

**HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWSLETTER**

*To Be and To Make
Disciples of
Jesus Christ*

2023 Vol 31. Issue 9

SEPTEMBER



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The church elders sat in the dark room looking up at the ceiling. At least, that's what they thought they were doing. It was too dark to really tell.

"It was a good lightbulb," one elder said, mournfully. All agreed.

"I remember when we used to have Bible studies in this room. Before the light went out," another reminisced.

"And council meetings," added a third.

"My daughter had confirmation classes here. But that was years ago," said a fourth.

"It really was a good lightbulb," the first elder repeated. All agreed.

"Perhaps we should get a new lightbulb," a new voice in the room suggested. Silence.

After a time, an elder said, "We tried that. But it didn't work."

Another added, "And we are out of lightbulbs."

A third said, "And, even if we did have one, there is no one who can change it. We're getting too old for ladders."

The fourth said, "I could ask my daughter, but she doesn't come here anymore."

A thoughtful silence filled the room.

"It really was a good lightbulb," the first elder said with heavy sadness, then added, "I just wish the light would come back." And all agreed.

After another long, awkward silence, there was a shuffling in the room. A chair moving. Footsteps across the tile floor. "Then maybe," the new voice said, "we should just open the blinds."

Sunlight. ¹

If you have been involved in a congregation's life for some time, you have probably sat with these elders in the dark room and considered the burned-out lightbulbs in the congregation's life, those yearnings for the way things used to be. Yearnings for the days when there were 100 kids in

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Sunday school, two dozen people singing in the choir, when women did not work outside the home while raising young children, when everyone looked forward to the Sunday School picnic, when church was central in society and therefore on Sundays everyone would not think about going anywhere until they went to church first. Those were the days . . .

And now we are left to adjust to the world without what we have lost. We have to change ourselves to adapt to the changed world in which we find ourselves. We have to open the blinds on our loss and let the sunlight shine into our lives in new ways. But will we welcome the sunlight? Will you welcome the sunlight?

Here's a test: How would you respond if you're peacefully sleeping in your bedroom with room darkening shades, and someone enters your room and opens them up allowing the bright morning sun to shine right into your face? Would you hide under your bed sheets, grumbling about someone being so rude? Or would you welcome the sunlight, looking forward to getting the day started?

Truth is, when it comes to opening the blinds and welcoming the sunlight, some love it, while others, not so much, especially if they are not the ones opening the blinds. And some need more time than others to prepare themselves for the sunlight. Only when they have time to prepare themselves can they then welcome the sunlight. And the same holds true for the life of the church, the body of Christ.

Paul's words to the Romans penned approximately 1,966 years ago speak to us today: *I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and*


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and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect (12:1-2).

In order for this body of Christ, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, to adapt to the changed world in which we find ourselves we have to find the courage to open the blinds on our loss and welcome the sunlight that God is shining into our lives. And it is possible for us to do so while not forgetting the roots of our faith and all that shapes our identity. However, it will require all of us to participate because we all have a necessary and important function in this body of Christ called Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. As Paul tells us in Romans 12:4-5: *For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.*

This month we are making final preparations to celebrate Holy Trinity's 75th Anniversary throughout the entire month of October. I encourage you to take part in as many of the activities as you can. More importantly, I encourage you to give of yourself as requests for help are made. Until then, welcome the sunlight. I look forward to seeing you in worship and actively participating in the many ministries that Holy Trinity offers.

Your Sister in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Kathy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name "Pastor Kathy".

¹ Girlinghouse, Michael K., *Embracing God's Future without Forgetting the Past: A Conversation about Loss, Grief, and Nostalgia in Congregational Life.* 2019. Fortress Press: Minneapolis. Pg. 133-134.

Fall Parish Education Programs will begin

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

following the church worship service!

**Looking forward to learning about God's Word
with you all!**

OUR *Faith* FAMILY



VBS SUCCESS

Ministry Moment: "This is so FUN!!!" Those are some of the best words to hear as a volunteer, and that's exactly what we heard children yelling during our VBS closing bubble and snow cone party at the playground of First English Church. We are so thankful for all who attended, volunteered, and made this a special experience for our local youth!

September Birthdays

1st—Jeff Zeigler

3rd—Linda Boltman

9th—Robin Myers

12th—Always Butz

13th—Jerry Unruh

15th—Elaine Siewert

Hunter Newlon

16th—Karen Ticknor

17th—Tom Sweet

18th—Becky McKinley

21st—Dick Collier

23rd—Debbie Smith

24th—Stacey Bowman

30th—Amelia Bowman



Pastor's Study

There will be no Pastor's Study this Fall due to Pastor Kathy's busy schedule.

If you are able, participate in the Bible Study facilitated by Dick & Nancy Collier on Thursday mornings. Pastor Kathy will be leading a study of Luther's *Large Catechism* beginning in January.

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 was mailed the first week of August

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

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL OFFERING

**Close
the Gap**

Please Make Checks Payable to HTLC

The **September Special Offering** envelope supports closing the gap with the church's general fund. Summer travel often leaves the church behind in income versus expenses. This is an opportunity for you to catch-up with your tithes and offerings. August tends to be an expensive month for the church as curriculum and other materials are purchased for the Fall. Your consideration to help the church close the gap now rather than waiting until December is much appreciated.

Looking back on the Last 25 Years at HTLC

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.

2006:

Jim Fleming replaces Joel Marnhenke as Council President. He will serve for two years.

The large air conditioner was replaced at a cost of \$18,350.00.

Carol Bertholf volunteered to be the church librarian.

Pastor Diana Seaman resigns as youth director.

A feasibility committee discussed an elevator which would cost approximately \$200,000.

Jean Huffman becomes mentor coordinator.

2007:

The "Elevating Holy Trinity Together Project" estimated cost is \$248,000. This includes handicap access and bathrooms.

The Youth Group donated \$1,274.32 from craft and bake sales to the elevator fund.

At the year end, the elevator is 75% complete. When funds raised are compared to expenses, there is a deficit of \$68,300.00.

2008:

Donations for the Elevator Fund includes \$7540.14 from Trinity Ashland, and \$3,559.9 from rummage sale. The total cost of the elevator project was \$242,196.11. The total money raised was \$173,583.60. The total borrowed from the bequest fund was \$68,612.51. The last payment was made on June 19th.

Pastor Maki started Faith Friends.

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2009:

The Archive Room was established. The committee who worked on the project included Joan Albert, Carol Myers, John O'Neil and Betty Snively.

Marian Pendleton Scholarship Fund was established.

The problems with the elevator were described and sent to the Better Business Bureau.

Eighty-four members distributed 2,391 flyers in the community to advertise VBS and our summer mid-week services.

Issues with the ELCA were brought up at a meeting.

2010:

Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the ELCA sends a letter in response to our concerns about the passage of "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust."

Members were polled about redirecting ELCA benevolence to other related Lutheran projects.

In March, Sue and Bill Schamadan submitted a letter asking to plan for a columbarium.

The five-year proposed "Core Values and Bedrock Beliefs" was passed by the congregation.

In April, HTLC voted to add its name to resolution to repeal the sexuality document passed by the ELCA in 2009.

The Seminary Fund for Carol Kilgore was replenished.

Cara Fehr resigned as Church Secretary. Cassandra Brown was hired to replace her.

Jonathan Scheidt updated the council on the church website. Windows 7 was installed on the pastor's laptop and Secretary's computer.

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Looking back on the Last 25 Years at HTLC, cont'd

2010, cont'd:

Air conditioning was installed in the Chapel. Ray Gantzer completed the electrical work.

At the October Church Council Meeting, members voted to place on the ballot at a congregational meeting this resolution: "Holy Trinity Lutheran Church should terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America." Bishop of the ELCA Elizabeth Eaton spoke to the congregation on October 24th. The meeting was held on October 31st after the Reformation service. The rationale for such a move was that the "Social Statement of Human Sexuality, sections of which members believed to be in direct contradiction to the teachings of the Holy Scriptures, and the Lutheran Confessions. The attendance at the October Congregational Meeting was 123. The result of the vote was as follows: 109 in favor of withdrawing from the ELCA; 23 not in favor of withdrawing from the ELCA. The second resolution that passed was the request to join the North American Lutheran Church. Meetings on the subject will continue in January, 2011.

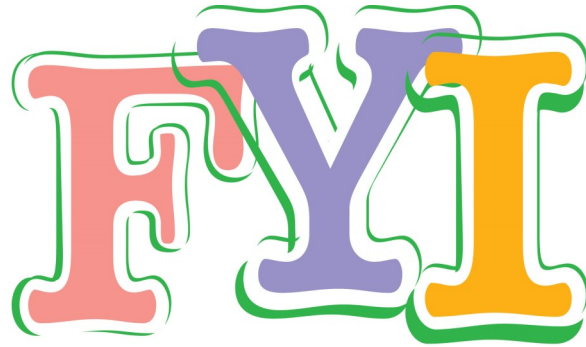


Make plans now to attend the special events and celebration of Holy Trinity's 75th Anniversary in October. Watch for announcements in bulletins and upcoming newsletters!

Lexington's Blueberry Festival

Holy Trinity Members and Scout Troop 152 Members participated in the Lexington Blueberry Festival this year!





• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

Office Hours

**Monday—Friday
9:30am—12:30pm**

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!**

Mansfield Correctional Institution (ManCI) Community Garden Project

Thanks in part to some donations received from Holy Trinity's members, additional plants were purchased for the Community Garden Project headed up by Gregory Taylor (Debbie's husband), as well as supplies to create a wall mural. Mr. Taylor is the Mental Health Administrator at ManCI, and volunteers with the Community Garden project because he loves doing this for them. There are a half dozen inmates who were handpicked to participate in this special project. The food grown here will be donated to the local food bank.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<i>September</i>			
3	4	5	
9a Parish Ed Mtg			8a-5p
10a Worship	Labor Day		Lifeline Scre
	Office Closed	6p Property Mtg	
1p One Accord		5:15p HT Bells	
10	11	12	
RALLY DAY			
10a Worship			10a Comforters
Congregational Mtg		5:30p Council Potluck	
Church Luncheon & Bible Trivia		5:15p HT Bells	
1p One Accord			
17	18	19	
10a Worship	9a PEO Group		
11:15 Youth & Adult Education		1:30p Staff Support	2p Finance M
		5:15p HT Bells	
1p Confirmation Class		6p Dance Lessons	
1p One Accord			
24	25	26	
10a Worship			
11:15a Youth & Adult Education		5:15p HT Bells	
1p One Accord	6p Social Ministry Mtg	6p Dance Lessons	

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2
6	7	8	9
9a-5p Screening	12:30p HT Singers		
	1:30p Coffee Books & Dessert Book Club	3p Movie Matinee	7p-10p Appleseed Square Dance
13	14	15	16
Comfort Mak-	11:30a Worship Mtg		
	12:30p HT Singers		
	6p Dance Lessons		
20	21	22	23
Ice Mtg	12:30p HT Singers		
	6p Dance Lessons		
	7p Free Square Dance Lesson		
27	28	29	30
	10a Bible Study		
	12:30p HT Singers		
	6p Dance Lessons		
	7p Free Square Dance Lesson		

IN CHRIST'S

	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 3	SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10 RALLY DAY
Head Usher	JIM FLEMING	
Greeter	JOYCE DUFF	
Lectors	KATHY GLESSNER	BARNEY MUSSELMAN
Cantors	BARNEY MUSSELMAN	KATHY GLESSNER
Ushers	TRISTAN CURVIN, BONNIE ELI	
Communion Assistants	KARL & LORI THEM	
Altar Guild	CAROL BERTHOLI	
Counters	DON & RO	



WOMEN'S SERVICE

**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 17**

**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 24**

JIM FLEMING

JOYCE DUFF

RUTH SCHINDLER

CINDY SHASKY

BONNIE ELIAS

KAREN FEICHTNER

ELIAS, CAROL FRY & CONNIE ZAPPONE

KARL & LORI THEM

DOLF & BOBBIE BALLENGER

ROBERTA KARGER



Come and join us for Rally Day!

Sunday, September 10

Join us for a Picnic Themed Fellowship Luncheon and Bible Trivia! The luncheon and fun will begin directly following the Congregational Meeting.

Church members: Please bring a salad or dessert to share! Shredded chicken sandwiches & hot dogs will be provided.

Test your Bible knowledge with Bible Trivia. Teams will have 3 rounds of 10 questions each.

Members, feel free to wear a Holy Trinity T-shirt (red or blue) to celebrate Fall Parish Education Kick-off!

Hope to see you all there!





Thank You

I would not know how to thank everyone for the love and support shown to me and Phyllis McPhern's family during her illness, hospital stay and & hospice care.

Thanks especially to Pastor Kathy, Michael Smith & Norma for your parts in her service.

With over 160 signing the book, the service was a wonderful celebration of the ending of Phyllis's earthly life to the beginning of her eternal life with Christ.

And a special thanks to all involved with the post-service meal, feeding 98 with food for 70 and some left over.

Barney & the Family of Phyllis McPhern



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.

OUTREACH / SOCIAL MINISTRY UPDATES

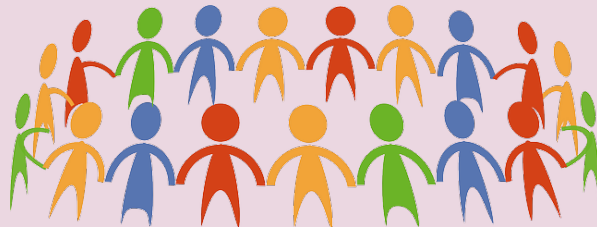
Social Ministry has been busy delivering the Love Our Hero's tote contents and collecting more through September.

Teacher materials, including dry erasers and paper towels, were collected in August for Mansfield school teachers. The dry erasers were a big hit last year!

A motion was made to donate \$500 directly to the Malawi Orphan Care Project in Phyllis McPhern's name. We will continue to support this great endeavor.

Bonnie Elias & Sue Hendrickson continue to deliver our food donations (collected every Sunday) to our local area agencies.

The first annual Flood Bucket Build will be held on September 30, 2023, and we want to be involved. We purchased buckets & some materials and opened up donations to the congregation. A list of cleaning supplies is still available in the Narthex to fill each 5-gallon bucket to support the NALC Disaster response activity.



Submitted by Jean Erwin



HOLY TRINITY YARD SIGNS

Do you love your church? Are you willing to brag about your church and entice your neighbors to check us out? Then please grab a yard sign in the Narthex and proudly display it in your yard!

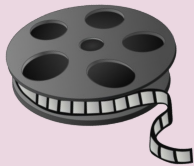
We are asking for a \$10-\$15 donation to cover the purchase of the signs since they were not a budgeted expense.

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



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

3:00pm

Doors Open at 2:40pm

Join us for Fellowship, Fun, and Free Popcorn!

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).



St Lukes Hot Meals Recap



A HUGE thank you to all that provided cookies—and those that assisted in setting up and serving the hot meal on Saturday, August 26th. I couldn't have done it without each of you! The meal was planned to serve 80 people, yet with God's intervention we were able to stretch that to 93 meals!!! We received many compliments and appreciation from our guests and that makes our hard work worthwhile.

Our final meal for 2023 will be held on November 25. Sign-up sheets will be available closer to that timeframe.

Sincerely, Elaine Bishop

BOOKS, COFFEE AND DESSERT BOOK CLUB

The book club will meet Thursday, September 7, at 1:30 PM in the home of Barb Shifley to discuss the book *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby VanPelt.

Join us for discussion, fellowship and dessert. If you have questions, contact



NALC *News*

North American Lutheran Church

Lutheran Week 2023

Bishop Selbo is reelected

The Rev. Dr. Dan Selbo was reelected as bishop of the North American Lutheran Church by delegates to the 2023 NALC Mission Convocation Aug. 9-11 in Oklahoma City.

More than 600 delegates and visitors gathered for the convocation around the theme, "Missio Dei: The Work and Mission of God." The convocation and the events preceding it comprise the NALC's biennial Lutheran Week.



Bishop Selbo received 77 percent of the votes for bishop. The Rev. Dr. David Wendel, assistant to the bishop for ministry and ecumenism, was the other nominee for bishop.

Other Elections: Julia Hartfelder of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Westerville, Ohio, and the Rev. Dr. Scott Ness, pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Fayetteville, Georgia, were elected to four-year terms on the Executive Council. The Rev. Leslie Haines, executive director of Lutheran Military Veterans and Family Ministries in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and the Rev. Ryan Henkel, pastor of Emmons Lutheran Church in Emmons, Minnesota, were elected to the Court of Adjudication.

"On Fire for Mission" sessions made the convocation a Mission-Driven gathering. Two-hour blocks of time each day focused on domestic mission, international mission and mission related to congregational life. Dr. David Luy of the North American Lutheran Seminary opened the sessions with a reflection on Scripture, and NALC staff members provided presentations on each day's theme. Delegates then talked about the presentations and discussed ways to "take it home" to their congregations.

Six new NALC Global Workers were commissioned: Randy Stubbs in Tanzania; the Rev. Sam Chim in Cambodia; the Rev. Dr. Thomas Thorstad in Laos; the Rev. Dr. Slavomír Slávik in Slovakia; the Rev. Aleksandr Gröss in Ukraine; and Dagaga Gamechu in Kenya.

The ministry of the Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba, assistant to the bishop for international mission, was celebrated. He will now be serving the NALC part time from Ethiopia and will expand his teaching and leadership ministries around the world.

Randy Stubbs, a new NALC global worker in Tanzania, and his daughters delighted delegates with their music throughout the convocation. His ministry training church musicians and pastors in Tanzania was highlighted at the convocation banquet.

The Rev. Dr. Yonas Yigezu Dibisa, president of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, was the preacher for the closing service of Holy Communion.

A large increase in the number of candidates for ministry preparing to become NALC pastors was celebrated by the convocation.

A \$3.8 million budget was approved for the NALC for 2024. The budget anticipates spending some of the church's reserve funds. Congregations are encouraged to support the NALC with at least 5-8 percent of their regular offerings.

Today, Tomorrow & Forever 2020 Vision appeal has received \$2 million in pledges toward its \$5 million goal.

The Braaten-Benne Lectures in Theology preceded the convocation. The theme for this year's lectures was "God the Father Creates ... in His Image (Genesis 1:27)."

Other Lutheran Week events included a Faith Formation Festival, the Women of the NALC Gathering, the Lutheran Theologians for the Church Conference, the Global Confessional and Missional Forum, and a gathering of Latino church leaders from across the NALC. A variety of workshops were also offered for delegates.

Documents and videos from the convocation and other events of Lutheran Week are available online at lutheranweek.com.

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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.