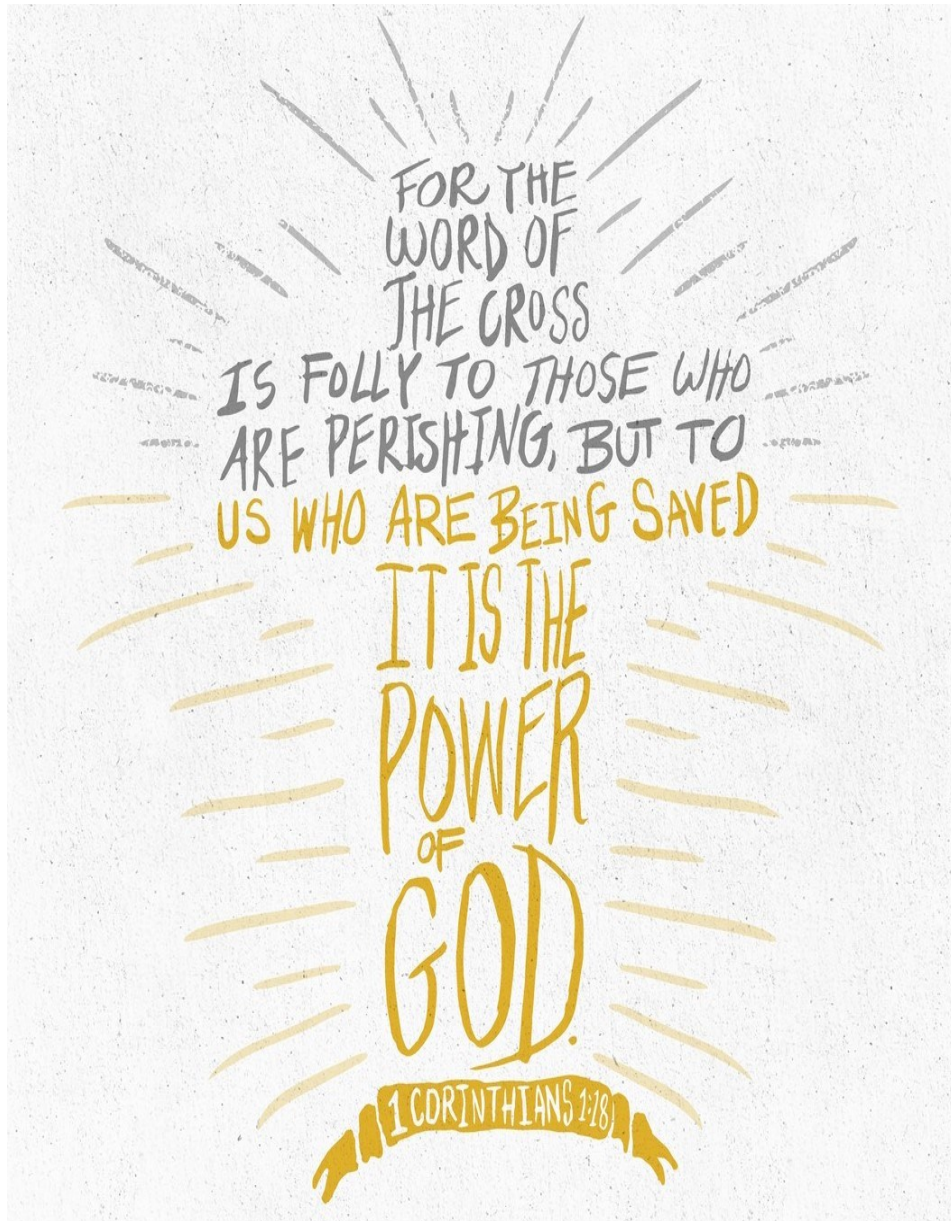


**HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH
NEWSLETTER**

*To Be and To
Make Disciples
of Jesus Christ*

**APRIL 2024
Vol 32. Issue 4**



Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

I have a habit of reading two to four books at a time. At least one of them is always a fun book, either a novel or a historical documentary. If one of them is a hard copy, then I'll have another fun book in an electronic format so that I always have it with me to read while I wait for appointments, etc. The other books are ministry books, I treat them the same way – usually reading one in hard copy and the other in an electronic format. Some people wonder how I can do this and keep the stories straight, but the books each have their own unique style, so I don't find it to be difficult at all.

The other night I was reading a novel before falling asleep. I had about 60 pages to go and knew there was no way I would be able to stay awake long enough to finish it. I eventually called it quits and turned out the light; but it was hard to do so because the author took an unexpected turn with their story. I ended up waking later that night, unable to immediately fall back asleep, and I opened the book. The author did such a great job of grabbing their reader's attention with the unexpected turn that even when my eyes were getting heavy with sleep, I was determined not to put the book down until I finished it.

But that is not always the case for me. I have read books by other authors where I forced myself to finish them just so I was not left wondering later how the story really ended, even though I had a pretty good hunch how it would end. It was something about the way the author wrote that made the ending predictable.

There is an author many of us know who keeps us in suspense with unexpected turns in their stories. We just celebrated one such story on Easter Sunday. Early in the morning, on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went to Jesus' tomb with

spices. They thought they knew the ending of the story about Jesus' life and ministry. There was nothing left to do but show their devotion by anointing him with spices. But when they arrived at the tomb there was a surprise waiting for them. They learned that Jesus' story had not ended at all. He had been raised. And he was going ahead of his followers to Galilee. They would see him again!

This story of Jesus' resurrection is familiar to us, so we hear it as good news. For the women, though, it was terrifying. This was not how they expected Jesus' story to turn out. They had seen him die on the cross, and now they were being told he was alive. They did not know what to make of this turn in Jesus' story. Hence, they were afraid and therefore, they fled.

It turned out that the story did not end the way the women expected it to end. But they learned very soon that the ending was a happy one. Where they had seen death, God made a way for new life. What seemed like the conclusion was actually a beginning. It was the dawn of a new day, a day of resurrection. As followers of Jesus, we do not know what our future holds or how our stories will end, but we can trust that Jesus is alive. Jesus goes ahead of us, leading us into a future full of God's love and grace. Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Your Sister in Christ,

Pastor Kathy



Highlights of Pastor's Report for Council

- ◆ Holy Week Services are planned and finalized
- ◆ Meeting with Lay Communion Visitors
- ◆ Will meet with Stewardship Committee after Easter
- ◆ Visiting homebound members
- ◆ Making sure individuals are trained to take over what Jonathan Scheidt has been doing in preparation for their move



"You can't be an usher
because you think offering
plates are Frisbees®."

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kevin@kevinspear.com



Holy Humor Sunday - April 7th

(during worship)

Let's celebrate God having the last laugh with Jesus' resurrection.

Come to worship ready to tell your jokes. Jokes do NOT need to be religious, but they do need to be church appropriate (aka, clean/appropriate for young ears to hear).

If you'd like to come dressed up in a silly outfit, that is fine, too!

Let's have some fun, with lots of laughs on April 7th!

Another Funny

A German Shepherd, a Doberman and a cat die and go to heaven. They are greeted by God, who asks each of them what they believe in.

The German shepherd goes first. "Discipline, training and loyalty to my master," he says.

"Good," says God. "You may sit on my right."

"Now Doberman, what do you believe in?"

The Doberman answers, "Love, care and protecting my master."

"Excellent," says God. "You may sit on my left."

"Now cat, it's your turn. What do you believe in?"

The cat replies, "I believe you're sitting in my seat."

-submitted to rd.com by Merry Pruitt, Columbus, OH



APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

- 1st—Amanda Newlon
- 4th—Yvonne Smith
- 11th—Carol Bertholf
- 18th—Lois Yoha
- 19th—Gerald Hoff
- 22nd—Carol Myers
Doug Rhodes
- 24th—Jim Fleming
- 30th—George Smith
Rachael Spellman

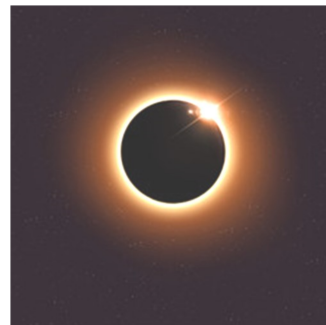


Happy Birthday!



Solar eclipse
April 8

Earth Day
April 22



APRIL SPECIAL OFFERING

Mission Projects

Please Make Checks Payable to HTLC

**Contributions may be mailed, dropped in
the church mail slot, or in offering plate
on Sunday mornings.**

The **April Special Offering** envelope supports Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, and Malawi Orphan Care Project.

The Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch helps the most troubled, complicated and amazing kids by providing the best-in-class psychiatric therapy and trauma-informed care, where the employees look kids in the eye, walk with them, and help them become their best selves. More information about Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch can be found at www.dakotaranch.org.

Malawi Orphan Care Project exists to improve the lives of orphaned and at risk children and their caregivers in Malawi, in an effort to have healthy, sustaining communities. They work in partnership with community leaders in Malawi to address the physical, spiritual, economic and relational needs of the orphans and their caregivers. More information is found by visiting www.malawiorphanproject.org.

When Is It A Tithe?

Rev. Taylor Rister-Stempniak

Don's official title at our church was usher, but his mission was to never hand out a bulletin, never pass the plate, and never ring the bell. Not that he was bad at those things. He just preferred that someone else do them. Don rejoiced to watch eight-year-old Garrett greet people with bulletins, when his granddaughter collected the offering, and when ten-year-old Liliana yanked on the rope to ring the church bell. He taught each child old enough to show even an ounce of interest how to go about the task with care, faithfulness and joy.

Don wasn't merely keeping the children busy. He was stewarding their hearts. The children were not observers; the day they belonged was now. Don was catechizing and ushering in the next generation of those willing to faithfully serve.

This very thing is the call given in Deuteronomy 11. God calls his people into a covenant of sacrificial love and obedience. He revealed to Israel who he is and delivered his people from slavery, showing he is a God who honors his promises and does not forget his people. In return, we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul, and all our might. Central in this passage is the message to teach our children to do likewise. We love the God we serve, we rejoice, and we invite the youngest and smallest among us to love, learn, serve, and rejoice.

Its tempting to cast stewardship as an adult topic, but it is part of worship—part of remembering with all our senses who God is and what he has done. Children who help set the altar for Holy Communion begin to understand that they, too, are gathered to God's table. Children whose voices join the choir not just sometimes but throughout the year begin to understand that they, too, are among the saints who gather around the throne of Christ. Children who welcome friends and strangers to the doors of the church begin to understand the ways baptism equips them for the Great Commission. Children who have the opportunity to give an offering at Sunday School

Begin to feel God's own generosity and understand what it means to return that to him. Those moments of liturgy and catechesis shape who we are and how we understand God's generosity.

By Don's own admission, it took fifty years for him to realize the joy of giving to the church. He did give money—more than ten percent! - but it wasn't a tithe: "It might as well have been a membership fee. It hadn't hit my heart yet." Don's tithing began when he began to recognize the lessons he wrote upon the hearts of the next generation. He eventually realized that the same God who freed Israel from slavery and each of us from the bondage of sin and death was freeing him to imperfectly and enthusiastically give everything he had. His giving became not about a percentage, but about the Lord our God, who brought us into the promised land of grace and forgiveness and invites us to receive and give the joy of participating in the justice, mercy and faithfulness of our Lord. When that hits your heart, no matter how old you are, that's when you begin to tithe.

We teach each other to tithe at home and away, in the morning and in the evening, in the rituals and in the life of the church. In this, our God writes his promise upon our hearts and the hearts of our children—a promise that his generosity endures from age to age.

- from the *North American Lutheran Church Living and Giving Ministry*. ©North American Lutheran Church



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	1	2	
	9a Journeymen's Meeting		
		5:15p HT Bells	
		6p Property Mtg	
		6p Line Dancing	
7	8	9	
9a Parish Ed Mtg			
10a Worship			
11:15a Adult / Youth Ed classes	OFFICE CLOSED		
		6:30p Council Mtg	
11:15a Confirmation Class	2p-4p Appleseeds Eclipse Party	5:15p HT Bells	
		6p Line Dancing	
14	15	16	
10a Worship	9:30a PEO Group	1p Outreach Mtg	
11:15a Adult/Youth Ed Classes		5:15p HT Bells	2p Finance I
		6p Line Dancing	
	6:30p Scouts		
21	22	23	
10a Worship			
11:15a Adult/Youth Ed Classes		5:15p HT Bells	
11:15a Confirmation	6:30p Scouts Cmte	6p Line Dancing	
28	29	30	
10a Worship			
11:15a Adult/Youth Ed Classes			
	6:30p Scouts	5:15p HT Bells	
		6p Line Dancing	

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3	4	5	6
	10a Bible Study		
	12p HT Singers		
	1:30p Books Coffee & Dessert Bk Club		
	6p Dance Lessons		1p-8p One Accord
	7p Appleseeds Wrkshop		
10	11	12	13
	10 Bible Study		
	11:30a Worship & Music		
	12p HT Singers		
	6p Dance Lessons		7p Appleseeds Square Dance
	7p Appleseeds Wrkshop		
17	18	19	20
	10a Bible Study		
	12p HT Singers		
nce Mtg			
	6p Dance Lessons		
		6p One Accord - C	6p One Accord - C
24	25	26	27
	10a Bible Study		
	12p HT Singers		
	6p Dance Lessons		

April 2024

IN CHRIST'S

	SUNDAY APRIL 7	SUNDAY APRIL 14	
Head Usher	JIM FLEMING		
Greeters	NORMA GARBERICH		
Lectors	CAROL BERTHOLF	ALWAYS BUTZ	
Cantors	N/A		
Ushers	GREG & LINDA BOLTMAN, E		
Communion Altar Asst.	DEB SMITH		
Altar Guild	ALWAYS BUTZ, JO		
Wired Word Facilitator	LINDA FLEMING	DOUG THRUSH	
Offering Counters	JIM & LINDA FLEMING		
Snow Removal	DON KARGER	JERRY FRAIFOGL	

F'S SERVICE

**SUNDAY
APRIL 21**

**SUNDAY
APRIL 28**

JIM FLEMING

NORMA GARBERICH

NANCY COLLIER

LINDA COLLINS

N, BECKY MCKINLEY, JERRY MURPHY

ITH & DOUG RHODES

JONATHAN BUZ, & ZED BUTZ

ALWAYS BUTZ

PASTOR KATHY

JIM & LINDA FLEMING

TBA

TBA

JUST THE FACTS -Utility Costs Thru The Years-

Ohio Edison (electric) Overview

<u>Year</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Dec</u>
2003	\$918	\$567	\$725
2013	\$519	\$1571	\$1102
2018	\$480	\$710	\$429
2023	\$594	\$794	\$533

Columbia Gas (gas) Overview

<u>Year</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Dec</u>
2003	\$1309	\$1062	\$1365 *
2013	\$839	\$803	\$803 <i>budget</i>
2018	\$1836	\$162	\$1113
	(\$536*)	(\$127*)	(\$399*)
2023	\$2287	\$180	\$1125
	(\$1039*)	(\$180*)	(\$1125*) <i>budget</i>

*This amount includes: customer charge, infrastructure replacement rider, capital expenditure rider, delivery charge and usage charge. In the early days, the bill was just being paid, but in later years, a budget plan was adopted to spread the cost



MARCH OF PRAYER SERVICE

Passing On the Treasure

The annual Ohio Mission Region, NALC Convocation will be held on Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Grove City. This year's theme is *Passing On the Treasure*. The keynote speaker is Rev. Brad Hales, the Director of Church Planting and Aging Ministries for the North American Lutheran Church (NALC).

Pastor Hales will be presenting on the following topics: Engaging the Aging, Passing On the Treasure, Why Isn't My Church Growing?, and Using What You Have. There will also be many workshops, including one led by Pastor Kathy. Pastor Kathy will be leading a workshop on intergenerational ministry, titled *It's a Mindset, Not a Program*. For a description of the other workshops being offered and to see the full schedule, please pick up a copy of the Convocation brochure on the Welcome Table.

Registration is due April 22. Cost is \$15 for Friday and \$30 for Saturday (\$45 for both days). Holy Trinity usually has about 3 people attending each year. It would be great if we were to have more considering this year's topic is very applicable to Holy Trinity's context.

BOOKS, COFFEE & DESSERT BOOK CLUB

The book club will meet Thursday, April 4, at 1:30 p.m. in Carol Bertholf's home to discuss the book, *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson.

If you would like to know more about the book club, contact Linda Fleming @ 419-756-4929 or Katharina Cole-Baron @ 419-756-4368.

CLUB SCHEDULE APRIL—JUNE

DATE	BOOK—AUTHOR	@HOSTESS
4/4	The Devil in the White City—Erik Larson	@Carol
5/2	A Study in Scarlet—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	@Bonnie
6/6	The Shell Seekers—Rosamunde Pilcher	@Marilyn

HTLC Annual Meeting Minutes February 4, 2024

Call to Order: Bonnie Elias called the meeting to order at 11:25 am on Feb. 4, 2024 in the church sanctuary.

Quorum Established: Attendance at the meeting was 55, so a quorum was established.

Prayer: Provided by Pastor Kathy Pennington.

New Business:

Recommended Distribution of Earnings of the Endowment Fund

Principal Investment: Jonathan Butz reviewed the Endowment Committee's report on page 23 of the Annual Report for 2023. He presented information about the 5 applicants requesting monetary assistance. The Endowment Committee approved distribution of the funds as printed in the report. Church Council voted to accept this proposal to be presented to the congregation at today's meeting. Bonnie Elias moved that the congregation approve the Endowment Committee's proposed distribution of funds as listed in their report. Marilyn Zuber seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, an oral vote was conducted. The motion passed unanimously.

Therefore, the following organizations will receive the amounts listed:

- ◇ **Malawi Orphan Care Project, \$1,000 (Feeding 1,000 children for 2 weeks)**
- ◇ **Malawi Orphan Care Project Refurbishing Outdoor Kitchen, \$3,000**
- ◇ **Love Our Hero's, \$2,500 (Home for a Hero - The Ron Project)**
- ◇ **Zoe's Learning Center, \$1,000 – (Easter Celebration 2024, Dinner Party and Family Support)**
- ◇ **Life Wise Madison, \$1,068 (Student cost \$20 each, Bibles and Operating Expenses)**

Reports:

Pastor's Annual Report: Pastor Kathy Pennington highlighted that parts of her annual report on pages 6 & 7 of the Annual Report for 2023 booklet.

Council President Report: Carol Bertholf reviewed information listed in her report on page 8 of the Annual Report for 2023 booklet. The 75th Anniversary Celebration activities that were so inspirational.

Finance Committee Report: Don Karger reviewed his report as printed on pages 12-15 of the booklet.

Brief Committee Presentations:

Parish Education: Always Butz summarized highlights of the report printed on page 16 of the booklet. She requested support of the high school graduate scholarship that is about 1/3 of the needed funding. (We award \$1,000 each year.)

Worship & Music: Barbara Fraifogl recognized the members of the committee and subcommittees and thanked them for their service. She requested volunteers for the Altar Guild and other ways to serve the church. She thanked Kathy Glessner for her 6 years of leading this committee. Kathy's report is on page 18 of the booklet.

Property Committee: Jerry Unruh provided highlights from his report on page 19 of the booklet. He explained some of the unexpected costs, such as repairing the chair lift in the lower hallway and repairing the leaking hot water line. He thanked the members for all the work that they do to help maintain our facilities.

Outreach Committee: Jean Erwin's report is on page 20 of the booklet.

Comfort Makers Quilt Group: Bonnie Elias spoke for this committee as she is a member. Sue Hendrickson's report is on page 22 of the booklet. Both Bonnie and Sue thanked the members for their time and talents given to this group.

St. Luke's Meals: Bonnie asked Elaine Bishop to talk about this group. Her report is on page 21 of the booklet. The program fed increasing numbers of people in 2023. (See her report.) She thanked all who have participated, and she also talked about the dinner that will be provided on Feb. 24, 2024.

Staff Support: Bonnie reported that this committee's chairman will not serve on HTLC Council but will keep the council members updated on their activities. Carol Bertholf serves as Chairman 2024-2026.

Tithes on the Bequest and Memorial Funds: Bonnie announced that these funds are low.

Wish List Items for Worship and Music: Bonnie suggested that new wish list items as discussed by Barbara Fraifogl be given to Barbara or Kathy Glessner.

Adjournment: There being no other business, **Yvonne Smith moved and Jim Fleming seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Bonnie adjourned the meeting at 12:10 pm.** She encouraged all who were able to stay for the Scout Troop 152's Pancake fundraising lunch in the Social Hall.

Respectfully Submitted, Nancy Collier, Council Secretary

PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 24, 2024

Hosanna!
HOSANNA!
Hosanna!





HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
525 WEST COOK ROAD
MANSFIELD, OHIO 44907



CONTACT INFORMATION

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

BUSINESS HOURS:

9:30am-12:30pm Mon-Fri

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