



2026

A Personal Note

Why such a Horrible death?

Brothers and sisters in Christ, as I make my preparation to join you all in Bowling Green, I wanted to include in your newsletter a short newspaper article I wrote many years back reflecting on one theme of the Holy season of Lent. I hope that you find encouragement from this short devotion:

Often during Lent, a time of self-denial as we reflect on the meaning of the cross, I sometimes wonder, "Why did Jesus have to suffer such a horrible death". I mean, I know that Jesus had to die as a sacrifice for my sins and then rise again so that I could have new life now and forever. But why *that* death? Why couldn't He have been executed quickly, like at a guillotine, or by a noose. Why did God have Him die the way He did: being beaten, betrayed, mocked, whipped, slapped: an unimaginably horrible experience that lasted several days.

Then I got to thinking, "If Jesus had been put to death quickly and painlessly, would His death have meant as much to me? Would my sin have been revealed in all its ugliness? Would His saving act have appeared as great a thing?" The greater the debt you owe, the bigger the deal when someone freely cancels it out. Our debt was huge; so big that we were unable to pay it. It would have cost us our life! So God paid it on our behalf by dying on the cross. God showed us how much He loved us by suffering a death like no other, a death reflecting the greatness of our debt, a death that we should have undergone, yet a death that He *freely* underwent in our place. As our Small Catechism puts it so well in the explanation on the Second Article of the Creed (Redemption):

"I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true."

His atoning work involved a painful death. No pain outweighs the pain Jesus experienced on Calvary when He became sin for us (2 Cor 5:21); in a sense, His spirit was ripped in two as the Father turned His face from Him in that last hour. Although Jesus was 100% God, He was also 100% human. Sometimes I think that one reason that God chose such an excruciating painful death was to convince us that He fully knows what it is like to suffer as a human being, just like us. We can be assured that whatever we are going through, whatever pain and suffering comes our way, Jesus has been there too. He's experienced it all. He's been in our shoes and not only sympathizes with us, but empathizes with us completely.

And though we may not have all the answers to why we suffer, we can know that Christ not only relates to us, but actually does something about our situation. He not only died on a cross, but also rose from a grave. In our baptism we not only died with Him, but have also been raised with Him, a new creature in His sight. When we come together with the pastor for private confession and absolution, God carries away those secret dark sins which have been weighing heavy on our souls by meeting with us one-on-one, showing how important each of us is to Him. By God's Word, especially when we hear it in Church, He carries us through the worst life throws our way, and by His Flesh and Blood shed on the cross which we consume in Holy Communion, our weak bodies and souls are filled with the strength that He alone can give.

Smiths Grove Site Outreach

Our Smiths Grove schedule looks like this: each Saturday at 4 PM is Bible study time, followed by worship at 5 PM. If you can be with us, we would be happy to welcome you. Get to know some of your brothers and sisters in Christ in a new setting!

Please continue your prayers that this outreach would provide more open doors for the Gospel and that the Spirit will lead many to worship the risen Savior. If you know someone who is living in or around Smiths Grove, let us know so that we can contact them. Here is a church home where people get to know one another and grow in service to the Lord Jesus!

**In Christ's Service,
Pastor Ristau**





Lent begins with Ash Wednesday worship on February 18, at 6:30 PM. Each Wednesday of Lent we will have dinners in the gym at 5:30 PM. You are welcome to join for dinner and for reflection on the Lord's gracious call on your life.

The theme is "Series of Crosses". In this sermon series, complemented by many visuals on the screens (i.e. "sermon notes"), we will unpack the historical significance and the life application of various Christian crosses that you encounter in the Church including the Tau Cross, the Anchor Cross, the Jerusalem Cross, the Celtic Cross, Maltese Cross, and the Greek Cross, to name a few.

NOTE: Events are at Bowling Green site unless noted otherwise.



Wednesday, February 18
Lenten Meal (FH) at 5:30 p.m.
Servant Group 5

Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 25
Lenten Meal (FH) at 5:30 p.m.
Sunday School
Proceeds from the free will offering
will go to Carl Wicklander

Lenten Service at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 4
Lenten Meal (FH) at 5:30 p.m.
Servant Group 1

Lenten Service at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 11
Lenten Meal (FH) at 5:30 p.m.
Middle and High School Youth
Proceeds from the free will offering
will go to benefit youth projects

Lenten Service at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 18
Lenten Meal (FH) at 5:30 p.m.
Servant Group 3

Lenten Service at 6:30 p.m.

(CONTINUED)

Wednesday, March 25
Lenten Meal (FH) at 5:30 p.m.
Servant Group 4

Lenten Service at 6:30 p.m.



Sunday, March 29
Palm Sunday Worship – C
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Ignite! & BC at 9:15 a.m.

Thursday, April 2
Maundy Thursday Service – C
6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 3
Good Friday Tenebrae Service
7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 4
Smiths Grove Bible Study at 4:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil Worship-C
at Smiths Grove site at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 5
Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m.

Easter Breakfast (FH)
7:00-10:00 a.m.

Ignite! & BC at 9:15 a.m.*

Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 a.m.

Easter Festival Services – C
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

(* It has not been decided if Bible classes and Sunday School will meet on Easter yet.)



We want to extend a special welcome to our new senior pastor, Pastor Harold Ristau, who preached his first service on the weekend of January 31 and February 1. Pastor Ristau's official installation date is Sunday, February 15 at 4:00pm. Everyone is invited to attend! The service will be followed by a potluck. Pulled pork and chicken from Mission BBQ will be served and everyone coming is asked to sign up to bring a side dish, salad, or dessert. The sign up sheet is in the Narthex. If you have any questions about the potluck, please contact Jackie Blindauer at 920-207-9185.



IN THIS ISSUE

	Page
Office Notes.....	6
Lenten Devotions.....	6
Ministry Team Updates.....	7
FAITH Night.....	11
Miscellaneous News.....	12
News About People.....	16
Worship Assistants.....	18
Newsletter Deadline.....	18
Birthdays.....	20
Anniversaries.....	20



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL MINISTRY

IMPACT

When evaluating the effectiveness of something it may be helpful to consider what the impact might be if that something no longer existed. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has supported a school ministry for many years. Churches around the globe wrestle with the question of whether to continue to try to support and sustain their school ministries. Think of the impact that the school ministry has made on this community over the years.

Holy Trinity Lutheran School currently serves a little more than 150 families through our preschool and elementary grades. It also employs over 50 individuals that serve the various areas of need. The school has

touched thousands of lives over the years. It donates to dozens of charities both locally and nationally and supports the Mid-South District, LCMS. The school participated with the church in the "28 Days of Giving" and classrooms collected boxes of food for local food pantries instead of doing classroom gift exchanges between students. We continue to offer a summer childcare program when many others in our community have closed and the demand is high. These are just a few examples of how the school impacts our community and when you multiply the number of years that the school has been in existence, the impact is significant.

I have seen repeated examples of the impact that the school has made as my daughter has transitioned to middle school. There are HTLS alumni that are now teaching our local schools, there are alumni that are serving as first responders, and there are alumni that serve in local government positions. I have seen HTLS alumni at community recreational leagues involved in sports programs, at middle school and high school athletic competitions, at travel ball competitions, and in local fitness centers.

Last month the school witnessed a baptism of 3 of our students during a chapel service. The school's mission is to reach out to children and families with the Good News of Jesus...and faith is central to its purpose. There is no greater impact.

*In JOYful Service,
Bill Hiskey, D.S.M.*

But God demonstrates
his own love
for us in this:
While we were
still sinners,
Christ died FOR US.
Romans 5:8, NIV



The Church office & School will be **CLOSED** on Monday, February 16 for President's Day.

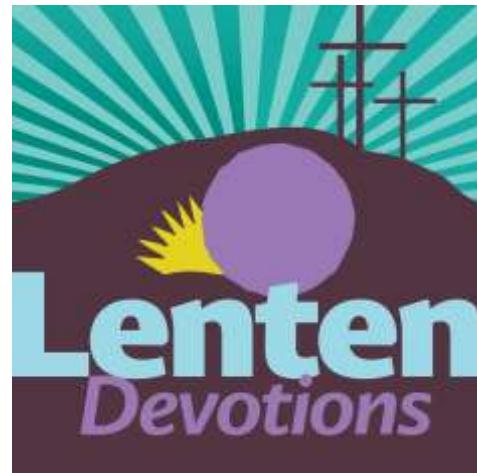
If you have a pastoral need please contact Pastor Ristau at (307) 301-9040 or harold.ristau@htlc-bq.org.



Our church is growing and we are developing more and more programs. This means that the building is being used more frequently as well.

In order to make using the building as easy as possible for everyone, it is **IMPERATIVE** that you contact the Church Office as soon as you plan to use any part of the facility to make sure the date and/or room is available, etc. There are also several policies that are in place for the use of the building that you need to be aware of when hosting an activity at Holy Trinity.

All of the activities at Holy Trinity will benefit from everyone working together for the best use of the facility.



by Lutheran Hour Ministry

In love, God sent His Son to redeem the world. In hatred, He was rejected. In *Behold Your King!*, we see the Savior stripped of His dignity, led away, and crucified on our behalf. No one could imagine this Man, this condemned and forsaken Man, was God in the flesh sent to liberate us from our sin by His death and resurrection.

We have in Jesus the supreme example of devoted service. His teachings defined the lives we are to live—both in praise and honor to God and in love and peace toward one another. All this Jesus did as God's chosen Servant, sent from heaven to earth to be our King, Savior, and trusted Friend.

Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them delivered right to your inbox, podcast the audio devotional, access them on your mobile device through the FREE app, or listen with Spotify, iHeart Radio, Alexa, or Google Home. Seasonal Devotions for Advent and Lent are available here in both English and Spanish. Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family, friends, and congregations, these seasonal meditations will help prepare you to celebrate the true meaning of these seasons.

If you don't have access to the internet, please contact the church office and we will print off a copy for you.

MINISTRY TEAM NEWS

CHILDREN'S/YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

Ministry Team Leaders: Sheryl Morris and Aaron Witherspoon

Ignite Sunday School is a combined multi-age class for PreK through 5th grade that meets in the Ignite room (012) each Sunday at 9:15am. We hope you can join us!

Ablaze is a place where students in grades 6th-12th can engage in deep conversations and grow in their relationship with God. Join us on Sundays at 9:15am in EO-201 upstairs.

UPCOMING:

1. **IGNITE:** Sunday, February 8 is our next Ignite youth event. Watch for details in the bulletin closer to the date!
3. Juanita Linhardt and Heidi Lindsey are updating the Confirmation photo boards and are needing photos of the different classes from 2012 and 2018-present. If your child was confirmed during this period and you have a photo of the entire class, please contact Juanita (270-779-4525) or Heidi (270-991-1473). Thank you!

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

White Elephant Bingo



Time once again to clean out that back closet. Join us for Bingo with White Elephant prizes on Friday, February 13 starting at 5:30pm with pizza, drinks, and desserts. This is a time for the whole family to have fun. The event will be held in the church gym and entrance is through the portico door.

We are asking every bingo participant to bring 1-3 wrapped prizes (whether in a brown bag or fancy) to the event. Pizza and drinks of tea, lemonade, and water will be available for all and a free will donation will be taken. We do thank the family of Norma Green who in her memory some funds were donated, and will help defray the cost of the pizza.

So mark your calendar for this great event. Start finding those White Elephant gifts and be ready to sign up starting January 25 in the Narthex. If you can provide a dessert also sign up for that on the sheet. Questions can be directed to Jackie Blindauer at 920-207-9185 (call or text).

EVENTS TO FOLLOW

April: Sock Hop

May: Hot Rods Game

(CONTINUED)



**FINANCIAL
UPDATE**

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Committee Leader: Open

December 2025 Giving to the General Fund:

Date	Amount
12/7	\$14,185
12/14	\$10,562
12/21	\$23,856
12/24 & 25	<u>\$ 3,517</u>
12/28	<u>\$11,023</u>
12/31	\$ 1,825
Total	\$64,968

\$327,530 given for the first six months of this Fiscal year. That is an average of \$12,597 per week.

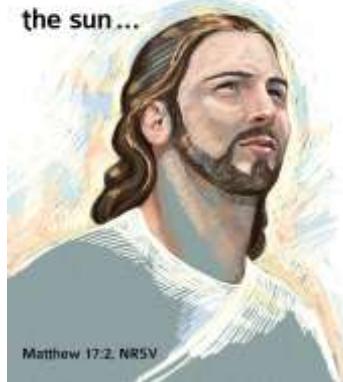
The 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget is **\$730,580**. This requires giving that averages \$14,050 per week.

Building Mortgage Update:

The loan balance on 12/31/2025 was \$136,911.

David King
HTLC Financial Secretary

He was transfigured
before them,
and his face shone like
the sun...



(CONTINUED)

MINISTRY TEAM NEWS

LUTHERAN SCHOOL MINISTRY TEAM

Team Leader: Todd Otto



Enrollment for the 2026-2027 School Year is OPEN!

Contact the School Office at 270-843-1001 if you are interested in enrolling a child(ren) or want to give information to a friend.

REMEMBER: For families that are members of HTLC – we will continue to offer the 25% discount in tuition for students (Grades K-6) enrolled full time.

OPEN HOUSE: Tuesday, February 3 from 5:00-6:30pm. This event is for families interested in learning more about HTLS or enrolling for the next school year.

SCHOOL SPRING PICTURE DAYS will be Tuesday, February 3 and Wednesday, February 4.



DONUTS FOR GROWN-UPS will be Thursday, February 12 and Friday, February 13.

The next **PLC Day** for K-6th grade is Friday, February 13. Elementary students will only attend school from 8:00am-12:00pm that day.

HTLS CLOSED FOR PRESIDENTS' DAY: Monday, February 16.

CHAPEL OFFERINGS in February will go towards Norton Children's Hospital.

FUNDRAISING UPDATES

Kroger Community Rewards participation increased from 110 to 126 households from September to December. Our quarterly payout increased from \$291.31 to \$319.04! We are so appreciative of you getting connected to this program and can't wait to see what the March statement brings! If you haven't already, please use code Xi741 to join at <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>.

BOXTOPS for Education earned **\$96.00** from the digital Boxtops for education program! These dollars really add up over time. If you buy Boxtops Products regularly, please consider joining the program. Information at <https://www.boxtops4education.com/s/>.

Thanks so much for everyone who participated!

(CONTINUED)

LUTHERAN SCHOOL MINISTRY TEAM

Scholarship Fund: Through the generosity of the Petrusch family and in honor of Ed's parents, Edward and Viola Petrusch, a scholarship endowment fund was established in 2000 for future students needing financial assistance to attend HTLS. Anyone is eligible to contribute to this fund through a gift to the church or school designated to the Petrusch Scholarship Fund. Please consider this fund when making memorial gifts and/or donations to the School's ministry. This fund is managed by Thrivent Financial. If you have questions, please contact the School Director.

**FAITH NIGHT**

We have a variety of activities planned each evening.

NOTE: We will break for the Lenten/Easter season. The last day for FAITH night before this season starts is Wednesday, February 11. It will restart some time after the season is over.

The schedule is as follows:

5:15pm

Sanctuary Praise Choir

Led by Beth Markel

6:00pm

Fuel & Friends (EO-201)

Food, drinks, and fellowship for older youth

Led by Nicholas & Bethany Boeneke

6:15pm

Jr. Confirmation (CR) (for those in 5th, 6th, and 7th grades)

Led by Pastor Ristau

This class will restart after Pastor Ristau arrives.





LARGE PRINT HYMNAKS

We have two (2) of these books. They are a little bigger than our "regular" hymnals. The size of the print is 14pt and very nice – it contains liturgy and hymns with the notes. One will be available on each side of the sanctuary so ask the usher if you want to use the hymnal.

If you choose to use these hymnals, please contact the church office and let us know what you think of it: pros and cons. If we have a good response to them we will order more.



NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

The newsletter is being distributed via e-mail and the Narthex/Lobby. It is also on the website. If we have an e-mail address for you we are sending it there. (We did not e-mail to a work address unless given prior permission.)

If we don't have an e-mail, a printed copy will be placed in the Narthex/Lobby for you. If you would like to receive newsletters by e-mail please contact the church office at 270-843-9595.

In case you missed a month, printed copies of the past two months are also available in the bottom row of the Narthex boxes.

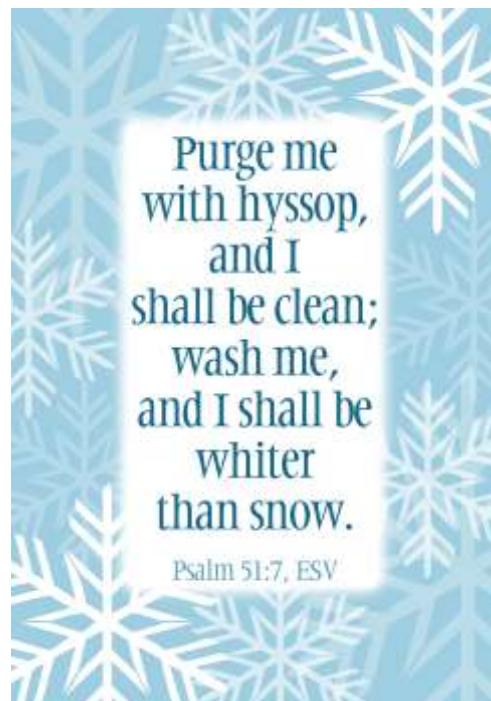
"Love is perhaps the only glimpse we are permitted of eternity."

—Helen Hayes



Just as a general note for news during inclement weather times here are the ways we will try to get word out to members:

1. **WBKO Polar Report** - Information is posted on their website when we close. It will NOT run on the crawl like the school closings do; you have to go to their website.
2. **HTLC Facebook Page** - Information will be posted on the page about closing & special instructions on contacting staff members.
3. An **e-mail** will be sent out with information on the closing and special instructions on contacting staff members.
4. If you don't have access to the internet then please contact Pastor Ristau at (307) 301-9040 or harold.ristau@htlc-bg.org.





Grace Lutheran Church in Clarksville, TN
 (2041 Madison St/Clarksville, TN is hosting their Concert Series at their church. The concerts are free, but love offerings are taken. **NOTE:** that due to changing conditions, concerts may change; call for the most current information. If you have questions or need more information please call (931) 647-6750 or go to <https://www.glctn.org/>.

Les Kerr & the Bayou Band
Sunday, February 1
 4:00 p.m.

For years, Les Kerr and his band have brought New Orleans style blues, rock, and island rhythms to get your foot tapping and bring a smile to your face!

HeartStrings with the Gateway Chamber Orchestra String Quartet
Sunday, February 15
 4:00 p.m.

A romantic Valentine's Day string quartet concert for those on a date or enjoying time with friends or just loving the music – perfect!

Extraordinary Organ with Corrado Cavalli
Sunday, March 1
 4:00 p.m.

With Nashville's American Guild of Organists acclaimed Chicago-based virtuoso Corrado Cavalli comes to our series and organ console to shine with familiar and new favorites!

Handel's Messiah – Parts II and III

Sunday, April 19

4:00 p.m.

Grace's choir and instruments in this majestic account of Chris's Passion, death, and resurrection. With the famous "Hallelujah Chorus" this is a don't miss for Easter!

"Road to 250" Bonus Concert – Cumberland Winds

Pray for our nation, honor veterans and celebrate 250 years of wonderful American music. Tap your feet and sing along. *Veterans and active duty military may RSVP for the lunch honoring armed forces and their families.*



Chapel Service

We encourage ALL staff members to attend the HTLS Chapel Services during the school year. We will close the School Entrance door each Wednesday from 8:20 a.m. to 9:10 a.m.

Church members are always welcome to attend the chapel services and worship with the students, staff, and families of HTLS. Please enter through the School entrance as no other doors will be unlocked by 8:20 a.m. We are essentially "locked down" during chapel but you are welcome to wait in the school lobby for the staff to return.

The Chapel Service is also live-streamed on the HTLS Facebook Page – so you can "join" us even if you can't come to the building.

Please know that this will mean that no one will be answering the phones either, but you may leave a message and your call will be returned when the staff returns to the offices.



To the Believers of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church,

I pray the new year is filled with blessings and joys for you. May the Lord be with you as you eagerly prepare to receive your new shepherd.

I first wish to thank you for the great pleasure of serving you in worship in December. As part of my seminary education, I regularly assist with services at Blessed Savior Lutheran Church in nearby Florissant, Missouri. I've become accustomed to helping with various parts of the service but it was an honor to assist at the church where I was born, baptized, and confirmed. I greatly enjoyed reconnecting with many of you this Christmas.

But I really want to thank you for all your extremely generous donations to us. Many of you at Holy Trinity have never known me or have not known me a long time. The expenses of a seminary education are not excessively burdensome but they are consistent. While your assistance cannot be adequately thanked, I hope this note can properly convey our gratitude to you all. Thank you again.

Blessings to you in the new year. I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Carl Wicklander



Room In The Inn BG would like to thank you for the generous donation of items for the homeless/unhoused we serve. It truly is a blessing to have these items on hand to distribute when needed.

We appreciate your decision to support the mission of Room In The Inn BG, which is to provide shelter for those in need during the most dangerous time of the year.

Blessings,
Janet Yaeger
Acting Chair of Room in the Inn BG



THE LOVE GOD DESIRES

God's love is never meant to stop with us; it's meant to flow through us. When we love others, we reflect his very heart. As 1 John 4:12 (NIV) reminds us, "If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

This is the true mark of a Christian — love that reaches beyond comfort zones, opinions and differences. Jesus said in John 13:35 (NIV), "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

The world is watching, not to see how loudly we profess our faith but how deeply we practice it. Every act of compassion, every gentle word and every moment of grace reveals something divine — God's love at work in us. The more we give that love away, the more it grows within us, mirroring the heart of Christ, who gave Himself for all.

So ask yourself: Does the world recognize you as his disciple by the way you love?



If you would like the latest update please contact the church office at 270-843-9595 or e-mail Elizabeth at church.admin@htlc-bg.org. The directory can be e-mailed to you or printed out and placed in your Narthex mailslot.



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church & School are on the Internet.

Our websites are continually updated. The addresses are:

Web Site Addresses

Church

www.htlc-bgky.com

School

www.HTLSBG.com

There are links on these sites to e-mail Pastor Ristau and Bill Hiskey.



REMEMBER TO PRAY:

- For our members who are going to college whether here in town or in another town/state
- For the students attending WKU that will attend HTLC while here in Bowling Green



Holy Trinity has a **FAX MACHINE** for all those last minute – must get it to us items. The number is **270-843-7466**.

“There is a net of love by which you can catch souls.”

—Mother Teresa



The church services are being **“live streamed”** now. If you are homebound or away from town you can “join worship” from your computer via our Facebook page.

Our e-mail addresses are as follows:

Church e-mail address

church.admin@htlc-bg.org

School e-mail address

school.admin@htlc-bg.org

NOTE: Addresses are case sensitive and there are no spaces in the addresses.



Please be in prayer for these members/family members of Holy Trinity that are in the military. Their addresses are listed below so that you can send them a letter whenever you want to.

Caleb Goad, son of Dana Johnson, is in the Navy Military Police. Caleb is now deployed in Greece and is using Dana's address at this time for all mail.

Goad, Caleb A.
c/o Dana Johnson
527 Henson Road
Bowling Green, KY 42104

Jackson Heinze, son of John Heinze, is serving in the Air Force and is deploying to Africa. All correspondence to John's address at this time.

AB Heinze, Jackson, E.
c/o John Heinze
2170 Greenhill Street
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Jonathan Heinze, son of John Heinze, is serving in the Air Force.

Sgt. Jonathan Heinze

Jordan Heinze, son of John Heinze, is also serving in the Air Force.

Airman Jordan Heinze
17464 E. Keystone Circle S Unit #B
Aurora, CO 80017

Alex Joseph Madison, grandson of Mike & Pam Case, is now a Corpsman in the Navy. He is stationed in San Antonio, TX.

Michael Schoettlin, cousin of Sarah Hiskey, is serving in the Air Force.

Senior Master Sergeant Michael Schoettlin
Kirtland AFB
2000 Wyoming Blvd SE
Albuquerque, NM 87123



OUR MEMBERS IN LONG-TERM NURSING CARE...Joan Thomason



OUR MEMBERS THAT ARE HOMEBOUND...

Greg Bergmann, Charles James, Irma Lamm, and Del Wolff

NOTE: Contact Pastor Ristau if you have questions about any of these members.

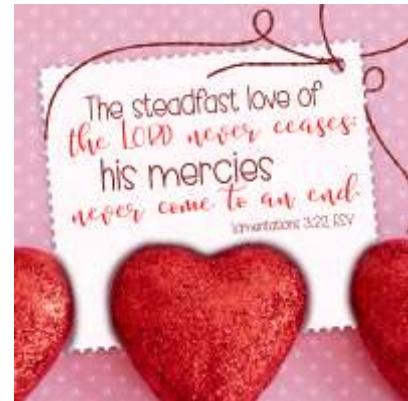
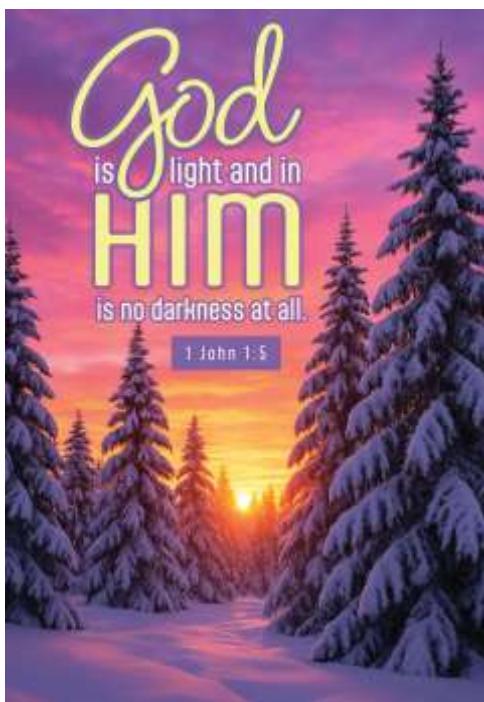


WE EXPRESS OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES to the families of:

Donald Merkle in the death of his wife, Carolyn Merkle. Carolyn was also a long-time member of Holy Trinity. Carolyn died on Sunday, January 11, at 77 years of age. Funeral services were held in Maryland.

Ellen Birdwell in the death of her mother, Mary Like. Mary was also a faithful member of Holy Trinity. Mary died on Monday, January 26, at 82 years of age. Funeral services were held in Bowling Green, KY.

We commend Donald, George, Jennifer, and August Merkle, and their family, and Ellen Birdwell and her family to the comfort and compassion of our Loving and Living Lord Jesus Christ.



THE UPSIDE-DOWN BLESSING

The Beatitudes are more than poetic lines from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. They're a radical redefinition of what it means to be blessed. The Greek word *makarios* doesn't just mean "happy." It describes a deep, untouchable joy that pain, loss or hardship cannot erase. As scholar William Barclay wrote, it is "the joy which shines through tears."

Jesus flips the world's idea of success upside down. The "blessed" aren't the powerful or prosperous, but the poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek and the merciful. Imagine reading them as "Congratulations, you who feel broken, God's kingdom belongs to you!" His words assure us that, even in suffering, we stand in God's favor.

Real blessing isn't about shiny possessions or smooth sailing. It's the steady, saving presence of God — a life preserver tossed to us when we're struggling to stay afloat. And it's not just an individual promise. Jesus spoke these blessings to a community, a we more than a me. Together, as the body of Christ, we find comfort, strength and the courage to live with joy that nothing in life or death can take away.

— Adapted from *HomileticsOnline.com*



WELCOME!

GREETERS FOR FEBRUARY

(First person/couple – 8:00 service
Second person/couple – 10:30 service)

DATE NAME

1	BRUCE & BONNIE BORTH DAVID & LAURIE JURGENS
8	MARLY & DEB HIATT DAN & JACKIE BLINDAUER
15	PETER & CINDY BRANDT GENEVA BENTLEY
22	JEFF & HILARY EVERSON TIM & HEATHER RATHERT



READERS FOR FEBRUARY

(First person - 8:00 service
Second person - 10:30 service)

DATE NAME

1	DESIREE TRUDY DAVID JURGENS
8	BART WHITE MARSHA HOLM
15	BRUCE BORTH HEATHER RATHERT
22	PETER BRANDT SHERYL MORRIS

ACOLYTES



ACOLYTES FOR FEBRUARY

(First person - 8:00 service
Second person - 10:30 service
unless otherwise noted)

DATE NAME

1	MASON ROSBOTTOM STELLA JONES
8	QUINN OTTO A.J. SIMPSON
15	HUNTLEY MOORE SYDNEY DAVENPORT

*** 18 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AT 6:30PM

VERA FRITZ

22	LIAM PAYNE CHARLOTTE FRITZ
----	-------------------------------

*** 25 LENTEN SERVICE AT 6:30PM
AUGUST MERKLE





ALTAR GUILD

SCHEDULE

ALTAR GUILD FOR FEBRUARY

8:00 A.M. PATTI STUCKWISCH

10:30 A.M. GENEVA BENTLEY
DIANE THORPE



COMMUNION SERVERS FOR FEBRUARY

8:00 A.M. PETER BRANDT

10:30 A.M. AARON WITHERSPOON



AUDIO - VISUAL team

AUDIO/VISUAL FOR FEBRUARY

(First person - 8:00 service
Second person - 10:30 service)

DATE NAME

1 MICHAEL HARTWEIN
AYDEN WITHERSPOON

8 MICHAEL MOORE
A.J. ZIRBEL

15 MICHAEL HARTWEIN
AYDEN WITHERSPOON

22 MICHAEL MOORE
A.J. ZIRBEL

~~~~~

#### POWER POINT FOR FEBRUARY

1 DAWSON OWENS

8 ELIZABETH NEHM

15 ELIZABETH NEHM

\*\*\* 18 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE  
NELSON FELICIANO

22 NELSON FELICIANO

\*\*\* 25 LENTEN SERVICE  
SHERYL MORRIS

## FEBRUARY



|    |                     |    |                      |
|----|---------------------|----|----------------------|
| 1  | Helen C. Wicklander | 18 | Ralph J. Piel        |
| 2  | Leslie A. Brauer    | 19 | John Heinze          |
|    | Stacy A. Sheets     |    | Jay C. Markel        |
|    | Hunter W. Luck      |    | Ayden J. Witherspoon |
| 3  | Kylee Jo Linhardt   | 20 | Adrienne Dieball     |
| 4  | Kimberly D. Otto    | 21 | Jimmy D. Donohue     |
| 7  | Nancy Melke         | 22 | Mark G. Press        |
|    | Heidi J. Lindsey    | 23 | Tina Hansen          |
|    | Joleen Toth         | 25 | Mark H. Heyungs      |
|    | Jacqueline Adams    | 26 | Ella R. Payne        |
| 9  | Sue Banister        | 27 | Matthew W. Stewart   |
|    | Eva M. White        | 28 | Stacy E. Peterson    |
| 10 | Laurie L. Seavey    |    | James F. Davenport   |
| 11 | Stephanie M. Wood   |    | Robin W. Lawrentz    |
| 12 | Jacob D. Donohue    |    | Glenn L. Schilke     |
| 14 | Ellen Birdwell      |    | L. Donald Green      |
| 15 | Roy J. Boddeker     |    | Benjamin L. Garber   |

