

**HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWSLETTER**

*To Be and To Make
Disciples of
Jesus Christ*

2023 Vol 31. Issue 8

AUGUST



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

How do you see God? What image of God do you hold? What stories about God and God's character do you tell yourself? Is God good, cruel, indifferent or does it depend upon the day? Is God up there, down here, in your heart, or all of the above? How we see God matters. It can be the difference between a faith that breathes life and joy into us, or a faith that imprisons us in fear and condemnation.

Psalms 145 is the final psalm of David in the book of Psalms. David was a man who had a long and deep relationship with God, and in this final psalm, David provides us a picture of the God he has come to know and love. Take a minute now to read Psalm 145, focusing especially on verses 8-18.

David describes both who God is and what God does. God is merciful, compassionate, patient, loving, good, generous, and helpful. God lightens our load when we are burdened, provides for our needs, grants our desires, rescues us from danger, and protects us from evil. This is a beautiful picture of God! How does this align with how you see God? If there is some misalignment, that is understandable. How do we reconcile David's picture of God with Bible stories in which entire populations are wiped out in God's name. What about the thousands of children who die of starvation every day in this world? What about the tornado that devastates an entire town? What about the young parents who suffer alongside their sick child? How do we reconcile the picture that David paints of who God is with the harsh realities of this world and the harsh realities of our own lives?

When our vision blurs like that, when we struggle to get a clear picture of who God is, our faith calls us to put on the most powerful corrective lenses: Jesus. Jesus entered into the ugly realities of this world. He did not turn away from

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those realities. He embraced them. And the ugliness of his death, coupled with the beauty of his resurrection, shows us the pattern of what he is doing in this world – beauty from ashes, life from death, light into darkness, all things new. That is what we dare to believe to be true about the God we worship. This is the picture of the God we cling to. No matter what we see in this broken world, above it, below it, around it, and within it, we see a merciful, compassionate, patient, loving, good, generous, and helpful God at work.

Scripture says that Jesus is the full embodiment of God. Apostle Paul, in his second letter to Corinthians, said that Jesus is the image and likeness of God. The God we cannot see is made visible in Jesus. And now we are called to be that embodiment of God in this broken world. We are the living Body of Christ. We are called to live by God's grace and the power of the Holy Spirit in such a way that when people see us, they see a clear picture of the One who dwells in us. We are called to help the world to see and to know the God that David reveals, the God that Jesus reveals.

Your Sister in Christ,

Pastor Kathy

Be merciful,
JUST AS YOUR FATHER
is merciful.
LUKE 6:36

August Birthdays



4th—Bobbie Ballenger

5th—Jerry Duff

Tiffany Curvin

8th—Erich Eisenloffel

11th—Doug Thrush

14th—Randy Stroemer

Lori Them

23rd—Zeddicus Butz

24th—John Leech

25th—Tristan Curvin

28th—Norma Weber

Highlights of Pastor's Report for Council

- ◆ Attending Lutheran Week/NALC Convocation in Oklahoma City August 7th-12th.
- ◆ Using vacation time August 13th-20th.
- ◆ NALC North Central Ohio Mission District hosting an event on Saturday, September 30th for congregations to gather and build flood buckets for NALC Disaster Response.
- ◆ Our current church membership database has been updated. Hoping to transition to a new church database system after having researched 8 other systems. The plan is to start the transition in September and be using it full-time by January 2024.
- ◆ Two individuals have expressed interest in joining Holy Trinity's membership.

HTLC Constitution/Bylaws Revision

A committee has been working for months on revising Holy Trinity's Constitution and Bylaws. Their proposed changes were reviewed by the Church Council at its July meeting. The Council voted to accept the committee's proposals with two corrections.

The next step is for HTLC members to vote on the changes at a congregation meeting on Sunday, September 10th. Copies of the document with the changes will be available in the narthex in early August. Notice of the meeting will be sent thirty days prior to the meeting.

If you have questions, contact Carol Bertholf or Doug Thrush.

AUGUST SPECIAL OFFERING

**Wayfinders
(formerly
Harmony House)**

Please Make Checks Payable to HTLC

The **August Special Offering** envelope supports Harmony House. Harmony House is a 90-day shelter in Mansfield providing food, lodging and case management services to over 500 homeless individuals each year. It is a 54-bed facility for emergency shelter and has a capacity for 34 women and children and 20 men. All monies given to support Harmony House will be matched by Holy Trinity's Tithes on the Bequest and Memorial Fund.

Looking back on the Last 25 Years at HTLC

Part 2

This is a new monthly column presenting information in preparation for celebrating HTLC's 75th Anniversary. Dave Erwin researched our archival council minutes for these intriguing facts.

2003

In January the lounge refurbishment was completed with a cost of \$14,840

At a congregational meeting, Church Council President Nancy Grant asked members to become more active in church.

The Church Secretary position was made part-time.

The sanctuary and church office were updated with a total cost of \$12,500.

A Call Committee for a new pastor was formed.

The council is concerned that too much time has been spent on church finances and not enough time on the spiritual health of the congregation.

Pastor Pentti Maki began his ministry at HTLC on December 7th.

The budget for the year had a deficit of \$40,530.11.

2004

Pastor Maki designated the offering for his installation service to go to World Hunger.

The church sound system was improved. Council discussed ways in which to use a \$24,500 bequest. Options included an elevator, a handicap accessible restroom, installing AC in chapel and pastor's office, and repaving the parking lot.

The church treasurer noted that the church is dealing with the same issues as was reported in a letter from an ELCA Interpretation Meeting held in 1991.

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2005

At the congregational meeting in January, Council President Nancy Grant asked everyone to put on "rose colored Jesus glasses" to see what needs to be changed.

A feasibility study for elevator and handicap accessibility was begun.

Members were surveyed concerning the use of the chapel. The majority wanted to keep the space as currently used and update it to make it better.

Kathy Glessner became Council President in May after Nancy Grant moved to North Carolina. She will fill in the term which ends in October.

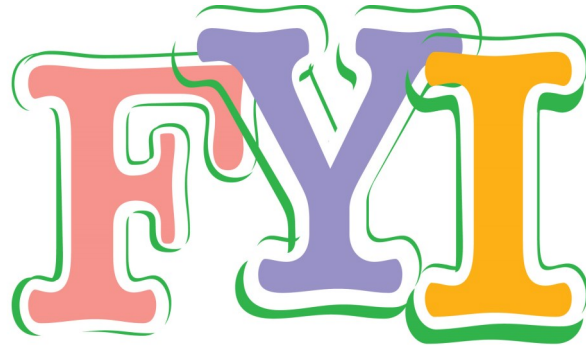
The new AC was purchased at a cost of \$16,560. The parking lot was repaved at a cost of \$13,200. A new kitchen stove was purchased.

Fifty-eight members returned reviews for Pastor Maki. Reviews were very positive.

The income for the year was \$218,413.02.
Disbursements were \$233,791.23.

Make plans now to attend the special events and celebration of Holy Trinity's 75th Anniversary in October. Watch for announcements in bulletins and upcoming newsletters!

There will be no Church Council meeting in August.



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday

9:30am—12:30pm

The office is closed on Fridays.

Pastor is out of the office on Mondays.

If you have missed a service or you want to review notes you made during a service, we have started posting Pastor's sermons on our website. Visit us at HolyTrinityMansfield.org and scroll down on the homepage where you will find the most recent service posted for your listening convenience.

In the SoundCloud box, click on the church's name, you will be directed to her previous sermons, as well.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A
MEMBER OF HOLY TRINITY, PLEASE LET
PASTOR KATHY KNOW ASAP!**

Love to Share Stories?

Pastor Kathy could use your passion for sharing stories.

Whether you love writing or telling stories (or both), Pastor Kathy could use you.

How?

By working with her to share stories about Holy Trinity, discipleship, serving in the community, and/or loving the Lord.

Pastor Kathy is looking for individuals to write stories, take pictures, create infographics, and have skills in marketing and advertising. Whatever your passion is in one of these areas or a related area, Pastor Kathy could use you!!!

Congratulations!

Lindsey Pritchard, granddaughter of Liz Pritchard, was recently promoted to Captain in the U.S. Army.

She has also been accepted into the program of Physician Assistants at the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas.

**The Gospel according to Michael Smith,
organist (as recorded by Barney)
*A variation of Matthew 20:1-16***

The Organist of a Lutheran Church one September went out into the congregation to recruit singers for the choir. He agreed to pay them \$1.10 and one Klondike bar to get them into the choir loft.

A couple of months later, Phyllis was having difficulty showing up for practice, her attendance very sporadic, but Michael would pay her whatever was right at the end of April.

In December, Karen takes off to Florida and misses half of the choir's performances.

In late February, Barb & Jerry join. Council President, Carol comes on board in March.

Karen returns for the last practice, and Perry Kent for the last performance.

"Why were you not at some of the earlier practices?" asked Michael.

"Because no one asked me to join," said Perry. "Then join," said the organist.

Before the last practice, the pastor tells the organist, Michael, to gather all the singers to pay them, beginning with Perry, then Carol, Barb & Jerry, Phyllis and Karen.

When Perry and Karen were paid, each received \$1.10 and a Klondike bar, as did Carol, Barb & Jerry, and Phyllis.

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So when Kathy, Bonnie, Mary, Dick & Nancy, Bobbie, Dave & Jean, Nancy and Barney came to Michael, they assumed they would receive much more. Perhaps a coupon for an entire box of Klondike bars from Kroger's.

They protested! Especially Barney.

"We sat every Thursday morning in an unheated choir loft in sweat shirts, stocking caps, scarves, winter coats and sometimes, under blankets, while these others come here in late summer or early spring and get the same pay."

"Barney, my friend," said Michael, "I did you no wrong. Did you not agree to sing all year for \$1.10 and a Klondike bar? Take it and go."

"It is my desire to pay you all the same. Is it against the law to give away my money if I want to? Should you be angry because I am kind?"

And so it is that the last shall be first and the first last.

If you are interested in joining the HT Singers, please see Michael Smith. Practices will begin at 12:30pm on Thursday, August 17, and will take place every Thursday . Performances are generally given on the 2nd Sunday of each month, and during special services.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<i>August 2023</i>		1	
		6p Property Mtg	
6	7	8	
9a Parish Ed			
10a Worship Svc			10a Comfort Makers Quilti
		No Council Mtg	
13	14	15	
10a Worship Svc			2p Finance M
			6:30p Scouts
20	21	22	
10a Worship Svc		6:30p Scouts Mtg	
27	28	29	
10a Worship Svc		6p HT Bells practice resumes	

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2	3	4	5
	1:30p Books, Coffee & Dessert Book Club		
9	10	11	12
port quilting	11:30a Worship & Music Mtg		
16	17	18	19
e Mtg uts Mtg	12:30p HT Singers Practice resumes		4p-8p Appleseed Squares Dance
23	24	25	26
	12:30p HT Singers		St Lukes Hot Meals
30	31	<i>Ballroom Dance is still on hiatus until September</i>	
	12:30p HT Singers		

IN CHRIST'S

**SUNDAY
AUGUST 6**

**SUNDAY
AUGUST 13**

Head Usher

JIM FLEMING

Greeter

LIZ PRITCHARD

Lectors

NANCY COLLIER

BONNIE ELIAS

Cantors

KAREN FEICHTNER

BONNIE ELIAS

Ushers

LINDA FLEMING, SUE HENDRICK

**Communion
Assistants**

DICK & M

Altar Guild

DICK & M

Counters

JIM & LI

F'S SERVICE

**SUNDAY
AUGUST 20**

**SUNDAY
AUGUST 27**

JIM FLEMING

LIZ PRITCHARD

S

JEAN ERWIN

LINDA FLEMING

S

KATHY GLESSNER

**NANCY COLLIER /
BOBBIE BALLENGER**

CKSON, JERRY MURPHY & REX LITTERAL

& NANCY COLLIER

& NANCY COLLIER

, LINDA FLEMING

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL







Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on Wednesday, September 6, 2023.**

A package of four screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered:

Carotid Artery Screening (Plaque)

An ultrasound is performed to screen the carotid arteries (a pair of blood vessels in the neck that deliver blood to your brain) for buildup of fatty plaque. This buildup, called atherosclerosis, is one of the leading causes of stroke.

Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening

An Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI) test is performed using blood pressure cuffs on the arms and legs. It is important to screen for PAD because it increases the risk of coronary artery disease, heart attack, or stroke.¹

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Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)

An ultrasound is performed to screen the abdominal aorta for the presence of an enlargement or aneurysm. AAA can lead to a ruptured aortic artery, which is a serious medical emergency.

blood clots, stroke, and heart failure, and other heart-related complications.²

Atrial Fibrillation

A 6-lead electrocardiogram (EKG) is performed by placing sensors on the arms and legs to screen for Atrial Fibrillation. AFib can lead to blood clots, stroke, and heart failure, and other heart-related complications.²

These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://lisa.social/HC>

Assisted Listening Devices are available for use during worship.

To access, download the free **Listen EVERYWHERE App** to your smartphone and connect to HTLC's Wi-Fi network.

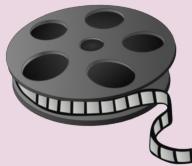
Holy Carers:

Thank you for staying in touch with our homebound members.

They so appreciate the phone calls, cards, notes and visits.

Summer Movie Matinee

"PLAY THE FLUTE"



featuring Brett Varvel, Clint Howard & Loretta Swit

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11

3:00pm

Doors Open at 2:40pm

SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION

Your non-perishable donations are a gift to those in need!

Every month we deliver your food donations to a local agency: Salvation Army, Domestic Violence Shelter or Wayfinders (formerly Harmony house).



Social Ministry Reminders

We are still collecting items for **Love Our Heroes** such as:

- Toothbrush / Toothpaste
- Socks
- Shampoo / Conditioner, and more...

Check the Complete list at the Tub in the Narthex!

MANSFIELD TEACHERS

We will have a tub in the Narthex to collect items for Mansfield School Teachers. Needed items are:

- ♦Kleenex
- ♦Dry Erasers, and
- ♦Paper Towels

BOOKS, COFFEE AND DESSERT BOOK CLUB

The book club will meet August 3, at 1:30 PM in the home of Jean Erwin to discuss the book *Watching You* by Lisa Jewel. Melville Heights is not the usual place where someone is killed in their own kitchen. Everyone has a secret, and prying eyes lurk behind every curtain. Who would have wanted one of their neighbors dead? Join us for discussion, fellowship and dessert. If you have questions, contact Linda Fleming @ 419-756-4929 or Jean Erwin @ 419-632-4318.

Thank You So Much

I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the congregation of Holy Trinity Lutheran for your gracious and warm welcome. It speaks of your heart for the Lord and commitment to carry forward the vision of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church!

After experiencing the death of the love of my life in July of 2022 with 43+ a couple courting years of marriage, I have landed at Holy Trinity. I know in time of trauma, it is common to return to the things in your life that have proven solid and enduring. I believe I have found the values and precepts my dad and mom instilled in my life from my youngest memory at Holy Trinity Lutheran. Reading Holy Trinity's vision statement is something of a John Wesley "Aldersgate" experience for me. It encapsulates, I believe, the heart is what God is drawing me and calling me to.

I look forward to meeting each of you! And building abiding friendships as we sojourn together in our shared love for Christ Jesus and celebrate His work in our lives through His Spirit present in each of us and among us!

With joy in the journey!

Perry Kent

Lutheran World Relief Update

As of May 15, 2023 the Quilt & Kit tracker is officially out of service. Which means that moving forward barcodes should no longer be used. No reports or updates will be generated by the Tracker for previous donations with Tracker-generated barcodes.

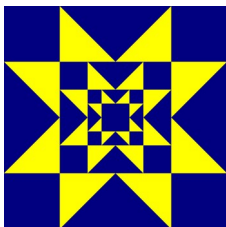
Plans are in motion for a new, state-of-art system. During this period of transition, we are committed to sharing photos, videos and stories of your quilts and kits reaching your neighbors around the world.

Here at Holy Trinity we take our quilts to Jerusalem Lutheran Church in Seville, Ohio. From there they are transported to Lutheran World Relief warehouse in Maryland, United States.

Our quilts from last year may have gone to any one of the following countries: Angola, Armenia, Georgia, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali, Poland, South Sudan, Syria and Ukraine.

From the Quilt Group

Submitted by Sue Hendrickson



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

525 WEST COOK ROAD
MANSFIELD, OHIO 44907

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Phone: 419-756-7547
www.holytrinitymansfield.org

BUSINESS HOURS:
9:30am-12:30pm Mon-Thu

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to be a Christ-centered Bible-based Church, equipping disciples with Scripture to share the good news of God's reconciling love with conviction, courage and compassion while responding to the needs of others in our community and the world.