

**HOLY TRINITY  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
2023 Vol 31. Issue 10

*To Be and To Make  
Disciples of  
Jesus Christ*

## **OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER**

*Celebrating*  
**75 Years**  
*Of Ministry*



**Holy Trinity Lutheran  
Church**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

October is an exciting month for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church as we celebrate our 75th Anniversary. Our theme for our anniversary is *Looking Forward*, with Proverbs 4:25-26 in mind – *Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you. Keep straight the path of your feet, and all your ways will be sure.* Our month is filled with guest preachers on Sundays and a special worship service and bible study with pastor-artist, Paul Oman and his *Drawn to the Word* ministry. Please continue to read the newsletter for more information about these anniversary events.

October also happens to be the month for our annual pledge drive. As we celebrate our 75th Anniversary and recall how Holy Trinity Lutheran Church began its ministry, I invite you to look forward in hope – in hope of what the next 75+ years will bring to the Mansfield-Lexington community. Our culture has made it apparent how intently we need to look forward. Present circumstances may look bleak as we see a greater decline in church attendance and an increase in individuals claiming to be not affiliated with any religious identity in North America. But, regardless of current circumstances, this is our mission field. As disciples of Jesus Christ we are to go and make disciples.

How do we go about making disciples? Great question! We share with others what gives us hope. We tell them how God is at work in our lives, and how we see God at work in their life. As we try to comfort and encourage others in their times of trial, we share with them how God makes himself known to us in Christ. We lead others to Christ, through the life we live, planting seeds of faith in them, and allowing the Holy Spirit to do its work in those we are trying to reach.

Our current economic and political climates might have us worried about the security of our future, but we can rest

in God our Creator, and we can encourage others to put their trust in God, too. God has arranged his creation so that there's a gift in everything we are and have, in everything we do and receive. As the Catechism tells us in the first article of the Creed, "God provides me with food and clothing, home and family ... all I need from day to day. God also protects me ... All this he does out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, though I do not deserve it. Therefore I surely ought to thank and praise, serve and obey him."

Our God is a generous God. We can put our trust in him and look forward in hope with confidence that there is much work for the people of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church to do now and for many years to come. May you spend time in prayer asking God to guide you in how you will support the mission and ministry of Holy Trinity.

*Your Sister in Christ,*

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

At 10am on Thursday, October 26, Pastor Paul Oman will lead the Thursday Morning Bible Study using the Visual Arts / Painting process.

He will teach from the perspective of "Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes" using work from Kenneth Bailey, theologian and scholar who taught and lives in the Holy Land for 70 years. Join us for this exciting time of worship and study!

## Highlights of Pastor's Report

- Debbie Taylor and I propose we upgrade our church database to a cloud-based system, ICON-CMO. Eight other systems were researched, including our current database, Church Windows. ICON-CMO is the most economical for what we need.
- Two individuals requested to join our membership: Tom Riester and Perry Kent.
- A Stewardship Committee has been established (Yvonne Smith, John Tipton, Tom Riester, Carol Bertholf, and myself). We are reading *Abundance: Creating a Culture of Generosity*, and working out a plan for emphasizing stewardship throughout the entire year with monthly temple talks, newsletter articles, social media, and/or videos.
- Sometime before the end of the year the council should set aside some time (outside of our normal meetings) to work on establishing our core values and setting 3-4 goals for us to work on for 2024.

## OCTOBER SPECIAL OFFERING

### Water Mission

### Please Make Checks Payable to HTLC

The **October Special Offering** envelope supports Water Mission, a North American Lutheran Church (NALC) ministry partner. Water Mission provides solutions for those who live in communities around the world that lack safe water and sanitation and those who are suffering as a result of a disaster or emergency situation. Water Mission believes the global water crisis can be solved by taking a comprehensive approach to battling the crisis with water, sanitation & hygiene solutions in 56 countries with 350+ staff members working around the world. Customized solutions are designed for each community served, and recipients are partnered with during the process. Success results in more time for work & education, improved health, and increased productivity for the community. Visit [www.watermission.org](http://www.watermission.org) to learn more.

*Celebrating 75 Years of Ministry!*

## **HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

### **October Special Events Calendar**

#### **Sunday, October 1 - 10am Worship**

- **Guest Preacher: Rev. John Burgess, former HT member and Ordained Minister serving in Minnesota**

#### **Sunday, October 8 - 10am Worship**

- **Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Amy Little, former HT Pastoral Intern, now General Secretary of the NALC**

#### **Sunday, October 15 - 10am Worship**

- **Guest Preacher: Rev. Richard Beal, former HT Supply & Interim Pastor**

#### **Sunday, October 22 - 10am Worship**

- **Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. Pentti Maki, former HT Pastor for 17 years**

*Service will be followed by a Celebration Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall*

#### **Wednesday, October 25—7pm Worship**

- **Guest: Paul Oman, Pastor and Artist "Drawn To The Word" Worship Service**

#### **Thursday, October 26—10am Bible Study**

- **Guest: Paul Oman, Pastor and Artist "Jesus through Middle Eastern Eyes"**

#### **Sunday, October 29 - 10am Worship**

- **Rev. Katherine Pennington, Current HT Pastor and Dean of North Central Ohio Mission District of the NALC**



# October Birthdays

2nd—Nancy Pasheilich

14th—Roger Steude

Tom Riester

15th—Marilyn Zuber

16th—Shirley Robinson

20th—Scott Conlan

26th—Pat Brook

29th—Mary Pendleton



## October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

Pastor Kathy came in and hit the ground running nearly two years ago! Now is the time to share with her your appreciation for her hard work and dedication to the Lord, to serving Him in ministry and to working tirelessly for our congregation. Share with her your notes of appreciation, prayers and words of encouragement and/or gift cards for gas, groceries, coffee or whatever else you know she loves!

**Let's show her how much  
WE LOVE OUR PASTOR!!!**



## **Remembering "Elevating Holy Trinity Together"**

One of the largest undertakings of HTLC in recent years was making the church handicap accessible. The initial meeting with a contractor was held in January of 2005. After a walk through, the contractor estimated the cost to be around \$100,000. A Feasibility Committee was formed in March of 2006. Members included Larry Feichtner, Jim Fleming, Jerry Unruh, John Pierce, Dick Collier, and Terry McKinley.

The council approved presenting the project to the congregation in October of 2006. The proposal included an elevator, two chair lifts, refit of two restrooms, and repairing front doors and window leaks. The cost was now estimated at \$248,000. Financial options were investigated. In July of 2007, Larry Feichtner, Chairperson of "Elevating Holy Trinity Together" announced that the campaign had raised \$165,346. Calls and home visits were conducted by member teams. It was decided that the Baptismal Font would have a basket to receive the collection on Miracle Sunday, July 2007. The Task Force hoped that the campaign would raise the level of spiritual awareness of our members and create a closeness among our members. An Expression of Faith booklet containing statements and prayers was produced to inspire HTLC members.

The dedication of the Handicap Accessibility Project was held on May 18, 2008. The hymn chosen for the event was "Blest Be the Ties That Bind." Chair Larry Feichtner commented that the project was the work of the Lord. He quoted Dietrich Bonhoeffer who wrote "The church is the church only when it exists for others."

Sincerely,

Carol Bertholf

# Journey to the Joy of Giving

*by Rev. Dr. Eugene Grimm*

a Stewardship Micro Message from North American Lutheran Church  
Living and Giving Ministry

Just as Christians grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ, it's a fact that we also grow in our understanding and practice of Christian stewardship. There are no doubt some people, who, with their very first offering, feel a sense of joy. But I think for many people, it's a more of a progression that may differ from person to person.

Experiencing joy in giving is often far more caught than taught. Yes, we can learn from scripture and other people. When we find someone who is an inspiration for us, someone with whom the gospel shines, their faith and their joy can be contagious. Barring those explosive encounters with the Gospel in the witness of others, real joy in giving may progress more slowly—but it will come. Joy is a by-product of being a Christian.

**STEP ONE** in giving might well be duty. Many of us were taught to give by parents or grandparents. Either as children or as new converts to Christianity, we have yet to reach the maturity that comes as we grow in grace and knowledge of the Gospel. Giving from a sense of duty does not mean a lack of commitment. It is a meaningful experience, but it may not reach the level of real joy.

**STEP TWO** may begin when we find great satisfaction in giving. When a Christian child earns their first paycheck, there is great satisfaction in being able to put their offering in the plate. One gets to give. Giving is satisfying and fulfilling, yet may not reach the level of joy.

**STEP THREE** might well be when we grow to giving to God from a sense of gratitude. This is a big step! Giving is no longer



just giving to a church; it's now become giving to God in gratitude for all that Christ has done. At this point, real joy begins to come alive.

There may be other steps for some; the journey can be traveled rather quickly, or it may take some time. Others give to special offerings and, through that, find joy.

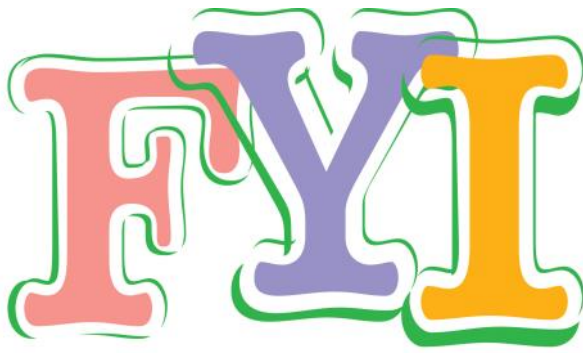
There once was a guy named Guy. Guy only occasionally put a large chunk of money in the offering, but he tended to give toward special needs. When Guy invited himself to a Church Council meeting, the members cringed. They all respected Guy, but he was a blunt person, and they also had a bit of fear.

At one such meeting, everyone greeted Guy cordially, though without much enthusiasm. The president of the congregation gave Guy a spot on the agenda right after the devotions.

When the chair called on Guy, he got right down to business. He said, "I know the council has been discussing a new copy machine. I hear there are three being considered. If you'll buy the best one, I'll cover the cost. Also, we've been collecting money for a chair lift for a long time. I have decided to finish paying for it. Our church is getting older, and we dare not wait around too long."

For many people, finding joy in giving comes much like it did for Guy. The council blessed and thanked Guy for his generosity, and not only did Guy write a check for both special needs, his regular giving to the church also went up.

The journey to joy may be different for everyone, but joy in giving should be intrinsic to every Christian.



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •

## **Office Hours**

**Monday—Friday**

**9:30am—12:30pm**

***Pastor Kathy is Out of 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](http://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!**

## Stewardship

A Stewardship mailing will be sent the first week of October. Please carefully consider your contributions of Time, Talent and Treasure for 2024 and return your completed forms AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. We use the information provided to help establish the budget guidelines set forth for 2024. Your timely response will be appreciated!

Sanctuary or Altar Candle dedications can still be made. Sign up on the forms in the Narthex. You will receive a reminder card prior to your commitment. Your payment of \$10 for each dedication can be returned in the envelope which will be provided to you. Your dedication will be included in the weekly bulletins for your chosen month.

Flower dedications can still be made. You may choose to purchase a bouquet to be placed on Sunday mornings before service. If you would like to include a dedication for the flowers, please notify the office by 10AM WEDNESDAY MORNING before the flowers will be placed.



**Adult Education Class—The Wired Word—  
resumed meeting in the Chapel at 11:15am  
on Sundays. All adults are welcome! Bring  
your Bible, coffee & snack and join in the  
discussion!**



**Youth Education  
classes are held at  
11:15am Sunday  
mornings in upstairs  
classrooms.**

**Fellowship Lunch and Bible Trivia Contest took place after worship on Rally Sunday, September 10. A Good Time was had by all who attended!**



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
1	2	3	
9:00am Parish Ed Mtg			
10am Worship		5:15p HT Bells	
11:15a Adult & Youth Ed		6p Property Mtg	
1p One Accord		6p Dance Lessons	
2p Blessing of the Pets	6:30p Cub Scouts	6:30p Boy Scouts	
		7p Special Council Mtg	
8	9	10	
10am Worship			10a Comfort
11:15a Adult & Youth Ed		5:15p HT Bells	
		6p Dance Lessons	
1p One Accord	6:30p Cub Scouts	6:30p Council Mtg	
		6:30p Boy Scouts	
15	16	17	
10am Worship			
11:15a Adult & Youth Ed	9:30a PEO Group - L	5:15p HT Bells	
	1p Condos - L	6p Dance Lessons	2p Finance
1p One Accord	6:30p Cub Scouts	6:30p Boy Scouts	
22	23	24	
10am Worship			
75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon Celebration	6p Social Ministry	5:15p HT Bells	
	6:30p Cub Scouts	6p Dance Lessons	7p Drawn to Worship
		6:30p Boy Scouts	
<b>Reformation Sunday 30</b>	30	31	
10am Worship		5:15p HT Bells	
11:15a Adult & Youth Ed	6:30p Cub Scouts	6p Dance Lessons	
1p One Accord		6:30p Boy Scouts	



WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4	5	6	7
	10a Bible Study		
	12:30p HT Singers		
	1:30p Books, Coffee Dessert Book Club		2p Confirmation Class
	6p Dance Lessons		
	6p Appleseed Squares		
11	12	13	14
Prayer Makers	10a Bible Study		11a Phillips Funeral
	11:30p Worship & Music		
	12:30p HT Singers	3p Movie Matinee	7-10p Appleseed Squares Dance
	6p Dance Lessons		
	6p Appleseed Squares		
18	19	20	21
	10a Bible Study		
	12:30p HT Singers		
Prayer Mtg	6p Dance Lessons		<b>FELLOWSHIP HALL RESERVED ALL DAY</b>
	6p Appleseed Squares		
25	26	27	28
	10a Bible Study w/ Paul Oman		
	12:30p HT Singers		
Prayer to the Word Service	6p Dance Lessons		7-10:30p Halloween Dance
	6p Appleseed Squares		

**October is Pastor Appreciation Month!**

# **IN CHRIST**

**SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 1**

**SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 8**

**OC**

**Head Usher**

**JIM FLEMING**

**Greeter**

**RUTH SCHINDLER**

**Lectors**

**KATHY  
GLESSNER**

**JERRY UNRUH**

**MAR**

**Cantors**

**BARNEY  
MUSSELMAN**

**BOBBIE B &  
NANCY C**

**DIC**

**Ushers**

**BOBBIE BALLENGER, BECKY M**

**Communion  
Assistants**

**DON AND**

**Altar Guild**

**MARY STEU**

**Counters**

**DICK &**



# **'S SERVICE**

**SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 15**

**SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 22**

**SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 29**

**JIM FLEMING**

**RUTH SCHINDLER**

**MIRILYN ZUBER**

**CAROL  
BERTHOLF**

**ALWAYS BUTZ**

**BOB COLLIER**

**BONNIE ELIAS**

**KATHY  
GLESSNER**

**MICKINLEY, CINDY SHASKY, JOHN TIPTON**

**ROBERTA KARGER**

**ALICE AND CAROL FRY**

**NANCY COLLIER**



# Over the Years—Then and Now

## Average Home Prices

1973—\$32,800  
1998—\$180,000  
2023—\$516,500

## Average Income

1973—\$10,512  
1998—\$58,884  
2023—\$70,181

## Average Gas Prices

1973—\$0.39/gallon \* 1948—\$0.26/gallon  
1998—\$1.06/gallon \* 1965—\$0.31/gallon  
2023—\$3.73/gallon

## 1973 Averages

Eggs—\$0.78/dozen  
Bread—\$0.28/loaf  
Milk—\$0.69/gallon

## 1998 Averages

Eggs—\$1.04/dozen  
Bread—\$0.86/loaf  
Milk—\$2.70/gallon

## 2023 Averages

Eggs—\$4.94/dozen  
Bread—\$1.83/loaf  
Milk—\$4.29/gallon

## \*1948 Averages

*Eggs—\$0.78/dozen  
Bread—\$0.14/loaf  
Milk—\$0.44/ half gallon*

*\*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church was founded in 1948.  
The Sanctuary was dedicated in 1965.*

# Over the Years—Then and Now

## Flash Back to Budget Requests

1973—Electric \$1700  
Gas \$1800  
Water \$180

1998—Electric \$9,100  
Gas \$10,500  
Water \$200

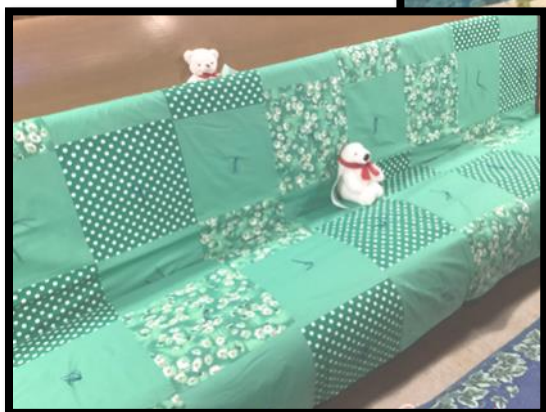
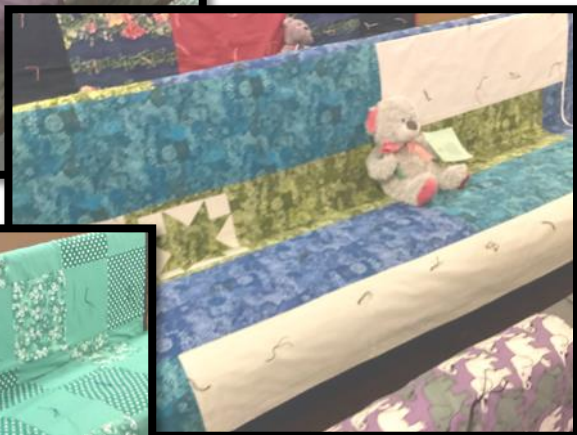
2023—Electric \$7,800  
Gas \$16,500  
Water \$450





The Comfort Makers Quilters presented Quilts for Blessing to Lutheran World Relief and distributed worldwide. Quilter Karen Feichtner, Sue Hendrickson and Miriam Myers





on Sunday, September 24, 2023. These quilts will be sent  
s (L to R): Ruth Schindler, Jolene Sandor, Bonnie Elias,

# SOCIAL MINISTRY IS NOW CALLED OUTREACH MINISTRY

Holy Trinity Members opened their hearts and pockets and went shopping to fill the green buckets for the **National Disaster Response! 25 buckets** were assembled and will be among the many sent to help throughout the USA to the flood victims.

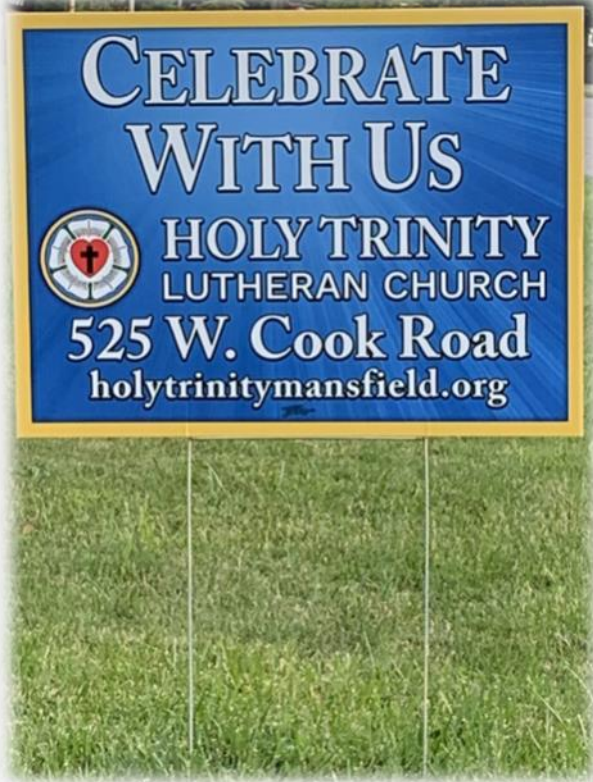
The Food Pantry continues to need our **Sunday Food donations**. They are always appreciative of our contributions and we will continue to deliver what is brought in on Sundays.

Weeding and planting has been done to brighten the entrance of the church.

**Love Our Hero's** continues to have great needs this time of year as it gets colder. Please remember them. The tote will remain in the hallway to collect those contributions, too.

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!

## **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, OCTOBER 13**  
**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).







## **BOOKS, COFFEE AND DESSERT BOOK CLUB**

The book club will meet October 5, at 1:30 PM in the home of Ellie Leech to discuss the book *The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot* by Marianne Cronin. A remarkable friendship sparks two lifetimes of shared stories in one unforgettable book.

Join us for discussion, fellowship and dessert.

If you have questions, contact Linda Fleming @ 419-756-4929 or Ellie Leech @ 419-756-7900.

## **Drawn to the Word—by Pastor & Artist Paul Oman**

“Bringing the Word to Life Before Your Eyes”

Experience a Drawn to the Word worship and artistic experience where Artist and Pastor Paul Oman will paint a larger-than-life sized mural in celebration of Holy Trinity’s 75th Anniversary with the theme of “Looking Forward” before your eyes on Wednesday, October 25 at 7pm in the sanctuary. This story will unfold artistically, musically, narratively and Scripturally during the event. All are welcome. Come and see!





## Are You the Key?

Are you carrying any extra keys around? Having a bunch of keys doesn't mean knowing where they fit or how to use them.

Six years ago, I received a phone call from Pastor Maki. After pleasantries were exchanged, he asked if I would consider becoming Church Council President. I am sure he made several calls prior to this with negative responses. I could have easily said no, too, but a voice in my head said "think about it." I had experience being president of our local League of Women Voters. The LWV is known for reaching consensus after studying relevant issues. Do I have the right set of keys? I now credit the Holy Spirit for moving me to call him the next day with a positive response. I have no regrets. Responsibility and commitment resulted in my spiritual and emotional growth.

Within the first few months, we faced a financial crisis; once the turmoil was over, we came back stronger. The Church Council promised transparency and knew it had to regain trust of its members. Each council member became more focused on these goals. Meetings no longer lasted three hours. Our only agenda was to improve. We were making progress when COVID struck.

Pastor Maki tried to be innovative by recording sermons, when we realized that our lack of technical capabilities was a real drawback which needed to be addressed. As Pastor Maki made the decision to retire in 2022, we were faced with forming a call committee. Some members I asked were hesitant and needed to be convinced that they possessed a necessary key to finding us a new pastor. With the encouragement of a dynamic interim, we reached a consensus on our traditional worship service. Dr. Hall prepared us for new pastor and the Holy Spirit led us to calling Pastor Kathy Pennington. Her success is our success. Increased attendance is only one of the positives she has brought. Our technological advances will be key factors in remaining relevant. We are indeed looking forward.

I have joked that I am counting down the last three months. There is a reason that there are term limits for Council positions in our Constitution. A fresh perspective is needed. In November, we will be seeking members to be nominated for President, Finance Chair, and Worship and Music Chair. Leadership is just one of the necessary keys. Sharing leadership with each other keeps us focused on the servant example of Christ. If we keep track of the keys together, we'll know why they're there and perhaps some long-closed spiritual door will be opened for us.

Sincerely, Carol Bertholf

# HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

525 WEST COOK ROAD  
MANSFIELD, OHIO 44907

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## CONTACT INFORMATION

525 West Cook Road  
Mansfield, Ohio 44907  
Phone: 419-756-7547  
[www.holytrinitymansfield.org](http://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.*