



## THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

FEBRUARY 2025

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

### HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor Lisa Nelson

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Marshall, Wisconsin 53559

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Office manager: Kathy Schluter (temporarily)  
hours vary

#### FROM PASTOR LISA

With the wind chill, it was -20 at church on Sunday, Jan 19<sup>th</sup>. Even though I'm from Fresno, I've lived in Wisconsin for 31 years. I'm fully midwesternized, but I can't believe I live where the air hurts your face. During my first winter in Wisconsin, the weatherperson said, "If you go outside without a hat, you'll lose your ears." I thought twice about going outside where the air was that dangerous. Fortunately, I've gotten used to the exaggerations of weatherpersons, and I wear hats.

Through my other congregation, St Mark's, I have gotten to know some homeless people. I really can't imagine how cold they must be. Many of them are unable to work because of developmental limitations or mental health challenges. Some of them are unable to stay in shelters because of their anxiety. Shelters can be very rough places. I know a couple of people who sleep in their cars year around. They don't sleep much in this cold and have to turn on their car to get some heat. The biggest risk is running out of gas.

Jesus said, "For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger, and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick, and you took care of me. I was in prison, and you visited me" (Matthew 25:35-36). I think we could also say, "I was homeless, and you gave me a safe place to call home. I was suffering, and you took care of me. I was isolated, and you visited me." We know how to give people food and water, but that's not enough to stay alive. People need to know that someone cares, and they need community.

St Mark's can provide food and community because other congregations support them with monetary donations, food drives, and volunteers. But St Mark's isn't the only one who helps those in need. Half of the donations we send to the synod office, called benevolences, get sent on to the ELCA office, and the ELCA has many ways of helping others. Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Relief are two organizations that respond to emergencies in this country and others. Some of the money we send to the synod and ELCA offices makes its way to there. Monetary donations to the synod and ELCA offices also support health care initiatives that provide important health measures.

Both the righteous and the unrighteous asked Jesus the same questions. “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” (Matthew 25:37-39). Neither realized that when they did this for anyone, they did it for Jesus.

*Pastor Lisa*

## **ATTENTION**

Recently several Holy Trinity members notified Pastor Lisa that they had received an email which looked like it was from her, asking for assistance. When a few responded to the email and asked what she needed, the imposter said she had 5 members hospitalized with cancer and needed gift cards to be purchased. Fortunately no one fell for this scam

Pastor Lisa advises that this happens to many pastors but is a first for her! Pastor Lisa will NEVER ask for money through an email or text. BEWARE!

## **FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This may be the last letter to you as council president. I have another year on the council, but I hope to hand over the reins to someone else. I have enjoyed leading the council these past five years.

I will be teaching a First Communion class beginning March 5 from 5:00-6:00 pm. It is a four-week course. The service for First Communion will be April 6 during the regular service. Anyone from fifth grade up can attend. Please call the office at 608-655-4246 and let us know if you have someone who will be attending.

During this winter’s severe cold snap let us say a prayer for those who don’t have a warm cozy home to be in. Pray that they can at least find a shelter to seek temporary relief from this cold. We should also pray that our legislators do something about this ongoing problem of homelessness.

Keep holy Trinity and its people in your prayers. God bless you all.

Yours in Christ,

*Gary Waalkens, council president.*

## **OFFICE MANAGER** *submitted by Kathy Schluter*

I’m baaack (but only TEMPORARILY)! The office manager position is currently open again and I have agreed to return until it is once again filled. I will not be having regular office hours or days to be in the office, so if you have a question or concern, please call the office at 608-655-4246 and leave a message on the machine (I will get back to you shortly) **OR** you may send an email to [htcstaff@holytrinity-marshall.com](mailto:htcstaff@holytrinity-marshall.com) and I will reply to you that way. The wait for a response won’t be any longer than it was previously. Your patience is appreciated.

The current plan is for Karen Browne to begin serving as Office Manager in April after she retires from her current full-time job. I will be training Karen for a week or so, and then on-call for any questions she may have.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF ANNUAL MEETING – January 26, 2025

The proposed budget for 2025 of \$110,203 was presented and approved without any questions. The large jump from 2024 to 2025 was due to the increase in insurance for our building.

Matt Stensven and Kathy Deneen were elected to fill the Council positions being vacated by Larry Legro and Karen Browne. Larry and Karen were thanked for their service on the Council. (Election of Council officers will take place at the next Council meeting on Tuesday – February 11.)

There was an appeal for weekly teams to usher/read. Those weekly worship helper teams are now filled, at least until May when confirmation happens.

An appeal was made for more Holy Trinity members to become involved in fundraising and other events at the church as the same people are currently stepping up every time. The Event Planning Committee is in need of a new Chairperson as Stephanie Woodley has moved. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday – February 12 at 6:30 pm. Please come and join in for discussion and planning. Suggestions are always welcome.

Our current property insurance is \$19,000 per year with a \$25,000 deductible. Larry Legro will be looking into finding a better plan.

Larry Legro said he would be willing to continue as the lay leader in Pastor Lisa's absence for Wednesday worship and Sundays when supply pastors can't be found.

Kathy Schluter is currently acting as office manager until Karen Browne can take over sometime in April.

## ANNUAL REPORT

If you were unable to attend the Annual Meeting on January 26 and would like a copy of the annual report, call the office at 608-655-4246 with your request and also provide your name and address. You can also email the office at [htcstaff@holytrinity-marshall.com](mailto:htcstaff@holytrinity-marshall.com) with your request and information. The 2024 annual report will then be sent to you.

**JANUARY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS were not available as of the date of printing.**

## YOUR 2025-2026 CHURCH COUNCIL

Gary Waalkens	608-655-4989	<a href="mailto:gwaalkkens1952@yahoo.com">gwaalkkens1952@yahoo.com</a>
Carolyn Madaus	608-444-1220	<a href="mailto:zarolena@gmail.com">zarolena@gmail.com</a>
Carol Woldt	608-712-8947	<a href="mailto:bearcollector20@yahoo.com">bearcollector20@yahoo.com</a>
Candy Lauby	608-235-3807	<a href="mailto:candyann258@gmail.com">candyann258@gmail.com</a>
Kathy Schluter	608-658-1796	<a href="mailto:schluterka49@hotmail.com">schluterka49@hotmail.com</a>
Matt Stensven	608-219-6123	<a href="mailto:mattstensven@gmail.com">mattstensven@gmail.com</a>
Kathy Deneen	608-279-0588	<a href="mailto:kldeneen@gmail.com">kldeneen@gmail.com</a>
Student Representative	VACANT	
Owen Raisbeck, Treasurer:	608-225-3149	<a href="mailto:owenraisbeck@yahoo.com">owenraisbeck@yahoo.com</a>
Laurine Martin, Financial Secretary	608-712-4069	<a href="mailto:laurinemartinbk1010@gmail.com">laurinemartinbk1010@gmail.com</a>

### **FIRST COMMUNION CLASS**

This class begins on Wednesday – March 5 from 5:00-6:00 pm and continues at the same time every Wednesday in March. First Communion will be held during worship at 8:30 on Sunday – April 6. Please call the office at 608-655-4246 if you have someone in 5<sup>th</sup> grade or older who would be interested in this instruction.

### **EVENT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Event Planning Committee will resume meeting on Wednesday – February 12 at 6:30 pm. We will be looking for a new Chairperson as Stephanie Woodley has moved out of the area. The committee will need to begin discussions for upcoming events this year. All members are welcome. Please come and join us.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL** *submitted by Susy Pawl*

On Sunday, February 16th Sunday School will be held during the 8:30 service. Children will attend the first portion of church and will leave to go to Sunday School following the children's sermon. Following the service on the 16th, the kids will be sharing a special treat with the congregation. Future dates and activities coming soon!

**EVERY WEDNESDAY COMMUNION WORSHIP IS AT 6:30 PM UNLESS MARSHALL SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED OR THE TEMPERATURE IS 20 BELOW OR MORE.**

### ***DECEMBER FINANCIALS***

<b><i>Income received in December</i></b>	<b><i>\$5,747.50</i></b>
<b><i>Obligations paid in December</i></b>	<b><i>5,284.30</i></b>
<b><i>Balance for December</i></b>	<b><i>463.20</i></b>
<b><i>BALANCE ON HAND</i></b>	<b><i>\$11,648.57</i></b>

### **MARSHALL-WATERLOO FOOD PANTRY** 117 E. Madison St. (Hwy 19), Waterloo

Two to three volunteers are needed to serve the 12:00 noon-1:00pm shift the first Wednesday of every month. Someone is needed on February 5. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.

**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. The January mobile food pantry was cancelled due to frigid temperatures. 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 –February 10	3:30 pm	high school parking lot
Monday-March 10	3:30 pm	high school parking lot
Monday-April 14	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](mailto: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.**

### **JOB OPENINGS AT HOLY TRINITY**

**Volunteer Coordinator** to work with our Council and leadership teams to help recruit ushers, readers, communion servers, and other volunteers as needed. A wonderful way to get to know people. *Please contact a Council member or the church office if you are interested.*

### **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 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](http://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.

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.

## 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](mailto: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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## CHURCH NEWS

Worship every Sunday morning	8:30
Worship every Wednesday evening	6:30
Catechism every Wednesday evening	6:00
Marshall-Waterloo Food Pantry, Wed Feb 5	12:00-1:00
Second Harvest Food Bank, Mon Feb 10	3:30 HS parking lot
WELCA, Tues Feb 11	12:30
Council meeting, Tues Feb 11	6:00
Event Planning meeting, Wed Feb 12	6:30
Quilting Day, Sat Feb 15	9:00-3:00
Quilt Tying, Tues Feb 18	12:30

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, that is not a contribution of record. We need to know your contribution came from you. (There are extra contribution envelopes on the Welcome Desk.) 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](mailto:htcstaff@holytrinity-marshall.com) and let us know that.

**Our website, [holytrinitymarshall.com](http://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, 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. Thank you to the person who cares for our grounds and parking lot. We also appreciate the helpers who assemble the newsletter for mailing and everyone so willingly donating time and materials to maintain the church. Apologies if anyone was missed. Thank you all.

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Marshall-Waterloo Food Pantry** The 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.

**Second Harvest Mobile Food Pantry is Monday –February 10 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.