



2026

A Personal Note

Tempted to fast? Fasting and feasting as the Body of Christ

Recommendations to fast are common among medical doctors and dieticians. But abstaining from food or drink for medical or health reasons isn't what "Christian fasting" specifically is all about.

The Bible records all kinds of fasts, both individual and communal, for various spiritual reasons. Yet they all have one thing in common: fasting helps us to see what is truly important in life, revealing those things that we value too much in life and tossing them at the foot of the cross. And even though food is a big idol for people like me, who couldn't survive without all-you-can-eat buffets, it is not the only one. Because every one of our personal idols tempts us to depend upon them, instead of the only trustworthy one, Jesus Christ, fasting is a spiritual discipline and a form of repentance. When coupled with self-denial and a humble attitude, it empties us of ourselves to be filled with God. We are caused to hunger, so that we can be fed with manna ([Deuteronomy 8:3](#)). For, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God ([Matthew 4:4](#)). Jesus is our daily bread. His Word alone is our strength ([Psalm 28:7](#)).

Fasting as a "reality check"

The enemies of the Christian: the devil, the world and our sinful flesh, are constantly on the prowl, tempting us to search inside ourselves for spiritual satisfaction and help. But although we affluent, developed world Christians may feel and appear strong and self-sufficient, in reality, we are hungry, poor, empty, weak sinners who rely on God for everything. Fasting reminds us of our true condition.

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When the point of fasting as a “reality check” isn’t taken seriously, it can easily be abused. The reformers echoed the warnings of Isaiah ([Isaiah 58](#)), Zechariah ([Zechariah 7](#)) and our Lord ([Matthew 16:5-12](#)) against hypocritical fasts in the Medieval Catholic Church, as ways of inflating spiritual ego, showing off, or trying to manipulate God into getting what you want. Yet protestant churches often make the same mistake today when fasting is envisioned as a way of making yourself more worthy to stand before God. Like the effect of a can of spinach on Popeye, fasting is treated as a means of increasing one’s spiritual muscle power, instead of as a weapon to fight vain temptations to think highly of one’s own abilities. Fasting, then, doesn’t change God’s opinion about us but it does change our opinion about ourselves.

Fasting takes the focus off self

Consider the disciples in [Mark 9:14-29](#) who are mystified by their inability to cast out certain demons. Some of the earliest Biblical manuscripts record Jesus informing the disappointed disciples that those demons could only be exorcized by “fasting and prayer”. Many read this to mean that if the disciples had just done that one extra thing – fasting – to strengthen themselves they would have been successful. But I wonder if what was really going on is that the disciples were getting a little too confident in themselves? Instead, fasting preaches this: “Don’t look to yourself for power. Look to Jesus. He is the strong man who has overcome the world”. Fasting exposes our weakness, not our strength. How many of us are in a better mood when we are hungry or perkier after having deprived ourselves of shopping for a season, or from the internet for even a day? Nobody looks prettier or feels stronger in sackcloth and ashes, neither physically nor spiritually. True Christian fasting, as an expression of a humble faith towards God and love towards one another, doesn’t turn us inwards upon ourselves - where the problem is - but outwards, towards God and the needs of our neighbours. One early Christian, St. Peter Chrysologus, observed how acts of mercy and prayers for others are inseparable from fasting since “Fasting is the soul of prayer, mercy is the lifeblood of fasting” (i). In fact, our tangible acts of love often become God’s answer to other peoples’ prayers! Fasting is a way of fighting the temptation to navel gaze by selfless attempts at improving the lives of others. Today when we give to the poor, it rarely changes our lifestyle. If I buy a coffee for a beggar, I probably don’t forego one from Starbucks myself. But in Bible times, giving someone your cloak meant that you went without. You experienced the consequence of your sacrifice. This, after all, is the reputation of the church throughout history: giving up of self for the welfare of others, just as Christ has offered Himself up for us all.

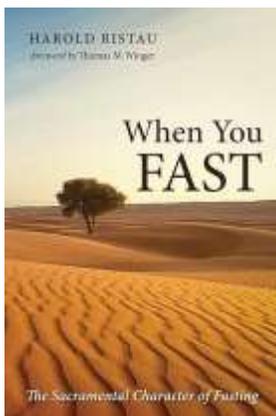
Fasting puts the focus on Jesus

In a sense then the church is already, always, fasting, since we are the Body of Christ, who fasted with and for us. As we pray in the Litany, His “fasting and temptation” was a chief part of His saving work. And, since fasting from sin is the ultimate goal, Jesus’ fasting was perfect in more ways than one. This is what makes His fast in Matthew 4 so remarkable. Even at His “weakest,” Jesus is still stronger than the devil and the entire world. Fasting helps us recognize that we are simply weaklings who stand behind, and inside, this strongman.

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For this Man enters us and we Him as we consume Him in a sacred meal: Holy Communion. Accordingly, Luther wisely encourages fasting in its preparation: “Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training”. Can you think of a more reverent way of teaching that Jesus alone is our true nourishment ([John 6](#))? Of course, fasting itself does not merit His divine presence, rather “that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: ‘Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.’” Instead fasting humbly prepares God’s hungry children for the family feast to come in eternity, as we receive the indispensable foretaste in the Divine Service to tide us over in the meantime. As a matter of fact, the “Eucharistic Fast” is always in anticipation for the Eucharistic Feast, a reminder of the Last Day when all poverty is abolished, the necessity of fasting has ceased and every prayer answered as all of God’s people celebrate the marriage supper of the Lamb.

From the book:



Smiths Grove Site Outreach

Worship services continue each week at the Smiths Grove site (First Christian Church, 427 College Street). They take place each Saturday at 5 PM. Prior to worship, Bible study is held at 4 PM. Thanks to all of our Holy Trinity members who have attended and prayed and provided various means of support to this outreach ministry!

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. With the opening of Buc-ee’s at Smiths Grove recently (and the announcement of several hundred more homes going up in that neighborhood), there will be more people transitioning to this community. If you are living (or 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 know one another and love to serve the Lord Jesus!

Pastor Ristau



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

LENTEN OFFERINGS: All offerings collected at our mid-week Lenten services will be shared among our missionaries. Starting with Ash Wednesday and continuing through Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, the HTLC Board of Directors has decided to donate the entire mid-week service offerings to our supported missionaries, as we have in past years.

LENTEN THEME: "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 Jerusalem Cross, the Celtic Cross, Maltese Cross, and the Greek Cross, to name a few.

Wednesday, March 4

Lenten Meal (FH) at 5:30 p.m.

By: Servant Group One

Menu: BBQ chicken, pasta salad, baked beans, and drinks

Lenten Service at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 25

Lenten Meal (FH) at 5:30 p.m.

By: Servant Group Four

Menu: A variety of soups

Lenten Service at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 11

Lenten Meal (FH) at 5:30 p.m.

By: the Ablaze Youth (middle and high school youth); a freewill offering will be taken to benefit the youth

Menu: Pizza and drinks

Lenten Service at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 18

Lenten Meal (FH) at 5:30 p.m.

By: Servant Group Three

Menu: Soup and sandwiches

Lenten Service at 6:30 p.m.



(CONTINUED)



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.

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.

INSTALLATION OF PASTOR RISTAU

On Sunday, February 15, 2026, Rev. Dr. Maj. (Ret'd) Harold Ristau was installed as Holy Trinity's new senior pastor. The service was well attended and included eleven other clergy throughout the District and Pastor Ristau's wife, Elise. There was a potluck following the service. Below are some pictures from the service.



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

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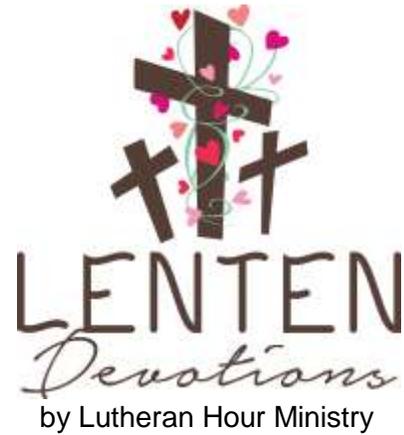
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Spring forward in faith!
 CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS and
 join us on time for worship.

**Daylight Saving Time BEGINS
 on Sunday, March 8.
 Remember to set your clocks
 AHEAD one hour
 on Saturday, March 7.**

Faith is to believe what we do not see; and the
 reward of this faith is to see what we believe.
 —St. Augustine

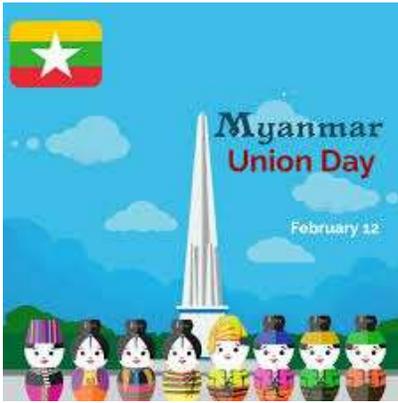


In love, God sent His Son to redeem the world. In hatred, He was rejected. In *Behold Your King!*, we see the Savior stripped of His dignity, led away, and crucified on our behalf. No one could imagine this Man, this condemned and forsaken Man, was God in the flesh sent to liberate us from our sin by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



A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL MINISTRY

Myanmar Union Day

Holy Trinity Lutheran School has been blessed with a large population of Burmese families who value Christian education. Over the last several years the staff and school board have discussed possible ways that we can recognize and celebrate their culture. A board member did some research and suggested we celebrate Union Day with them.

Several of our Burmese moms that work at the school were approached about the idea of celebrating Myanmar Union Day. They were excited about the idea and began to put a plan together. On Feb. 13, a number of our Burmese families came to our morning assembly dressed in their celebratory outfits and ready to share. They brought food for the students and adults, they sang songs, they performed dances, and they played music. School alumni were also present to share and celebrate as well. I even got to wear my red jacket and red tie that were hand made for me by some of the moms.

At staff meeting following their presentation, I shared Colossians 1:3 for devotions: "We always thank God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints" This is what came to mind as I thought about our Myanmar Union Day celebration. When I think of our Burmese families, I thank God for their commitment to their faith and to Christian education. These families are so grateful for

the opportunity to send their children to our Lutheran school. But I am so grateful for this community who has made a significant impact on our identity as a school and so very proud to partner with them in instructing children in accordance with God's Word. I look forward to even bigger and better celebrations in the future! Happy Myanmar Union Day!

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



LESSONS FROM A LITTLE VOICE

A woman invited several guests over for dinner. When everyone gathered around the table, she turned to her 6-year-old daughter and asked, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I don't know what to say," the little girl replied.

Her mother smiled. "Just say what you hear Mommy say."

The child bowed her head and prayed sincerely, "Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Brentlinger	Wendy1755@yahoo.com
Jackson Cain	Cainjackson4412@gmail.com
Jim Davenport	jdavenport226@aol.com
Katie Fritz (secretary)	ktfritz@yahoo.com
David Hoffman (president)	Ds77hoffman@gmail.com
David Jurgens	D.Jurgens@hotmail.com

The Board of Directors, in an effort to improve communication in the church, has decided to put a copy of their monthly minutes in each newsletter. Below are the minutes from their meeting on February 17, 2026. A few paper copies of just the minutes will also be provided in the Narthex/Lobby

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 6:30pm

Opening Prayer: Rev. Ristau

Attendance: all Board members, Rev. Ristau, Bill Hiskey, Al Seavey, and Nelson Feliciano

Agenda:

- Old Business
 - January 20, 2026 meeting minutes approved
 - Renewal of software to make the key cards (Isonas PureAccess) of \$980 for two years is due on December 23.
 - The board approved this expense as a non-budget item for the Property Ministry team. This was not included in the 2025-26 budget as an oversight. It will be **added to the 2026-27 budget**.
 - Review of Key Policy
 - Bill Hiskey – wording had been approved and needs edited on the document
 - Board Approved
 - Bible Gift
 - To be presented by Pastor
 - Lutheran School Ministry
 - Use Sunday School room for Summer Care
 - Board Approved
 - Property Ministry
 - *Al Seavey accepted the Facilities Manager position (January – June 2026) at \$2000 per month, plus required taxes/benefits. This paid position will be evaluated to be included in the 2026-27 church budget if deemed effective.*
- New Business
 - Representative for synodical convention (Corey Zirbel)
 - Motion to approve Corey Zirbel – David H. – 2nd Jim – Approved

(CONTINUED)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Elizabeth Nehm job title (Secretary or Administrative Assistant)
 - Motion for administrative assistant title – David J. – 2nd Mary - Approved
- Lent Offerings
 - Last year divided to missionaries; Advent went to Carl Wicklander (seminary student)
 - Motion to divide Lent (including Maundy Thursday and Good Friday) church offerings between missionaries – Mary – 2nd David H. - Approved
- 65th Anniversary Celebration moved to fall
 - Fellowship committee planning
- Budget Planning
 - Notify ministries to prep
- Benevolent Fund
 - Name change
 - Resolution specifying the removal of Pastor Press and adding Pastor Ristau
 - Motion to remove Press and Ristau added for access to benevolent fund – David J. – 2nd Jim – Approved
 - Action: Minutes and accompanying letter to take to bank
- Communication to ministry groups
 - Improve communication
 - Action: connect board of director minutes to congregation, discussion with Elizabeth
 - Action: Contact ministry groups for monthly report

Property Ministry (Al Seavey)

- Sanctuary construction planned during school summer break including asbestos abatement (floor tile)
 - Services will be held in the multipurpose room

Lutheran School Ministry (Bill Hiskey)

- Playground by sanctuary pending Ristau approval

Technology Ministry (Mike Bryant)

- Proposal for Slides PC upgrade from Nelson
- Motion for Solution 2 (Upgrade RAM) – Jim – 2nd David J. – Approved

Youth Ministry (Sheryl Morris)

- No report provided

Elders Ministry (Corey Zirbel)

- No report provided

Finance Ministry (Vacant)

- No report provided

Outreach Ministry (Rev. Ristau)

- No report provided

Servant (Assimilation) Ministry (Bonnie B. and Jackie B.)

- No report provided

Parish Report (Rev. Ristau)

- No report provided

Motion to End: 8:20pm – 1st David J. – 2nd David H. – Approved

Closing Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: March 17, 2026, Tuesday at 6:30pm

(CONTINUED)

MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES

On March 14, 2023 the Board designated/recognized the following Ministry Teams of HTLC.

MINISTRY TEAMS 2025-2026

Holy Trinity Youth

Ignite	Ages 2 thru 5 th grade	Sheryl Morris
Ablaze	Ages 6 th thru 12 th grade	Sheryl Morris & Aaron Witherspoon

Lutheran School Elders

	Todd Otto/Bill Hiskey, D.S.M.
	Corey Zirbel
Choir	Beth Markel
Nursing Home	Irene Garrett – Glasgow
Altar Guild	Harlan & Judy Klankowski
Compassionate Care	Kimberly Parsley

Education

Men's Bible study	Dick Stirn
Women's Bible study	Marsha Holm
Confirmation	Pastor Ristau
Sunday Bible Class	Pastor Ristau

Fellowship

Jackie Blindauer & Nancy Melke

Finance

Open

Technology

Mike Bryant

Property

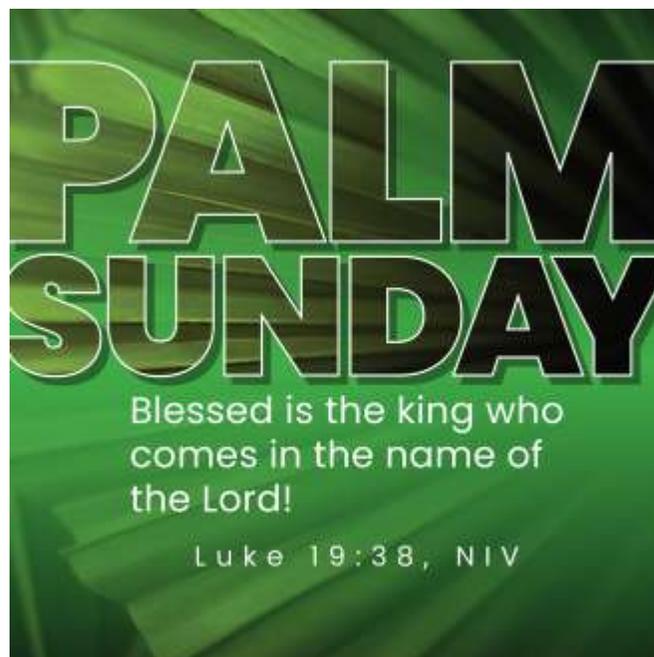
Al Seavey

Outreach Ministry

Holy Trinity	Carol White & Pam Schmaltz
Smiths Grove	Pastor Press
Mara Evangelical church	Nelson Feliciano

Servant Groups

Jackie Blindauer & Bonnie Borth



(CONTINUED)



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 EVENTS:

1. Fuel and Friends is suspended until Wednesday, April 8. We hope the youth and their families will join use for Wednesday night Lenten services during this time.

2. **LENTEN MEAL:** The Ablaze Sunday School class (middle and senior high youth will be sponsoring the Lenten meal on Wednesday, March 11 at 5:30pm. SS Staff, parents, and youth look for sign-up information in the bulletin. This meal will include pizza and drinks and the money collected during the free will offering will go to support the Ablaze youth. Please join us for a wonderful meal before the Lenten worship service at 6:30pm.

3. **EASTER EGG HUNT:** Plans are underway for our annual Easter Egg Hunt for children ages 3-17! We are asking for donations of Easter candy. There will be a bucket in the Narthex for you to donate. The Easter Egg Hunt will be at 9:30am on Easter, Sunday April 5. Everyone will meet in the gym before we start. So, kids bring your baskets!



4. **EASTER BREAKFAST:** Dan Blindauer and our youth are once again planning our Easter Celebration Breakfast on Sunday, April 5 between services! The breakfast menu will be pancakes, sausage, bacon, scrambled eggs, biscuits and gravy, and fruit! A free-will offering will be available to help youth cover expenses. We hope you'll mark your calendars and help us rejoice in our Savior's love for us shown in His resurrection!

5. **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** Looking for VBS Volunteers! VBS is scheduled for Monday, June 22–Thursday June 25 from 8:30am-12:00pm. We need a Co-Coordinator for VBS, volunteers for different age groups (both Teachers and Helpers), Games Coordinator, Kitchen Help, Craft Coordinator, Media Operator, Opening Talent, Decorations Coordinator, etc. We look forward to hearing from you. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Sheryl Morris at 270-784-2781 by Monday, March 30.



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FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Ministry Team Leaders: Jackie Blindauer & Nancy Melke

Fellowship is in full swing and we have so many activities coming up. Some of them are a sock hop, Hot Rods game, summer fun at the Brandts', church picnic, Holy Trinity 65th anniversary event, and the Veteran's dinner/program. If you want to see more, maybe volunteer to help with the planning of an activity.

We greatly appreciate all who took the time to fill out the survey we sent out. Thank you. All your suggestions are appreciated and taken into consideration. There are many of you who have stepped forward to help as well. If anyone else wants to help in any way (set up, clean up, serve at an event, take photos, plan the event) do not hesitate to let the committee know.

Committee members are: Jackie Blindauer, Carole Clark, Janese Cleary, Marsha Holm, Nancy Melke, Pam Schmaltz, and Carol White.

Ideas and help are always welcomed.

EVENTS TO FOLLOW:

- April – Sock Hop
- May – Hot Rods Game

FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM

Committee Leader: Open

January Giving to the General Fund:

Date	Amount
1/4	\$15,152
1/11	\$ 9,242
1/18	\$ 7,141
1/25	<u>\$ 2,816</u>
Total	\$34,351

\$361,881 given for the first six months of this Fiscal year. That is an average of \$12,063 per week. The 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Budget is **\$730,580**. This requires giving that averages \$14,050 per week.

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LUTHERAN SCHOOL MINISTRY

Team Leader: Todd Otto



Open Enrollment for the 2026-2027 School Year has started. 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.

CHAPEL OFFERINGS in March will go towards the Quest for Christ Service Project, which is the Nashville Relief Effort after the recent ice storm.

SUMMER CAMP: Registration starts Monday, March 9 for current families.

HTLS CLOSED for Teacher Development days on Thursday, March 19 and Friday, March 20.

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK will be celebrated March 23 – March 27. We will have fun “dress up” days and events the entire week – if you stop by church that week you will probably see some interesting outfits. The week will conclude with the Quest for Christ event.

- Monday, March 23: Favorite Color Day
- Tuesday, March 24: Favorite Sports Team Day
- Wednesday, March 25: Blue/Gold Spirit Day
- Thursday, March 26: Hat Day
- Friday, March 27: Quest for Christ Shirt Day

FUNDRAISER EVENT: HTLS Night at BG Skate (506 Three Springs Rd/BG) Tuesday, March 31 from 5:00-9:00pm.



I BELIEVE

I believe in the God of fruit time and harvest who makes the land to bear gifts in its time and fills our tables with the bounty of his hand;
I believe in Jesus Christ his Son, who was the first fruit of those that slept, and brings us to spiritual tables where our cups are always full;
I believe in the Holy Spirit, who causes us to remember all for which we are grateful and teaches us to see a relationship between our gifts and the giver;
I believe in the world as the arena of my spiritual life, where I am to share hospitality with the stranger;
for in so doing I shall fulfill the desires of him who has given me everything, and of his Son and the Holy Spirit.

—John Killinger in Lost in Wonder, Love & Praise

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MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES

OUTREACH MINISTRY



We would like to invite you to visit our blog
<http://lcsmidsouthdistrictmissions.blogspot.com>

We pray that our blog would be another way for members of the Mid-South District to view, learn, and celebrate God's worldwide mission of bringing the message of Jesus Christ to all people. We also pray that individuals from the congregation who went on mission trips this year will write up a post for the blog. Take a second to check out the posts on the blog. We would love to hear what you think, so be sure to let us know.

PROPERTY MINISTRY TEAM

Team Leader: Al Seavey

COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Both Preschool building HVAC units were installed on December 21.
- Exterior keypad has been installed on the double doors leading out from the gym to the front grassy area.
- Gym floors were cleaned and sealed in December.
- Preschool classroom (across from the school office) was written up by the health inspector for peeling paint. Room was painted in December.
- Both sets of double doors leading into the gym have been serviced. These doors are now fully functional and able to be locked if needed. One missing handle replaced, defective interior parts replaced, and adjustments made. Note: Hardware is old and should be considered for upgrade in the future.
- Key/card access project is finally complete. All holders have completed forms and both card and key databases are now current.
- Kitchen AC compressor failed. Bowling Green Refrigeration replaced on February 18. A modification will be made to the system to allow for cooling in the winter to protect the compressor.
- A big thanks to Jackson Cain (Board member) for cleaning both parking lots of all the recent snow and ice.

COMPLETED PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

- December – Oracle performed PM on the elevator.
- December – All room filters in EO building cleaned.
- January – Bowling Green Refrigeration replaced all filters and inspected all units not servicing the EO building.
- February – Refrigerator, freezer, and ice machine in the kitchen were clean and tested for correct operation.
- February – Pye Barker inspected the kitchen hood fire suppression system.

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PROPERTY MINISTRY TEAM

CURRENT PROJECTS

- The Sanctuary furnace is intermittently shutting down due to overheating. A new “Hi-limit” switch has been ordered and will be installed on arrival.
- Double doors leading into the EO building do not close immediately when fire alarm is activated. Fire marshal says there can be no lag. Pye Barker found circuit board had burned components and will need replacing. A new circuit board has been ordered.
- A member has donated eight Wi-Fi thermostats and protective covers. These have all been installed and individualized programming is in process. The goal is to program each location to maximize energy savings while also considering the user’s comfort.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

- Spring cleaning of the building – too much stuff everywhere. Spring break is April 6-10, which would be a good week to do it. Plan to meet with ministry teams, assign rooms...divide and conquer. Planning is in process.
- Sanctuary and Narthex Remodeling. Board wants the remodel project to begin as soon as school is out. Seeking five to six volunteers to form a design committee to select two to three paint colors and flooring options for the congregation to consider.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



PRAYER SERVICE: The LWML Prayer Service for 2026 will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church (211 S 21st St/Paducah, KY) on Friday, March 6 at 12:00pm. A salad luncheon will be served immediately following the service. The theme for this year’s prayer services is “**P.R.A.Y.E.R.**” (Praise, Remember, Ask, Yield, Excitement, Rejoice).



MITE BOX SUNDAY: March 29 is the first LWML Mite Box Sunday of 2026. We hope that you have been saving your loose change over the past few months for this offering.

Your generosity, combined with the nationwide Mites donations, continue to fund LWML Mission Grants such as: Christ Centered Hope for Cancer Patients; Healing Your Heart-Faith-based child counseling; and Arch Books for Immigrant children in the USA.

Mite boxes for your coins are available in the Narthex. Thank you.



These cheerful "palm trees" make a bright reminder of the celebration that greeted Jesus as he entered Jerusalem.

What you need:

- Bananas (for the tree trunks)
- Kiwis or green grapes (for the palm leaves)
- Mandarin oranges (for the ground)



What you do:

1. Slice bananas in half lengthwise and place vertically on a plate.
2. Arrange kiwi slices or grapes at the top to form palm fronds.
3. Add oranges at the base.
4. Serve immediately or chill until ready to serve.

Scripture Tie-In:

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"
—Matthew 21:9 (NIV)



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE

It's time to tune up your Bible brain!

Decode the notes to discover a verse that sings with joy.

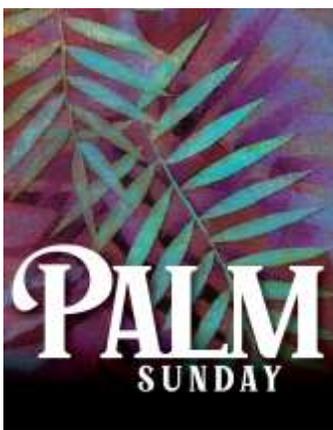
Using the musical note code, write the words of Psalm 100:2 (NIV) in the correct order below.

CODE: before come gladness him joyful LORD songs the with Worship

_____ the _____ ;

_____ .

Answer: Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.



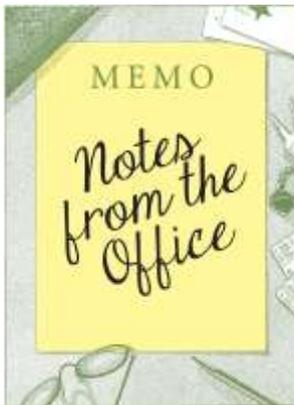


What do you do with your Portals of Prayer after you have finished using them? We would like to extend their use by recycling them.

The Salvation Army will happily take all of these that we bring to them. Please bring them to church and deposit them in the box in the Narthex marked for Portals of Prayer Recycle.



TUESDAY, MARCH 17



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



CHURCH INFORMATION

We are continually working on keeping our information up to date at church. So whenever you have a change in your information please make a notation that it is "NEW" or "UPDATED", etc. on the Attendance Registration form or contact the Church Office at 270-843-9595.

NOTE: If you are a member here and nothing has changed you don't have to list all your contact information.



YOUNG ADULT GROUP: Pastor Ristau is starting a young adults group on a trial basis, based on participation. This is for adults ages 19-30 (or thereabouts). The first meeting will be on Sunday, March 15 at 3:30pm at the home of Peter and Cindy Brandt (731 Martinsville Ford Rd/BG). There will be games of ping pong and pool, a nature walk, and a meal of barbeque. Please let Pastor Ristau know if you are interested in attending by Sunday, March 8. You can contact him at 307-301-9040 or harold.ristau@htlc-bq.org.

TABLES

NEW HOME WANTED: We have our twenty 48" round tables to find new homes. They are being replaced with 60" round plastic tables that are safer, lighter, and bigger. The old ones are FREE to a good home. All you need to do is contact Jackie Blindauer at 920-207-9185. The Blindauer's are setting aside Saturday, March 14 from 9:00am-12:00pm and Sunday, March 15 from 9:00am – after the late service to be available. Please schedule a time to make it run smoothly. Other times are available if needed.

NEW TABLES: The tables are here and will be used for the first time on Friday, April 24 for the sock hop fellowship event. Along with this event we will be collecting money to help pay for them. One generous church member has paid for the tables up front so we have them all ready and this person is donating a portion of the money to cover the cost. More details in the April newsletter.

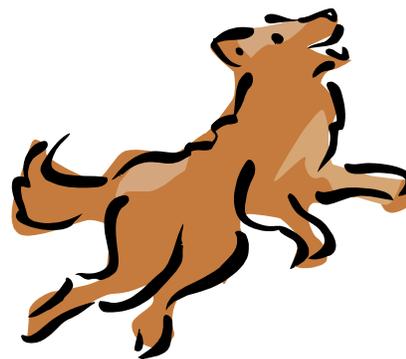
Reminder

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Help support what matters most to you by directing Choice Dollars

- Designated Choice Dollars are based on qualifying insurance premiums, qualifying contract values and Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership.
- Choice Dollars can be directed to thousands of Lutheran organizations Nationwide, including our congregation and school, by visiting [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or by calling 1-800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and saying 'Thrivent Choice'.

Potential amounts range from \$25 to \$500 for each eligible benefit member. If you have any questions or have difficulty directing your Choice Dollars, you can contact your local Thrivent Financial representative, Tammy Brown at 615-681-0265 or tammy.brown@thrivent.com



HTLC member, Kay Murphy, helps with training **Service Dogs for autistic children**. She will occasionally have these dogs in church so they learn how to behave in different situations. If you have any questions or know of a child that could benefit from a service dog please talk with Kay.



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/>.

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!

(CONTINUED)

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!



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

“Road to 250” Bonus Concert – Cumberland Winds

Sunday, June 28

4:00 p.m.

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.*



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.



The new quarter of **Portals of Prayer** are in the narthex on the table by the bulletin boards.

NOTE: We order a certain amount of devotionals. If you want a copy and there aren’t any available, please contact the church office at 270-843-9595.



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





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 March – October 2024. 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.

FAITH THAT BLOOMS ANEW

“Why are you anxious?” asked our Lord. Then He said, *“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.”* (Matthew 6:28–29, NIV)

Jesus’ words remind us that just as God clothes the lilies of the field in beauty and splendor, he also provides faithfully for his people. The same Creator who tends to the flowers of spring cares for every detail of our lives.

People of faith come to see that truth unfold year after year — in the budding trees, the soft blossoms, and the steady return of color after winter’s gray. God’s reliability is woven into creation itself.

As poet Adeline Whitney once wrote:

*God does not send strange flowers every year,
When the Spring wind blows o’er the pleasant
places,*

*The same dear things lift up the same fair faces,
The violet is here.*

Each spring, those familiar blooms whisper the same promise: God is faithful still.



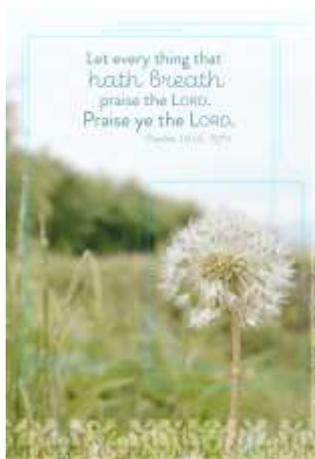
OUR MEMBERS IN LONG-TERM NURSING CARE...Joan Thomason



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 family of **Bobbi**

Wiebbecke. Bobbi is a former faithful member of Holy Trinity. She died on Wednesday, February 11. Funeral services were held in Bowling Green, KY.

We commend the family of Bobbi Wiebbecke to the comfort and compassion of our Loving and Living Lord Jesus Christ.

THE KING NO ONE EXPECTED

Sometimes we speak—or even shout—the truth without realizing just how right we are. That's exactly what happened on the first Palm Sunday.

Jesus entered Jerusalem not on a prize-worthy stallion, but on a young, humble donkey. The crowd erupted in joy, shouting, *“Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!”* They waved palm branches, symbols of peace, and hailed Jesus as their king.

Was He a king? Jesus didn't deny it. When the Pharisees told him to silence the crowd, he replied, *“I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”*

Later, Pilate—the Roman governor—mocked the religious leaders by saying, *“Here is your king.”* The chief priests bristled with anger, shouting, *“We have no king but Caesar!”*

When Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified, he made one last jab at the furious crowd. John 19:19 tells us he ordered a sign to be placed above the cross. Written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, it declared:

“Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

The chief priests demanded the sign be changed, but Pilate refused. *“What I have written, I have written,”* he said.

Was Jesus a king? The witnesses of His resurrection knew the answer. In Acts 17:7, the early believers were accused of “saying there is another king, Jesus.” And the book of Revelation looks ahead to the day when all creation will know the truth:

“The Lamb will triumph ... for He is Lord of lords and King of kings.” — Revelation 17:14



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

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>
1	PETER & CINDY BRANDT TIM & HEATHER RATHERT
8	JEFF & HILARY EVERSOLL GENEVA BENTLEY
15	BRUCE & BONNIE BORTH RALPH & JOYCE PIEL
22	PETER & CINDY BRANDT KEVIN & PAM SCHMALTZ
29	MARLY & DEB HIATT DAN & JACKIE BLINDAUER



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

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>
1	BRUCE BORTH HEATHER RATHERT
8	CINDY BRANDT DAVID JURGENS
15	DAVID KING STEVE BROOKS
22	HILARY EVERSOLL PAM SCHMALTZ
29	DESIREE TRUDY SHERYL MORRIS



ACOLYTES FOR MARCH
 (First person - 8:00 service
 Second person - 10:30 service
 Unless noted otherwise)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>
1	MASON ROSBOTTOM ELLIE HISKEY
4***	LENTEN SERVICE 6:30 P.M. STELLA JONES
8	QUINN OTTON A.J. SIMPSON
11***	LENTEN SERVICE 6:30 P.M. HUNTLEY MOORE
15	LIAM PAYNE SYDNEY DAVENPORT
18***	LENTEN SERVICE 6:30 P.M. VERA FRITZ
22	MASON ROSBOTTOM CHARLOTTE FRITZ
25***	LENTEN SERVICE 6:30 P.M. AUGUST MERKLE
29	QUINN OTTO ELLIE HISKEY

Altar Guild



ALTAR GUILD FOR MARCH

- 8:00 A.M. SUE BANISTER
JANET BRYANT
- 10:30 A.M. MEGAN ZIRBEL
GEORGIE ZIRBEL



COMMUNION SERVERS FOR MARCH

- 8:00 A.M. JEROME JASCUR
- 10:30 A.M. KEVIN SCHMALTZ

**The Deadline
to have Articles
into the Office
for the
April Newsletter
is
Sunday, March 15**



AUDIO-VISUAL team

AUDIO/VISUAL FOR MARCH
 (First person - 8:00 service
 Second person - 10:30 service)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>
1	MICHAEL MOORE A.J. ZIRBEL
8	MICHAEL MOORE A.J. ZIRBEL
15	MICHAEL MOORE AYDEN WITHERSPOON
22	MICHAEL MOORE A.J. ZIRBEL
29	MICHAEL MOORE AYDEN WITHERSPOON

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A Christian is the keyhole through which other  
folks see God.

—Robert E. Gibson

# MARCH



1 Kenneth S. White  
 3 Kelley J. Otto  
 5 Brenda K. Kirk  
 6 Lisa A. Knudson  
 7 Adelaide M. Larson  
 8 T. Aaron Goodwin  
 Ericka J. Huerta  
 11 Deanna L. Boddeker  
 Evelyn C. Ulm  
 12 Olivia A. Otto  
 Elijah A. Poteet  
 13 Gray C. Unick  
 15 Sharon G. Hahn  
 17 Sherrie J. Small  
 R. Desiree Trudy  
 Brandon M. Payne  
 Jackson K. Otto

19 Donna R. Schewe  
 20 Edward K. Petrusch  
 Martin A. Hahn  
 Aiden J. Tolbert  
 22 Austin T. Heyungs  
 Vera M. Fritz  
 Elsie L. Rogers  
 25 Lori A. Alvarez  
 26 Elaine C. Towe  
 27 Barbara Dobring  
 28 Richard A. Webber  
 M. Ezra Oates  
 29 Kelly M. Rubican  
 30 Bernard S. Schewe  
 31 Connie K. Press



6 Ken & Heidi Lindsey (42<sup>nd</sup>)  
 11 Corey & Megan Zirbel (26<sup>th</sup>)

26 Darrell & Jennifer Burns (32<sup>nd</sup>)  
 30 Nicholas & Bethany Boeneke (3<sup>rd</sup>)