

TIDINGS

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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March 2025

Volume 65, Number 3

Monthly Newsletter

Sunday School @ 9:30 am

Worship Service w/Communion @ 10:30 am

Fellowship (after Worship Service)



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Crossing Lent

by Pastor Ed Backell

We are approaching the Lenten season... and just as Jesus set his face like flint as He headed into the Father's plan, we also will face the Cross this season. But it begs the question: The cross causes a stir... what do we do with the Cross?

When we look at how Peter reacted when confronted with the Cross, we see that he rebuked Jesus for talking about it. Mark 8:31-33 gives a short description: "He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. 'Get behind me, Satan!' he said. 'You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.'"

Peter obviously misunderstood the importance of the Cross. It's easy for us, in hindsight, to look back and see how important the Cross is to our faith. The early church affirmed the Cross as one of the most important icons of our faith. About the Cross, an early church father wrote: "This tree is for me a plant of eternal salvation. By it I am nourished, by it I am fed. By its roots, I am firmly planted." I love that thought: being firmly planted at the foot of the Cross.

People have viewed the Cross differently in history: it is said that the Emperor Constantine had been pondering the misfortunes that befall commanders that invoke the help of many different gods, and decided to seek divine aid in the forthcoming battle from the One God. At noon Constantine saw a cross of light imposed over the sun. That night Christ appeared to the

emperor in a dream and told him to make a replica of the sign he had seen in the sky, which would be a sure defense in battle. Constantine went on to unite the Roman Empire under a form of Christianity.

This gathering under the Cross points us to God, to be the people of the Lord, to be representatives of the Kingdom of Heaven. But not all will respond to the call of the Cross. Some will do their best to just walk away from the Cross, to ignore the call to self-sacrifice, and just take the best teachings from various religious leaders and blend them together to make a way of life.

However, the Cross doesn't "blend" - it's a reminder of cruelty of the world in which we move. We're not free from a sin-sick world; it's God's business – and ours – to enter into that world and show a different way of life. This different way is to open our eyes to God's nature; to remind us of who God is... the One who puts love above position, and gives up everything just so we can be brought back home.

What do we do with the Cross? The Two Thieves present the two options; deride Him for weakness, or recognize God's sacrificial love in suffering.

Jesus CHOSE the path of love – of suffering – for our sake.

What is the Cross? It is to be with God who has suffered as we have, hurt as we have, so that we could be healed.

With you this Lenten season,

Let us Keep Following Jesus – Pastor Ed



Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter.

During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection.

The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

The Season of Lent begins on **March 5 with Ash Wednesday**, our Worship Service starts **at 6:45 pm**.



You are invited to share together in Lenten Meals and Worship Services.

Wednesday, March 12

Wednesday, March 19

Wednesday, March 26

Wednesday, April 2

Wednesday, April 9

Lenten Soup Suppers at 6:00 pm

Lenten Worship at 6:45 pm



Please sign-up to bring soup to share at one of our Lenten Soup Suppers.

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex.

Church Directory Update Form

We are updating our church directory. Please use the form below to update your information, and return it to the church office. You may also email your information to office@holytrinitylcmc.org. And please let us know if you would like your information removed from our new directory.

We have extended the deadline to submit information to Sunday, March 16, 2025.

Family Last Name:	
Family Home Phone:	
Family Mailing Address:	
City / State / Zip:	
Adult 1 - Name:	
Adult 1 - Birthdate:	
Adult 1 - Email:	
Adult 1 – Cell Phone:	
Adult 2 - Name:	
Adult 2 – Birthdate:	
Adult 2 – Email:	
Adult 2 – Cell Phone:	
Adult Wedding Anniversary Date:	
Child 1 - Name:	
Child 1 - Birthdate:	
Child 2 - Name:	
Child 2 - Birthdate:	
Child 3 - Name:	
Child 3 - Birthdate:	

COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Meeting Minutes: February 11, 2024 — “Subject to Approval”

Respectfully Submitted by Sandy Hoveskeland, Council Secretary

Present: George Simon, Pat Woods, Dan Olson, Denel Ingraham, LaLita Tadena, Nancy Purcell, Diane Fried, Pastor Ed Backell and Sandy Hoveskeland. Charlie May was absent.

Call to Order: President George Simon called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Devotional: Pat Woods gave the devotional. He read excerpts from a book by Max Lucado, Christian author and Pastor of Oak Hills Church in San Antonio.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by LaLita and seconded by Pat to approve the January 14, 2025 minutes as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Dan distributed the Treasurer’s Report which was reviewed and discussed by the Council. Total Checking/Savings at the end of January 2025 was \$97,737 compared to \$88,915 at January 2024 month-end. \$21,000 in savings is the other half of the Vanguard. \$34,558 is in the Schwab building fund. \$400 of the \$1,200 in unearned givings was recognized in January, leaving an \$800 liability in that account. \$6,100 remains in the new pastor acquisition fund to be used for Pastor Ed’s certification expenses. In January we received \$1,862 for building use and \$6,642 in tithes and offerings. Additional income was interest/dividend income of \$371. HTLC contributed \$200 each to LCMC, NW District LCMC, and NALC Expense. Property maintenance was \$500 of the \$651 property maintenance expense for the month. Due to higher-than-normal expenses, we had a net loss of \$11,650.

STCU Checking:	\$7,282.29
Schwab Building Fund:	\$34,558.43
Schwab Savings:	\$90,455.74
Vanguard Savings:	\$21,252.43



Dan gave an update on tasks assigned to Tracy at the last Council meeting. A question arose as to whether responses to Google reviews are generated by AI. They are not. Tracy responds to them. The Audit Committee met on Thursday, January 23. Tracy was available to answer questions. The name tag list was provided to Ramax and new labels were made. We acquired a P-Touch labeler, so we will be able to make name tags for new people. Thrivent Financial has been removed as the mortgagee from our policy. Personal auto coverage is primary, and the church’s coverage is secondary for anyone driving their vehicle on church business. This also covers rental cars. 2024 Giving Statements have been distributed. Portals of Prayer have been paid for the next quarter (April through June) and they are on a table in the Narthex.

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COUNCIL MINUTES

(Continued from previous page)

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ed preached and taught every Sunday. The class finished the Hebrews study and are now studying Psalm 119, which should take 22 weeks. He ran the Sober Karaoke event, met with AA members and attended the User Groups meeting. He met with Rosie Strickland about her upcoming baptism. He met with Squeaky and Nancy about banners and baptism details. Steve Hagler will preach on February 16 as Pastor Ed will be out of town. Pastor Ed checked into transferring his retirement account to HTLC from his previous church. Dan and Tracy investigated the Baptist retirement plan and received information from them. Dan and George checked into what NALC has to offer and a 403(b)9 plan will be started for Pastor Ed with NALC. The council approved via email to proceed with this plan. Pastor Ed received a letter from an inmate who stated he previously attended church at Holy Trinity. He asked if HTLC would fund his phone account so he could make personal calls. The Council agreed that HTLC does not currently have funds or manpower to support prison fellowship.

Property and Maintenance: See report submitted by Charlie May. The report continues to highlight the importance of keeping water running in the kitchen sink and the Sacristy sink to prevent frozen pipes.

Worship and Music: See report submitted by Nancy Purcell. Lent begins on March 5 with Ash Wednesday. Lenten soup suppers begin on March 12. The last soup supper is April 9. Sign-up sheets will be passed around Sunday, February 23. A banner has been ordered for outside with the wording "Wednesday Lenten Worship and Soup Supper, 6:00". Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be planned during the next Worship and Music meeting on February 27.

Congregational Ministries: Nothing new to report this month.

Christian Education: See report submitted by Pat Woods.

Social Cares and Concerns and the Care Team: See report submitted by Diane Fried. When the team goes to the men's mission on Thursday, they will hand out candy heart boxes with a heart on the front of the box that says, "Jesus Loves You – Holy Trinity Lutheran Church".

New Business:

2025 Proposed Budget – The Budget Committee (George, Charlie and Dan) requested that the Council review and either approve or modify the 2025 Budget which the committee approved at their meeting on February 7. Items of note in the 2025 budget are: The Giving and Offerings budget of \$140,000 is a 7.7% increase over 2024 actual of \$129,926. The Total Income budget for 2025 is \$162,400, which is an increase of \$10,469 (6.9%) over 2024 actual. The Total Expenses budget for 2025 of \$212,524 is a 19% increase over 2024 actual of \$178,441. Items accounting for the increased

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COUNCIL MINUTES

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expense budget are repair of the kitchen freezer, replacement of the main building gas hot water tank in the Fellowship Room, increase in staff from a part-time to a full-time pastor, a 7% increase in the office manager's salary and a 6.8% increase in the property maintenance employee's salary. A motion was made by Dan and seconded by Nancy to approve the 2025 budget as presented by the committee. Motion was unanimously approved.

Annual Congregational Meeting – The Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, March 2, 2025 immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service, followed by a potluck.

Planning Meeting - February 22, 2025 – The meeting will be in the Sanctuary from 9am-12pm.

Council Positions and Term Conclusions & Tasks for Nominating Committee – Dan Olson's term as treasurer ends in May 2025. He has agreed to serve until February 2026 to train his replacement. The Council is hopeful that a member of the congregation will volunteer to begin training with Dan and will accept the treasurer's position in February 2026. Pat Woods' term as member at-large end in February 2025. Pat has agreed to serve through February 2028. These positions will be voted on at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Audit Report – A motion was made by Dan and seconded by Diane to approve the Audit Committee Report as written. Motion was unanimously approved.

Member Items: None

Next Month's Devotional: Diane

March Counters: LaLita and Diane

Adjournment: The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:50 p.m.



Craft Club



Wednesdays
2:00 pm—4:00 pm
in the Fellowship Hall

*See Barbara Miller for
 more information.*

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please plan on attending
Sunday, March 2, 2025, 11:45 am
Potluck will follow.



Thrivent Choice Dollars

Don't forget to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars before they expire on **March 31, 2023.**

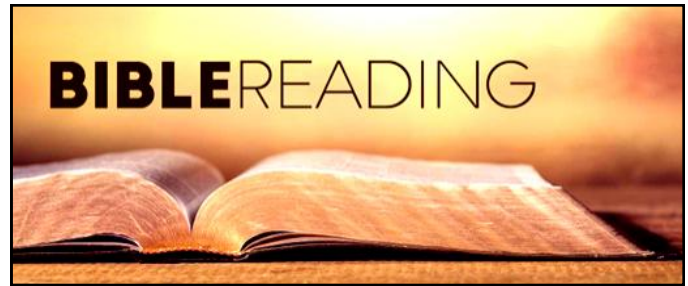
It can be done online or by calling the Thrivent Home Office at (800) 847-4836.

If you have questions or would like help designating your choice dollars, please contact Diane Fried or Nancy Purcell.



March Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Susie Sullivan | March 3 |
| Peyton Fletcher | March 9 |
| Brent Egesdal | March 11 |
| George LePard | March 19 |
| Ann LePard | March 21 |
| Caren Woods | March 26 |
| Diane Bertholet | March 28 |
| Tracy Tenney | March 28 |
| Pastor Steve Hagler | March 31 |



March 5 (Ash Wednesday)

- ✝ Isaiah 58:1-12
- ✝ 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10
- ✝ Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 9 (1st Sunday in Lent):

- ✝ Deuteronomy 26:1-11
- ✝ Romans 10:8b-13
- ✝ Luke 4:1-13

March 16 (2nd Sunday in Lent):

- ✝ Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
- ✝ Philippians 3:17—4:1
- ✝ Luke 13:31-35

March 23 (3rd Sunday in Lent):


- ✝ Isaiah 55:1-9
- ✝ 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- ✝ Luke 13:1-9

March 30 (4th Sunday in Lent):

- ✝ Joshua 5:9-12
- ✝ 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
- ✝ Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 9, don't forget to set your clock ahead one hour.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
						8:00 am AA—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
2	3	4	5-Ash Wednesday	6	7	8
Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service 11:45 am Annual Congregational Mtg Potluck after 10:00 am AA—SMG 7:00 pm AA—SRG	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—MNM	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 2:00 pm Craft Club 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:45 pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm NA—WNW	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:00 pm INW Jr Fiddlers 5:30 pm AA—HHG	7:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:00 pm AA-HHG Bingo Night 6:30 pm—7:00 pm NA Book Study	8:00 am AA—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
9-Daylight Savings	10	11	12	13	14	15
1st Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SMG 7:00 pm AA—SRG	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—MNM	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:30 pm Council Meeting	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 2:00 pm Craft Club 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:00 pm Soup Supper 6:45 pm Lent Service 7:00 pm NA—WNW	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 11:15 am—1:00 pm Serving Lunch @ Men's Shelter 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:00 pm INW Jr Fiddlers 5:30 pm AA—HHG	7:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:30 pm—7:00 pm NA Book Study	8:00 am AA—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
16	17-St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20-1st Day of Spring	21	22
2nd Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SMG 7:00 pm AA—SRG	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—MNM	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 2:00 pm Craft Club 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:00 pm Soup Supper 6:45 pm Lent Service 7:00 pm NA—WNW Newsletter Articles Due	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:00 pm INW Jr Fiddlers 5:30 pm AA—HHG	7:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:30 pm—7:00 pm NA Book Study	7:00 am—5:00 pm Ham Radio Class 8:00 am AA—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
3rd Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SMG 7:00 pm AA—SRG	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—MNM	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 10:00 am Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 2:00 pm Craft Club 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:00 pm Soup Supper 6:45 pm Lent Service 7:00 pm NA—WNW	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm Tracy's Office Hours: 11:00 am—1:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:00 pm INW Jr Fiddlers 5:30 pm AA—HHG	7:30 am Breakfast and Bible Study 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm AA—HHG 6:30 pm—7:00 pm NA Book Study	8:00 am AA—MWU 10:00 am AA—SMM 8:00 pm AA—SNM
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
4th Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship Service & Fellowship 10:00 am AA—SMG 7:00 pm AA—SRG	Pastor Ed's Office Hours: 9:00 am—5:00 pm 12:00 pm AA—VNG 5:30 pm TOPS 5:30 pm AA—HHG 7:00 pm NA—MNM					

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Return Service Requested

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
 Mission Statement:**

*“To proclaim the Good News of God’s
 Saving Grace and to minister to our
 community through our relationship with God.”*



Tidings is published monthly for the members and friends of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. The material and content of this periodical is intended to be about church business, community outreach, theology, and spiritual inspiration.

If you no longer desire to receive this publication, please email office@holytrinitylcmc.org, or call (509) 926-7966.

March Events

Annual Congregational Meeting & Potluck after	Sunday, March 2 @ 11:45 am
Ash Wednesday Service	Wednesday, March 5 @ 6:45 pm
Council Meeting	Tuesday, March 11 @ 6:30 pm
Lenten Worship Services	Wednesdays @ 6:00 pm March 12—April 9
Soup Suppers	Wednesdays @ 6:45 pm March 12—April 9
Serving Lunch at UGM Men’s Shelter	Thursday, March 13 11:15 am—1:00 pm
Newsletter Articles Due	Wednesday, March 19
Ham Radio Class	Saturday, March 22 7:00 am—5:00 pm
Worship & Music Committee Meeting	Thursday, March 27 @ 1:30 pm
Mid-week Bible Study	Wednesdays @ 10:00 am
Craft Club	Wednesdays @ 2:00 pm
Breakfast & Bible Study	Fridays @ 7:30 am
<i>Sunday School @ 9:30 am Worship Service @ 10:30 am, Fellowship after</i>	