still many members who haven’t been inside the newly remodeled house. The deck is a great place to gather, too.
- “Game Day” every month or two with ice cream or other treats to go along.
- More outdoor events in months of good weather.
- “Movie Night” every so often, with popcorn, featuring family-friendly films.
- Continuing our online presence even when we are back together again so we can broaden our reach.
- More robust giving so that we are not forced to rely on the crutch of our fundraisers, which all go back into our own account—and so that we can raise money to help and support those in need, as the gospel calls us to do.
- More robust attendance at worship, as we are renewed in the gratitude of being able to gather again.
- More involvement in worship leadership and in the practice of hospitality.

What are your hopes? The Council and I would love to hear them.

Something else we can take from this time is a new understanding of the limitations of words and limitlessness of faith. Many of the words being tossed about right now ring hollow because there is so much that we just don’t know. Yet faith has increased. Newspapers are writing about faith, they are reporting on what churches are doing, people are talking about God more and more in daily conversation. Faith is weaving us more closely together because we know that Jesus, our Good Shepherd, is leading us on the right path. Many of us are enduring hardships and losses that we never imagined. Yet Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Paul’s words ring true:

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. (Philippians 3:17-21)

May the peace of Christ be with you always,

Pastor Raabe

WORSHIPING AT HOME

This coming Sunday, May 3, will be our seventh “virtual” worship service together. I have been reflecting on this practice. What can we do to make the experience as rich as possible, given that we are at home? How can we incorporate into our home worship some of the aspects of the service as we knew it when we were together in our lovely sanctuary? Here are a few thoughts.

Create a worshipful setting. Gather what items you have around the house to create a worship setting. Set up a little table with a cross, if you have one, and a candle. Gather a few real or artificial flowers to adorn your home altar. If you are able to dedicate a room or area for worship, you might even adjust the lighting to create feeling of warmth. This could also be your home “chapel” for your daily devotions or Bible reading. For

me it is a chair and bookshelf in a corner that faces onto our back yard, so that I can praise and thank God in full view of God's creation.

Get settled. Position your cup of coffee or tea in easy reach (why not?). Make sure that the lighting doesn't glare too much on your screen. Quiet yourself for a few moments, as you would in the sanctuary.

Pray. Before you press "play," offer a prayer to God silently or aloud for someone or something that is on your mind that day. You might also pray for the church, that these forms of ministry will sustain us through this time. Here is a prayer you could use:

Triune God, be present with us as we turn our hearts to worship you. We thank you that you are present everywhere at once, and so we ask for the blessing of the Holy Spirit to pour out upon those who lead us in worship and upon every worshiping community gathered today. May Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord, meet us powerfully to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Enthusiastically participate throughout the entire service. We are getting better at putting hymns and other texts on the screen, so don't be shy! Sing and pray whenever words are provided or when you remember them on your own. Do everything you would do if you were present together at your church. You will probably feel awkward at first; you might even think, what's the point? No one can hear me. But God hears you and the entire company of heaven hears you. Every time we worship the Lord Jesus Christ as the gathered community on earth, we unite with the saints in glory and the church triumphant. You are not alone!

Reflect on the experience. Talk about the service with others. Share your thoughts. Reflect on what held meaning for you or was remarkable. This is a way to remind ourselves that our weekly worship service at home has real significance. And tell friends and relatives about how to find our services online.

These are some ways to make sure that worshiping remotely is not a passive experience. After all, Biblical worship is never passive. The texts we hear are always reaching out to us and grabbing us exactly where we are. The hymns we sing tell of God's beauty and truth, and of the power of faith to heal. So let's get engaged. Think of these services as rehearsals for when we are finally back in church together again. Imagine how much more robust our singing will be, how much more enthusiastic our liturgy and prayer, how sacred the sharing of the Lord's Prayer and the experience of receiving Holy Communion.

Let us take the situation which we find ourselves, set loose the Holy Spirit, and see what God can do.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Raabe



NEWS FROM THE SOUTH-CENTRAL SYNOD OF WISCONSIN

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF LAUNCHES FACE MASK CHALLENGE!

As part of our response to the coronavirus in the countries around the world where we work, Lutheran World Relief has launched the 75,000 Face Mask Challenge, a request for volunteers to sew cloth face masks that will be sent overseas to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Join the 75,000 Face Mask Challenge! COVID-19 is threatening vulnerable communities, and Lutheran World Relief urgently needs cloth face masks to send to them. The cloth mask you sew in your living room will provide love and protection to a neighbor in need halfway around the world. How many will you make to help stop the spread? Sign up for more info at www.lwr.org/masks



LEARN TO USE ZOOM: ZOOM TRAINING BY ROBYN ZIMMERMAN

Robyn Zimmerman in the Synod office is inviting church leaders or anyone interested in Zoom basics to join her for special training sessions. Zoom is how Holy Trinity is currently conducting meetings and gatherings. To get started, download Zoom from zoom.us onto your device for free. It will help if you have a camera. The remaining dates are:

Wednesday May 6 at 3:00 PM

Topic: ZOOM Training-The Basics

Time: 03:00 PM Central Time

Join the meeting by entering this into your web browser:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/253253729>

Meeting ID: 253 253 729

Friday May 8 at 9:30 AM

Topic: Zoom Training-The Basics

Time: 9:30 AM Central Time

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/376722052>

Meeting ID: 376 722 052



WHAT MATTERS - Stay connected to your Synod

Grow in your faith and leadership. Stay connected to exciting events and stories of our faith in action in our synod. To sign up for Synod news, please email Deacon Vicki Hanrahan, Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Life at vickih@scsw-elca.org to be added to the mailing list for "What Matters." It will come to your inbox every Tuesday.

Speaking of face masks, some of our own members have been busy making them for the benefit of others. Here our organist, Carol Johnson-Hohol, is in the middle of sewing ties onto 60 handmade masks (these made by others) for non-medical personnel at Unity Point Health Meriter Hospital. She is providing the service because elastic is hard to come by right now.

Thank you to all who are making generous gifts of time and effort for the well-being of others. Over the years Carol has put in 7,500 hours of volunteer service at Meriter and made 1,000 baby caps.



SUNDAY SCHOOL ONLINE

We are delighted that our Sunday School program has returned in virtual form. Parents may find the weekly lessons, with lesson materials geared to Pre-K and elementary ages, on the new Sunday School page in the Christian Education area of our web site, holytrinitymarshall.com. Speaking of kids, you can find other resources in that area for children.



“HOLY TRINITY AT HOME”

Pastor Raabe is seeking photos of what you or your children are doing at home to pass this time. Let’s see each other however we can! Creative ideas, art or service projects, chalk drawings, fun with your pets—all images are welcome. You can find Episode I (Easter) in our Prayer and Family Resources area. Many thanks to the families who contributed photos.

SEEKING MEMBERS TO LEAD ONLINE ACTIVITIES

There is more we can do together online than worship and have meetings. Who can lead games on Zoom such as Bingo, organize a dance party, demonstrate a craft with common household items, read a children's story, make cards for people in nursing homes or in assisted living facilities, or help kids with homework? Contact Pastor Raabe, post it on our Facebook page, write to us through the web site, or call the church office. Let's get creative and join the "Woven Together" Facebook group (through our Facebook page) to share more ideas.

HOW CAN WE BECOME (AN EVEN MORE) WELCOMING CHURCH?



Addressing this question has become a priority for the Council. They are pondering a new approach to ushers and greeters; don't be surprised if you receive a call at some point soon to serve as a "platoon leader" of a small group that you would assemble to serve in these capacities on a rotating basis. The Council has been studying a book called "The Welcoming Church" and has many ideas they're eager to share once we are worshipping together again. In the meantime, they gladly welcome your input.

NEWS FOR YOU!

If you are among those who have received stimulus checks and those funds are not vitally important to your well-being, please consider giving all or part of the amount to the **Marshall Waterloo Clergy Emergency Assistance Fund**. Maintained by St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waterloo this fund makes vouchers for food and gas purchases at the Waterloo Piggly Wiggly or BP available to the Marshall-Waterloo area clergy for those in need. This is a wonderful way to help our churches love and care for our neighbors.

The next **Second Harvest Mobile Food Bank** takes place on Friday, May 29 from 1:30-4:00 pm in a drive-up distribution, as it has the past two months. You will receive a large box of non-perishable food, a bag of produce and other perishable items, and a gallon of milk. Please spread the word – there are no restrictions on who may receive.

Your **Church Council** is now meeting twice a month on Tuesdays at 4:00 pm via Zoom. Any member may join us. The next meeting is May 5. If you would like to sit in, let Pastor Raabe know ahead of time and she'll send you an invitation.



The Pastor's Coffee Hour is being held Mondays and Thursdays at 12 noon using Zoom technology. Download it for free at zoom.us and send Pastor Raabe a note if you'd like to participate. The discussions are always free-wheeling and useful, plus it's just nice to see (or hear) each other.

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.

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.



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

Blood drive May 8 all day

Second Harvest May 29

Confirmation class meets by Zoom every Wednesday at 2:00 pm through May 20

Church Council meets via Zoom every other Tuesday at 4:00 pm. All confirmed members are welcome to listen in. Send Pastor Raabe an email so she can invite you

Quilt tying is still happening and will be held at 1:00 pm on Tuesday May 19



Council Highlights – April 7 and 21, 2020

Property: Larry Legro has been checking on both buildings regularly for maintenance purposes. He replaced several electrical outlets inside the church and one outside, cleaned up landscaping around all four sides and repaired grass patches. John Ray replaced a faulty bathtub faucet at the parsonage and re-caulked all the seams. John is working with Owen Raisbeck to repaint the church entryway and narthex. John recently refurbished our dishwasher with new parts.

Parking Lot Fund/Matching gift program: 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 \$10,000-\$14,000 to repair. Line repainting would be done after this with visitor and handicapped spaces clearly identified. Handicapped signs need to be refurbished and brought out closer.

Financial report: Offerings and gifts held steady in March and April, enabling us to be in the black at the present time. Thank you!

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. The work was finally completed by Pastor Raabe.

Fundraising: We will be selling coffee from Lutheran World 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 April 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, Women of the ELCA, and our Sunday School staff. Many thanks to our hard-working Second Harvest Food Bank volunteers. Thank you to our Property Committee for all the work they do to maintain the church and parsonage. Thank you to Glen Gollmer who is already mowing the lawn. 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 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@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

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Pastor Nancy Raabe e-mail

pastor@holytrinity-marshall.com

Pastor Nancy Raabe phone

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

www.holytrinitymarshall.com

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