THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

JANUARY 2022

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

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

To our sisters and brothers at Holy Trinity,

Our Call Committee has begun their work! Their first task is to create a profile of our congregation. As their work progresses, you will be receiving opportunities to pray, discuss, dream about, and help shape the next steps for Holy Trinity. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will bless the Call Committee as well as whomever will be our next pastor.

We wish to inform you of an important point which will shape our process of seeking and calling a new pastor. Like most congregations in these times, Holy Trinity is faced with a decline in attendance and financial offerings. There are many factors that have led to this situation. It will have an effect on our call process and on whom we may call as our next pastor.

Frankly, we are likely unable to pay for a fulltime pastor. This may sound upsetting, but remember, *God is at work among us, and God will lead us through these times. We believe that God has plans for our church – plans for good.*

The reasoning for this conclusion follows: There is a minimum compensation guideline for pastors which includes salary, health insurance, pension, and social security. The minimum guidelines increase with the years of a pastor's experience. For instance, the total compensation package for a new, first-year pastor is $111,437. Total compensation for a pastor with 10 years of experience is $126,436.

Holy Trinity budgeted $90,094 for pastoral pay in 2021 and is finding it difficult to pay that amount alongside other costs of ministry. It has become evident that Holy Trinity may not be able to afford a full-time pastor.

This is not an impossible situation; there are other options. For instance, it may be possible to call a part time pastor. In fact, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Waterloo, is finding themselves in a similar situation as Holy Trinity. As they begin the process of calling their next pastor, they also have determined that they may need to seek a part time pastor.

Leadership from St. Paul has approached Holy Trinity with the possibility of the two congregations calling a full-time pastor, shared between them. This would likely be half-time at each congregation. This is not a proposal for the two congregations to merge. It is only to share a pastor together. One term used for this arrangement is “yoked congregations”. Each would remain its own distinct congregation with their own church councils, their own budgets, and so on.

We will begin exploring this possibility with the leadership of St. Paul’s in January. As the conversation progresses you will be kept up to date and will be given opportunities to attend question and answer sessions as a congregation.

Remember, God is in this place and has a plan for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church – you are part of that plan.

In God’s Peace,
Your Church Council

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Holy Trinity Members,

Here it is, a new year. May 2022 find us COVID free. Let us pray that with God's help the economy will start improving. May we also see our church finances improve and membership increase. The Council is working on ways to make this happen.

January is Holy Trinity's month to man the Marshall Waterloo food pantry. Please help out with this worthy cause. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex, please sign up for Wednesdays 7-8pm or Saturdays 9-10 am. If we can't get people to help out with this, we will have to take Holy Trinity out of the rotation of organizations that host the pantry. I would really hate to have to do this. Helping people in need like this is part of Holy Trinity's mission. Please volunteer.

Our annual meeting will be coming up soon-- February 13 after service. Please plan on attending. We will be presenting the 2022 budget and electing new council members. There will be one and maybe two seats open, so be thinking of whom you would like to fill these seats. It is you, the congregation, that elects council members.

Our call committee is working diligently to get the mission profile statement done and sent to the synod so we can start getting candidates for a new pastor. May God guide their minds and hearts in this endeavor. When a candidate is approved by the call committee and the council, you the congregation will be informed of him or her for your approval. You are a very important part of this process.

Let us all make this new year a great one for Holy Trinity. May God's love be in our hearts and in everything we do. God bless you all.

Gary Waalkens, Council President

YOUR 2021-2022 CHURCH COUNCIL

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Pastor Darin Wiebe	920-740-9907	drnwiebe@gmail.com

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

FINANCIALS

Mortgage balance as of 11/30/21	$23,113
November monies received	4,429
November obligations	7,328
DEFICIT for NOVEMBER	**($ 2,899)**

CONFIRMATION CLASSES
Confirmation classes will be held on Wednesday January 5, 12, 19, and 26 at 5:00 pm.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Sunday School resumes at 10:00 am on Sunday – January 2, 2022.

MARSHALL/WATERLOO FOOD PANTRY HOSTS
January is Holy Trinity's month to serve as hosts at the Marshall/Waterloo Food Pantry (lower level at 117 E Madison Street, use door in the alley). Volunteers are needed for Saturdays from 9:00-10:00 am and Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00 pm. At least 3 volunteers are needed per shift, and volunteers should arrive 15 minutes prior to their shift start.
There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. This is a wonderful volunteer opportunity so please consider helping.

SECOND HARVEST MOBILE FOOD PANTRY Second Harvest Food Bank has taken over operation of the Marshall mobile food bank. They have decided to change the food bank dates to the **SECOND MONDAY** of each month at 3:30 pm in the high school parking lot. Therefore the next few distribution dates are:

Monday – January 10	3:30 pm	high school parking lot
Monday – February 14	3:30 pm	high school parking lot

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 their 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 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.*

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 sizeable annual gift. You may now use our online giving, through holytrinitymarshall.com to make a gift directly to our Endowment Fund.

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 or 608-215-5098. Thank you for your consideration.

JOB OPENINGS AT HOLY TRINITY (**all volunteer positions, but you get the fancy-sounding title!)
Please contact a Council member or the church office if you are interested.

Tech Director This position may include making videos of worship services and posting them to our YouTube channel; creating PowerPoint slides and running the projector during worship; or other innovations that would put technology to work for the benefit of the Holy Trinity community.

Volunteer Coordinator Work with our Council and leadership teams to help recruit ushers, readers, communion servers, and other volunteers as needed. A great way to get to know people better.

ATTENTION REGARDING DEADLINES!!!!
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, no exceptions! This is a courtesy to our secretary and those who assemble the newsletter for mailing.

Our "goal" is to have the newsletter in your hands by the first of the month if at all possible. We know that doesn't always happen, but we try. Thank you for your cooperation.

CHURCH NEWS

Confirmation classes will be held every Wednesday in January at 5:00 pm at the church, observing any COVID protocols. Some interesting topics are coming up for discussion.

Sunday School resumes on Sunday – January 2 at 10:00 am.

Volunteers are needed to host Marshall/Waterloo Food Pantry each Saturday morning (except for January 1) and each Wednesday evening in January. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Second Harvest is in the HS parking lot at 3:30 pm on January 10.

WELCA meets at 1:00 pm on Tuesday January 11 for Bible study and dessert.

The Council's next scheduled meeting is Tuesday January 11 at 6:00 pm at the church.

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.

Quilting Day resumes on Saturday January 15. Quilting Day is the 3rd Saturday of each month from 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Come and join in; all skill levels are welcome. You can stay all day or for part, as your schedule allows. A great time for fun and fellowship.

Quilt Tieing also resumes on January 18 at the church. Quilt tieing is the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm. Our quilters are thankful for all who support Holy Trinity's mission to make quilts that are sent around the world by Lutheran World Relief.

Offering Envelopes If you are giving electronically we will no longer be sending you weekly offering envelopes as well. However, if you DO wish to receive weekly offering envelopes, please e-mail htcstaff@holytrinity-marshall.com and let us know that. 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 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 and secretary and custodian**,** Sunday and Wednesday ushers and worship leaders. Thank you to all involved with Sunday School classes and who had a hand in the Children's Christmas Program. Thank you to those who decorated the sanctuary and the narthex. Thank you to everyone who donated during the Girls Scouts/Brownie toy drive here at the church. Thanks to the handlers of our Facebook and website. Thank you to volunteers who continue to work the Second Harvest mobile food bank, our quilters, our dedicated Council members, those who have agreed to serve on the Call Committee, those who assemble the newsletter for mailing, everyone so willingly donating time and materials to maintain the church, and those who keep our grounds looking great and parking lot cleared of snow. Apologies if anyone was missed. Everyone's contribution is greatly appreciated.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Marshall-Waterloo Food Pantry The Marshall/Waterloo Food Pantry is 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 p.m. and again Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Saturday hours are from 9:00-10:00 a.m.

If you or someone you know needs help, please make use of this community ministry.

Second Harvest Mobile Food Pantry is Monday – January 10 at 3:30 in the HS parking lot.

FoodShare Helpline 877-366-3635 If you are in need or know of 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 Cold temperatures are here. If you need help with your heating bills, give them a call to find out if you qualify.