



THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

January 2026

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

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.holytrinitymarshall.com + (608) 655-4246

Pastor Lisa Nelson
605 Madison St. (PO Box 52)
Marshall, Wisconsin 53559

Staff email: htcstaff@holytrinity-marshall.com

Office manager: Karen Browne

Tue-Wed-Thur 10:00am – 2:00pm & 2nd Tues of
the month hours are 8:30-12:30

Pastor office hours: Tu, 11:00am-2:00pm, Wed, 5:15pm-6:15pm
nelsonkosky@gmail.com

FROM PASTOR LISA

Does anyone still make New Year's resolutions? Sometimes the New Year comes with pressure to change ourselves, but we don't have to spend time wishing we were different. Instead of asking what should I fix about myself, we can ask where is God already at work—in me, in my neighbors, in this community? And we can celebrate the little ways that God is made known to us.

The new year isn't about becoming someone new. It's about living more fully into who we are in Christ. That matters in a world that feels exhausted, divided, and uncertain. The good news is **not** that we can save ourselves by trying harder. The good news is that God meets us right where we are—tired, hopeful, grieving, grateful—and loves us right where we are.

As you begin this year, rather than make resolutions, you can make traditions, thinking about the ways God has been with you during the previous year. What were the high points and what were the low points last year? What good did God bring into your life, especially in the difficult times?

And traditions like spending time looking toward this coming year and thinking about how you might take small, faithful steps toward loving your neighbors and caring about the well-being of people across the planet? Can you come up with one thing you can do to share kindness with someone you know? Can you come up with one way you can bring some kindness to this world in general, even if it's simply through prayer. That's a tradition worthy of the New Year.

REMINDER:

If you need to reach Pastor Lisa, email her at nelsonkosky@gmail.com. The pastor@holytrinity-marshall.com email is no longer checked on a regular basis. Thank you.

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT Submitted by Candy Lauby

Hard to believe we are at the end of another year. Time surely flies. It was wonderful seeing so many at the children's Christmas service on a cold Sunday morning. The children did a great job! A big thank you to all the teachers for taking time to help with their religious education and to the parents/grandparents for making the commitment to bring them to Sunday school.

As a reminder, if church service is canceled, for whatever reason, it will be posted on our website and Facebook page as soon as possible. You are also welcome to reach out to any council member if you do not have online access. At our last meeting, Scout leader Kevin attended to share that they will be a co-ed Charter moving forward and offered to help Holy Trinity with projects we may have throughout the year such as window washing, yard clean up, etc. Such a nice gesture and much appreciated. Council has spent the last month working on the budget for 2026. Our annual meeting will be Sunday, January 25th right after service. We will streamline the process as best as we can, but it is important you attend. You can ask questions, share comments, we will vote on the new budget and members to serve on church council. Finally, it's been a pleasure serving as president this year. I've learned a lot and see there are so many wonderful members that help make our church a special place to worship. Thank you all and have a safe and Merry Christmas and New Years Eve!

NOVEMBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS Submitted by Carolyn Madaus

All Members were present at the meeting held November 11, 2025. The October minutes were approved.

The October Financial Report was reviewed, and a donation was received from the Estate of Marion Speilvogel of Watertown for \$10.000. Financial Report was Approved.

Candy talked to Owen about the hour increase for Pastor. Also found out that the second signer for the bank account is Dennis W. Candy also worked the Food Pantry on 10/15/2025 and served 8 Families.

Pastor discussed the kitchen outlets for using Nesco's, Slow Cooker's and Coffee pot. She found out the outlets cannot be overloaded and need to spread things out. Pastor found her contract and emailed the Bishop and asked how we go about a contract change. Cind Wortruba has agreed to be on the Church Council. Kathy Deneen agreed to head the service on Wednesday November 19th. Hailey Martin will have First Communion. Residence for pregnant woman updated. Thinking of a giving tree, People could take a tag and bring back the item. Pastor talked about Continuing Ed and was wondering if she could roll over the hours, since she didn't need to use them all. This was approved by council, and she is thinking of taking a creative writing course.

David Kiersten has agreed to be our maintenance person, and Gary will talk to Dave on whether he will agree to \$15.00 per hour.

Christmas Eve Service was agreed to be at 7pm with a possibility to rotate every other year to 5pm with St. Marks. Pastor will speak to their congregation to see if they would be willing to rotate also. The Fire pit from the Garage has gone missing. Ask the Boy Scouts about this and put a message in the Bulletin. Kathy Deneen talked to the Girls Scouts, and they would like to donate \$75.00 to the Church. It was mentioned that Toner and paper are always needed. Replacement folder chairs are needed. Karen and Candy will work in getting pricing for these. A motion was made and approved to move \$5,000 to the Building Fund from the \$10,000 that was sent to us but the Estate. Annual meeting is on January 25th right after church. Kathy S stated that WELCA are asking about rides to church for those in need. And to put a note in the Bulletin. Kathy S mention the gift cards that are in the office, maybe use some of the gift cards for gifts during the bingo game in March.

Meeting ended in prayer and adjourned.

A few fun facts as we enter the season of Epiphany.

January 6 is the first day of the season of Epiphany. Epiphany is Greek for appearance or revealing. The season of Epiphany celebrates God's light and love revealed in Christ—not just to a few, but to the

whole world. Epiphany tells us that faith isn't meant to be private but to shine out into this world. We are invited to witness to God's love in our words and actions. That's how we make a difference in this world.

Bible Stories of Epiphany

The wisemen or magi reveal to us that God shows up beyond borders and expectations. The Baptism of Our Lord calls us back to our own baptisms that took place before we ever accomplished a thing. Jesus calling the disciples to follow him shows us that God works through imperfect people—like us. Jesus begins his ministry not with perfection, but with his presence.

2025-2026 CHURCH COUNCIL

Lisa Nelson, Pastor	608-655-4246 nelsonkosky@gmail.com (church office)
Candy Lauby, President*	608-235-3807 candyann258@gmail.com
Matt Stensven, Vice President*	608-219-6123 mattstensven@gmail.com
Carolyn Madaus, Secretary*	608-444-1220 zarolena@gmail.com
Gary Waalkens	608-655-4989 gwaalkkens1952@yahoo.com
Kathy Schluter	608-658-1796 schluterka49@hotmail.com
Kathy Deneen	608-279-0588 kldeneen@gmail.com
Karen Browne (interim)	608-212-6963 kbrowne_5@yahoo.com
Student Representative	VACANT

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

Owen Raisbeck, Treasurer: 608-225-3149 owenraisbeck@yahoo.com
Laurine Martin, Financial Secretary: 608-712-4069 laurinemartinbk1010@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL Submitted by Susy Pawl

Sunday School

Woohoo! The Christmas pageant was an absolute success as it brought love and joy to all! Thank you to our fabulous Sunday School kids for sharing with us the gifts of the season. This year the kids took on the challenge of including more of the story of Jesus' birth with new scenes and characters. We have been blessed with wonderful youth and are thankful to our fantastic families for supporting their kiddos and ensuring they got to practice so they could do their best. Thanks also Pastor Lisa and to you, our congregation, for your continued support and the 'little' things you do like setting up the Christmas tree to decorate.

In January we will be having Sunday School on January 25th during 8:30 service following the children's message. Many thanks to Diane L for continuing to teach, you are the best!

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS submitted by Gary Waalkens

First communion classes will be February 4, 11, 18, and 25 from 5pm to 6pm. If you have a child or children in the fifth grade or higher, please let me or the office know. The course is four weeks long. First communion service will be March 1. Please have your children signed up by January 23 so we can have time to get enough materials for them.

EVENT PLANNING Submitted by Linda Baldridge

The next Event Planning meeting will be on February 11th at 6:00 to discuss the Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast.

Coffee-Time Treats Submitted by Linda Baldridge

Do you agree that the social time after worship that includes hot coffee, hot cider and a treat is a welcoming feature of our Sunday morning experience at Holy Trinity. To keep this tradition going, please consider providing "coffee-time treats" for all to enjoy. Look for the Coffee-Time Treats sign-up sheet on our church's bulletin board and add your name for an upcoming Sunday. Thanks to all our members who have already been providing treats...coffee cakes, donuts, donut holes, cookies, anything that can be held in one hand while balancing a cup of coffee in the other hand. Also, we need people who will wash dishes when the social time is over.

NOVEMBER FINANCIALS

Income received in Nov	\$5,123.00
Obligations paid in Nov	\$16,884.75
Balance for Nov	-\$11,761.75
BALANCE ON HAND	\$10,197.19

SECOND HARVEST MOBILE FOOD PANTRY Second Harvest Food Bank has taken over operation of the Marshall mobile food bank. They have changed the food bank dates to the **SECOND MONDAY** of each month at 3:30 pm in the high school parking lot. If you wonder if there is a cancellation or not, go to Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin, Find Food, Mobile Pantry Schedule. The next few distribution dates are:

Monday-December 8	3:30 pm	high school parking lot
Monday-January 12	3:30 pm	high school parking lot
Monday-February 9	3:30 pm	high school parking lot

RENTALS OF FELLOWSHIP HALL The fellowship hall is available to rent. The price for active members is a one-time event fee of \$25.00. The fee for all others is **\$50.00 per hour**. If you are thinking you may be interested in renting the hall, please contact the church office by calling 608-655-4246 or sending an email to htcstaff@holytrinity-marshall.com, to check on scheduling and details. **REMINDER: No beer, wine, or alcohol of any kind is allowed in the building or anywhere on the church property.**

SIMPLY GIVING

The program was created by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and is operated by Vanco Services, LLC. Simply Giving is an easy-to-use and trusted platform for you to give money online through electronic giving. This program allows you to set up automatic, monthly withdrawals from your bank account. You can get the form from the church office, fill it out, and return it to the office.

PLANNED GIVING TO HOLY TRINITY

1. 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.
2. Gifts that do not restrict their use (**unrestricted gifts**), allow Holy Trinity to use these resources where they are most needed.
3. **Restricted gifts** are monies designated for a specific purpose that advances our mission, such as support to a specific initiative or program.
4. Give to the church's **Endowment Fund**. You may now use our online giving, through holytrinitymarshall.com to make a gift directly to our Endowment Fund. At a time when secular non-profits 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. (Dan Timpel has joined the Endowment Committee, replacing Jack Erb. If anyone has questions or wants to make a donation to this fund or the Memorial Fund, they should contact Dan Timpel, Todd Madaus, or Owen Raisbeck.)
5. You could also choose to designate **a portion of the proceeds of your IRA to Holy Trinity** each year. We are grateful to members who have chosen this option as a way to make a sizeable annual gift.
6. Naming Holy Trinity **as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy** can convey assets in larger amounts without disrupting your current cash flow.

CHURCH NEWS

Worship every Sunday – 8:30

Worship every Wednesday at 6:30/Catechism at 6:00

M/W Food Pantry Jan 7th 12:00-1:00

Second Harvest (HS parking lot) Jan 12th at 3:30

WELCA Jan 13th at 12:30/Council meets at 6:00

Quilting Day Jan 17th 9:00 – 3:00

Quilt Tying Jan 20th at 12:30

Sunday School Jan 25th at 8:30 following Children's message

Annual Meeting Jan 25th right after Church

HEADS UP! WAY UP!!!

If you wish to submit an announcement for a bulletin, you **MUST** submit it to the office

(htcstaff@holytrinity-marshall.com) by the Wednesday prior, as bulletins are printed on Thursdays.

For articles to be included in the newsletter for the following month, they MUST be received in the office by the 22nd or they will not be included! Waiting for late articles puts more stress on office staff and newsletter helpers. Getting your newsletter information in on time is a courtesy to others involved in the process. Your cooperation is needed and appreciated.

Mark your calendar for the Annual Meeting schedule for January 25th, right after church.

Quilts for LWR As quilt-making continues here at Holy Trinity, we always have an ongoing need for the supplies that go into making the quilts. Thank you to all our members and friends who keep an eye out for fabric that family members are disposing of and fabric that is available at garage sales and estate sales. We continue to request new bed sheets, used bed sheets, tablecloths, large pieces of fabric, etc. Even well-worn sheets are useful as the middle layer of a quilt. We welcome anyone who wants to get involved in making quilts either by meeting at church, by sewing at home or by cutting fabric squares at home.

One of our quilt groups meets at church 12:30 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month to sort donations, prepare donations for use in a quilt, and tie the layers of a quilt together. Our other quilt group comes to church on the 3rd Saturday of each month starting at 9:00 am. Sewing machines will be provided.

Please join in various quilt tasks on our quilt days for whatever amount of time you have to contribute. We are grateful for all the support we receive from our Holy Trinity family that allows us to donate quilts to the Lutheran World Relief mission of providing quilts to people in need in the US and around the world. **Please continue to provide new fabric that can be cut into squares for making quilts. It's then possible for someone to take the next step and cut 11-inch squares of fabric and donate them. **

ELCA MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS. Per Constitution and bylaws of the ELCA, a person must give a monetary gift and receive Holy Communion at least once every calendar year to be a member. Holy Trinity is required to keep records of both giving and communion. (If you put cash in the collection plate, which is not a contribution of record. We need to know if your contribution came from you. There are extra contribution envelopes on the Welcome Desk in case you need one.) Please fill out a communion card at least once a year and on the day that you commune. That way we can make a record of it. Place your last name and first name of each person taking Communion on the card along with the date. You may place the card in the offering plate or hand it to an usher. You may also request a visit from the Pastor on this card.

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 website, 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 organists, office manager, treasurer, financial contribution secretary, custodian, ushers, readers, communion assistants, WELCA, Altar Guild, those who lead Sunday School, provide catechism instruction and First Communion instruction, and worship leaders. Thank you also, goes out to those who serve on our Church Council and the Event Planning Committee. Thank you to our quilters, volunteers who continue to work the Second Harvest mobile food bank, and volunteers on the Wednesday noon shift the first of each month at the Marshall/Waterloo Food Pantry, as well as those who helped at the Food Pantry during the month of April. Thank you to those who care for our grounds and parking lot. We also appreciate the helpers who assemble the newsletter for mailing, and everyone so willingly donate time and materials to maintain the church. Apologies if anyone was missed. Thank you all.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Marshall-Waterloo Food Pantry Marshall/Waterloo Food Pantry is on 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. If you or someone you know needs help, make use of this resource. The 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.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered in October.

Second Harvest Mobile Food Pantry is Monday –Dec 8th at 3:30 in the HS parking lot.

Did you know that Staples will take several electronic items in-store for recycling? Call your local Staples store with questions or check their website.

Foodshare Helpline 877-366-3635 If you are in need, or know someone who is, contact this agency to see if they can help.

Wisconsin Home Energy Plus Program at 1-866-432-8947 or 608-267-8601 is available if you need help with your utility bills. Give them a call to find out if you qualify.