

Merry Christmas!

From the Staff of Holy Trinity



And Kristine 2025

Heather
Cowell

Josh
Bul

Yara
Burch

Beth
Marshall

Jennifer
Whittamore

Chetna
Bhatnagar

Jelicia
Bumfield

Nina Vratnina

Ashley Maxson
Bill Miley

Kachina
Lopez

Alison Perea

Edward
Belman

Kathleen
Moore

Anthony
Dunkle

Marty
King

Kate
Sheep
Elizabeth
Hol

Ava Perea

Jade
Adwell

Cara
Belo

Mrs. Mitchell

Emily Ray

Peter Pess

Chad
Pitt

Stephanie
Travis

Jessie
Finhardt



Meredith
Weerman

Carah
Braham



A Personal Note

It occurs to me as I begin writing that this will be the last newsletter article that you will receive while I am in place as your vacancy pastor. (I will write an article for January also, but I will be vacationing out of town by the time that reaches you.) At any rate, I want to express my thanks to each of you for the love and support you have shown to me and Connie during my service to you over these past 8½ years (the last 2 as vacancy pastor).

As we move into the season of Advent, followed quickly by the Christmas cycle, we do well to remember that Christ's coming into our humanity is a critical part of our faith and of our testimony to the world. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us," is the clear witness of the apostle John in his gospel. Two vital thoughts are contained there.

One is that Jesus, the eternal Son of the Father, the Word of God (God's best revelation of who He is) became flesh. He "enfleshed" Himself in this world. I think about a movie that I saw many years ago in which a master gardener created a world of ants. Quickly, those ants rebelled against their creator and lived in disharmony and conflict. The gardener sent his son into that ant world to communicate his father's love to the ants in their disunity. They hated him for his love and ended up killing him. But the master gardener saw to it that the son was raised to life, and the ants found new life in relationship with that resurrected son of the gardener. Quite a challenging concept, to think about a human being reduced to the status of an ant! But the humbling that it took for Jesus to move from the bliss of heaven to our world of disaster was even greater.

The second point of that word from John is that the Word dwelt among us. The Greek word is the word for "tabernacled" or "tented" – in other words, the Word of the living God set up His tent here among us and became for all time and for all eternity "God with us", Immanuel. Relying on this Immanuel as our crucified and ever-risen Savior brings us joy, forgiveness, and peace for today and hope for all eternity. Blessed Christmas to all of you in Jesus' name!

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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!

28 Days of Advent Giving

Once again, we invite you (and/or your family) to participate in bringing to church non-perishable food items that will be shared with the good folks at the Salvation Army to supplement their food giveaways during the hectic Christmas season. Caring for our neighbors is a great way to remember the caring actions of our Lord, who came into the flesh for our redemption. The idea is prayerfully to add one item to your box each day, asking the Lord to use these gifts to bless someone in need.

Boxes and lists of desired food items are now available at church (and at Smiths Grove). We are asking that filled boxes be returned to church by Sunday, December 21, so that the Salvation Army can have them in time for their busy holiday time. Thank you for your participation in serving others in Jesus' name!

Advent Sermon Schedule

Our overall theme this Advent is Something Better (taken from Hebrews 1:1-14, which presents Jesus as the Something Better whom all people need). Sermon themes:

12/3/25 "A Better Word"

12/10/25 "A Better Glory"

12/17/25 "A Better Absolution"

Christmas Eve will continue this theme with the topic "A Better Name."

May the Lord bless our worship of the Savior who calls us to honor Him with our lives!

Pastor Press



The theme for Advent services this year is "A Better..."
Offerings at our Advent services will go to Carl Wicklander to support his study in the Seminary.

Wednesday, December 3

Advent Meal at 5:30 p.m.

Meal: Spaghetti and Salad

Sponsored by Ignite! Sunday School

Donations will go to Carl Wicklander and his family

Advent Service at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 17

Advent Meal at 5:30 p.m.

Meal: Taco Bar

Sponsored by Ablaze Youth

Donations will go to future youth projects.

Advent Service at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 9

HTLS P1, P2, & P3 Christmas Program

6:00 p.m.

HTLS P3/4 & P4 Christmas Program

7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Family Worship

5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 10

Advent Meal at 5:30 p.m.

Meal: Casseroles, Salad, and Dessert

Sponsored by Servant Group 2

Advent Service at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 25

Christmas Day Worship (C)

10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 14

HTLC Sunday School Christmas Program

10:30am

Tuesday, December 16

HTLS Grades K-2 Christmas Program

6:00 p.m.

HTLS Grades 3-6 Christmas Program

7:00 p.m.



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Lutheran Summer Music Shares Musical Advent Calendar

Experience the anticipation and hope of the Advent season with Lutheran Summer Music's fourth-annual Musical Advent Calendar. From December 1-24, immerse yourself in a daily moment of music and reflection shared on our Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube pages and archived on our website at LSMacademy.org/acal.

"Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time
we love, every time we give, it's Christmas."
—Dale Evans



Lutheran Hour Ministries Advent Devotions *Born to you... a Savior*

God in His incomparable love has made a way for us through the wilderness. He did this by giving us His Son, our Light in the darkness. In ***Born to You ... a Savior***, we embrace the Christmas joy and wonder of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

At Christ's birth, God the Father did a new and everlasting thing in our lives: He gave us His one and only Son for our redemption. In divine humility, Jesus joined us as a human being. Born of a woman, bearing the sins of the world, Jesus comes to us as our Protector, our Deliverer, our Savior.

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 are available here in both [English](#) and Spanish, as well as in French, and Chinese, from our ministry center in Canada. 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.

NOTE: If you would like to have this devotional and don't have access to the internet, please contact the church office and we can print off a copy for you.

HOW CAN *we Pray* FOR YOU?

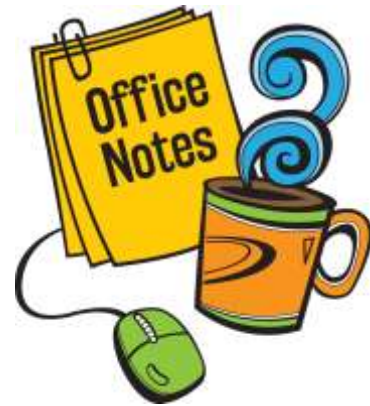
A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL MINISTRY

Prayers from the Window

It was a warm, beautiful, sunny afternoon and I happened to be in the church parking lot waiting for a guest when a car pulled in. There was only one person in the car... a lady driving who pulled up next to me and asked me if I was the pastor. I explained to her that I was the principal for the school, and she said, "Well I have something that I would like to share that I want you to tell your pastor." She tearfully went on to explain that she was the daughter of the couple that lived across the street that had recently passed away. As her mother aged, she could no longer get out and about and was homebound. She would sit in front of her window and watch our church and pray for us. She shared at one point with her daughter that she thought it was working because she saw more cars and thought we were growing.

Do you think that matters? Do you think she made any difference whatsoever for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and School? I can tell you with absolute conviction that there is no doubt that she made a difference. The power of the Holy Spirit is awesome, and what a witness. We all question whether we are making a difference and some may question what their purpose is at the end of their life. There you go. Find a window!

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



**The Church Office will be closed
Thursday, December 25, 2025
and Thursday, January 1, 2026**

The church office will also be closed Friday, January 2 and Monday, January 5 because the church secretary is on vacation.

**HTLS will be on Christmas Break
Monday, December 22, 2025
through Friday, January 2, 2025**

If you have a pastoral need please contact your Elder. Lists of Elder assignments can be found on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

RECONSIDER THE RUSH

The Christmas rush leads to stress for many people. But author Burton Hills viewed the madness from another perspective:

"Eventually, the hour comes when the rushing ends and the race against the calendar mercifully comes to a close. It is only now, perhaps, that we truly recognize the spirit of Christmas. It is not a matter of days or weeks, but of centuries — [more than] twenty of them now since that holy night in Bethlehem. Regarded in this manner, the pre-Christmas rush may do us greater service than we realize. With all its temporal confusion, it may just help us to see that by contrast, Christmas itself is eternal."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Brentlinger
David Hoffman

Jim Davenport
Tim Rathert

Katie Fritz
Kevin Schmaltz

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

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

Education

Men's Bible study	Dick Stirn
Women's Bible study	Connie Press & Pam Schmaltz
Confirmation	Pastor Press
Sunday Bible Class	Pastor Press

Fellowship

Finance

Technology

Property

Outreach Ministry

Holy Trinity	Jackie Blindauer & Nancy Melke
Smiths Grove	Open
Mara Evangelical church	Mike Bryant
	Al Seavey
	Carol White & Pam Schmaltz
	Pastor Press
	Nelson Feliciano

Servant Groups

Jackie Blindauer & Bonnie Borth

CALL COMMITTEE

As you know we are in the process of calling a Senior Pastor. There has been a request to know who is serving on this committee. Here is the list of members serving:

Geneva Bentley
Karen Buege
Pastor Press

Bruce Borth
Joe Ertl
Tim Rathert

Aaron Britton
Robert Henson
Amy Wieting

Please support the committee with your prayers.

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CHILDREN'S 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.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

1. The Ignite youth had a great time roller skating in November! More events will be planned for Jan/Feb and Mar/Apr/May. Details will be available in the bulletin.



2. Youth are practicing at the beginning of the SS hour for the Sunday School Christmas program scheduled for Sunday, December 14 at the second service (10:30am). Any youth age 4 through 5th grade is welcome to participate. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Fritz or Sheryl Morris.

3. The Ignite youth are sponsoring an Advent dinner on Wednesday, December 3. We will be serving spaghetti and salads. The free will offering will support Carl Wicklander and his family with his pursuit of becoming a Pastor. We hope you'll join us!

4. All youth in the Ignite and Ablaze programs will meet in the Ignite Sunday School room on Sunday, December 7 to separate donated items from the Mitten Tree Project to get everything ready for distribution.

YOUTH MINISTRY:

1. The youth Fall Retreat was a huge success! Melissa Veith planned a great weekend for the youth. They had several Bible studies on the theme ("Be the Light" from Matthew 5:14-16), created skits, fellowshiped around a campfire, participated in an obstacle course, and went hiking at Mammoth Cave National Park! Thank you to Melissa and Jessica Payne for chaperoning!



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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

2. The Ablaze youth will have their Christmas Party on December 21 during the Sunday School hour. They are to bring a white elephant gift to share with the youth (no more than \$10.00). If you have any questions, please contact Megan Zirbel.
3. FAITH Night will be suspended in December due to the Advent and Christmas season. It will resume in January. See the bulletin for details.
4. The Ablaze youth are sponsoring the Advent meal on Wednesday, December 17. They are having a Taco Bar to raise funds for various youth events in 2026. We hope you will join us!



FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Ministry Team Leaders: Jackie Blindauer & Nancy Melke

Time for some Christmas cheer! We will have a "Jingle & Mingle" Sunday, December 14 at noon in the Fellowship Hall. This event will be a potluck and sing-a-long. Food, fellowship, and many Christmas songs led by our own Richard Melke on the piano. Bring your favorite dish as drinks are provided. If you haven't already, sign up now at the visitor station in the Narthex so we know how many are coming and what delicious food there will be. Fill your stomachs, then fill your soul with Christmas music. Any questions, reach out to Jackie Blindauer at 920-207-9185.

EVENTS TO FOLLOW:

January 2026 – TBD

Friday, February 13 at 5:30pm – White Elephant Bingo is back!



(CONTINUED)

MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES



FINANCIAL MINISTRY TEAM

Committee Leader: Open

October Giving to the General Fund:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10/5	\$13,394
10/12	\$ 6,122
10/19	\$ 9,631
10/26	<u>\$26,211</u>
Total	\$55,358

\$215,466 given for the first four months of this Fiscal year. That is an average of \$12,674 per week.

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

CONTRIBUTION UPDATE

As you know, the congregation had a designated offering several months ago to assist Carl Wicklander, a son of this congregation who is attending the seminary in St. Louis. This designated offering met the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for a charitable contribution. Unfortunately, one-time gifts from individuals that specify a particular person, such as Carl, as the recipient, do not meet the IRS requirements. Any future gifts or donations to support Carl must be made as part of a special offering as designated by the Board of Directors. Alternatively, you could support Carl with a donation made directly to him without going through the church.

On a related topic, you may be moved to provide a cash gift to one or more of the staff this Christmas season. Again, these gifts should not go through the church but directly to the individual.

Finally, we want to offer a special word of thanks to Scott Nehm and Katie Law. They both recently stepped away from the Finance team after many years of faithful service. Also, we welcome Luie Trudy to the team. He has volunteered to serve as co-treasurer.



(CONTINUED)

LUTHERAN SCHOOL MINISTRY TEAM

Team Leader: Todd Otto



Enrollment for the 2025-2026 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.

CHAPEL OFFERINGS in December will go towards the **Potter Children's Home**.

RAISERIGHT (formerly known as SCRIP) **gift card orders** are due to the school office by Wednesday, December 3. This is a program where you tell the school what gift cards you want to buy and how much you want them for, pay the school for the total amount, and the school gets back a percentage of that amount as a donation. So you can get your Christmas shopping done and help out the school at the same time!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

1. Preschool Christmas Programs

P1, P2, P3: Tuesday, December 9 at 6:00pm

P3/4, P4: Tuesday, December 9 at 7:00pm

2. Night at the North Pole (also Pajama Day!)

Friday, December 12

3. Elementary Christmas Programs

K-2nd grade: Tuesday, December 16 at 6:00pm

3rd – 6th grades: Tuesday, December 16 at 7:00pm

4. Christmas Break

Monday, December 22, 2025 – Friday, January 2, 2026



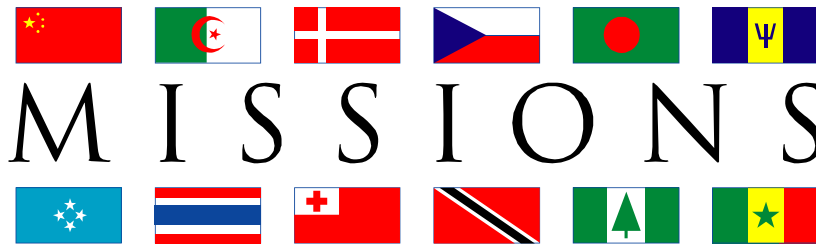
ALL ABOARD THE CHRISTMAS STORY

On a recent train trip, I couldn't help noticing how the conductors' "welcome" speeches were all different. Unlike air travel, where safety instructions sound the same no matter who's speaking, Amtrak conductors each had their own style. One stressed that kids must stay with parents. Another warned that messy restrooms would be locked. A third cautioned that stepping off during a short stop could mean getting left behind. Each conductor emphasized what had caused trouble before.

And in much the same way, the Gospel writers highlighted different details of Jesus' birth. Matthew, writing for Jewish readers, connects Jesus to Moses, Abraham and David. He tells about Joseph's role and the wise men seeking the "king of the Jews." Luke, writing for Gentiles and society's outsiders, focuses on Mary, a humble birth and shepherds — the first unlikely visitors. Both messages tell the same story, but with unique emphases shaped by the audience.

And that's a reminder for us, too: when we share our faith, we can tailor the message. Longtime friends, curious neighbors, kids and the hurting will all hear God's love in different ways.

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OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

The Mid-South District would like to invite you to visit their blog

<http://lcmsmidsouthdistrictmissions.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.

**FACILITY MINISTRY REPORT**

- Both preschool building HVAC units were approved to replace at the Board of Directors meeting on October 21. Bowling Green Refrigeration has been pre-paid \$21,800 for labor and parts to ensure no future price increase. Units have been ordered and installation is scheduled for December 21-22 while school is out for the holiday. This expense was not included in the current approved budget.
- Double doors leading into the gym from the Portico side have been repaired by Bluegrass Door. One of the double doors leading into the gym from the Sanctuary side had broken interior hardware. Bluegrass is ordering new hardware and will schedule repair when hardware arrives.
- Card/Key project: We are down to three people which records indicate have an access card or interior key; following up with these individuals to submit a completed card/key form. Board recently approved a policy requiring completion of form for individuals desiring an access card or interior key. This process ensures that the key and card databases are current and accurate. Forms are available at the church office.
- The double doors leading out from the gym into the front grassy area are being propped open by facility users, which is a security issue. Bluegrass Door has been given the approval to install an exterior keypad that will enable users to enter the gym from the outside. Parts are ordered and we will schedule installation as soon as possible.

(CONTINUED)

PROPERTY MINISTRY TEAM

- Working with Pye Barker to schedule water backflow test and sprinkler head sample testing.
- The Sunday school and adjoining room upgrade is now completed. Big thanks to Sheryl Morris and her team (Robert, Ashley, and Brittany Henson) for helping with the painting. New base cabinets have also been installed which have increased storage capacity and eliminated clutter. If you have a chance, please look at the completed rooms and thank Sheryl and her team.
- Pye Barker tested the fire alarm system and found two issues: Horn in the EO building stairwell not working and the double doors leading into the EO building were slow to close. Working on scheduling repairs around school schedule.
- Cleaning and sealing of gym floors scheduled for Christmas Break. December 21-23. Due to Christmas Eve services, gym will be completed and accessible for the congregation by 4:00pm on December 24.
- Preschool classroom (across from school office) was written up by health inspector for peeling paint. Plan is to paint the room during Christmas break. Hopefully there will be volunteers to help during the busy holiday season.
- Insulation that covers the large exterior ducts leading into and out of the air handler on the roof which services the EO building has multiple large holes and deterioration. The insulation needs replacing and we are searching for companies that do this type of work for quotes.
- Fire alarm panel had low battery issue. The charging circuit is not functioning properly. Pye Barker indicates that circuit board will need replacement; unfortunately, the warranty has expired. Waiting on quote to replace.
- Seeing water damage on ceiling tiles located below the first level roof on the Portico side of the gym. Will see if we can find the issue when it rains. May be the same issue we had with the roof drainpipe that runs through the gym.
- If you see a repair or maintenance issue, please report to the church office or complete a repair form that is available at the church office. A white notebook sits on the countertop in front of the church secretary's desk that contains the forms. If unable to stop by and fill out the service request, contact the church secretary and she can email you the form or she can gather the information from you. This process ensures that the Facility team has a record of all requests and can prioritize requests accordingly.
- Sanctuary and Narthex Remodeling: Project moved to summer 2026. Need five to six volunteers to form a design committee to select two to three paint colors and flooring options for the congregation to consider.



Christmas Card treasures



Turn old Christmas cards into beautiful keepsake ornaments! It's a fun, simple way to give new life to cards you've received and add a handmade touch to your tree.

What you need:

- Christmas cards
- Scissors
- Glue
- Circle pattern (cut from cardboard or trace around object)
- Hole punch
- Yarn or ribbon
- Glitter (optional)



What you do:

1. Trace a circle onto two Christmas cards.
2. Cut out the circles and glue the backs together.
3. Decorate the edges with glitter or ribbon for extra sparkle.
4. Punch a hole at the top and thread yarn or ribbon through to hang.



Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.
— James 1:17 (NIV)

PUZZLE



GOOD NEWS TO THE SHEPHERDS

What did the angel of the Lord say to the shepherds?

Directions: Write the first letter of each picture on the lines.

“



”

Luke 2:11, NIV

Answer: "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you." Luke 2:11, NIV





If you would like to have a Poinsettia on the altar this Christmas please fill out the form provided in the bulletins. **The plants are available in Red or White.**

The cost per plant is \$27.00. Please make checks payable to Holy Trinity and designate **“Christmas Poinsettia”** on the memo line. The deadline to order is Sunday, December 7.

The poinsettias will decorate the church for the Christmas Services and you may take yours home after the service on Christmas Day.



PROJECT M & M **“Mittens and More”**

Once again we have set up our mitten tree with the intention of helping provide warm items to those in need. The tree will be in the Narthex through Sunday, December 7. Your donations of warm mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, hats, thermal underwear, and anything that will help others stay warm during the cold winter days ahead will be collected and donated to local shelters.

Please consider helping with this project as you do your shopping. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sheryl Morris (270-784-2781) or Jean Nehm (270-991-8856). Thank you for all your past and future donations that have helped so many others out!

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S **MISSIONARY LEAGUE**



LADIES WINTER LUNCHEON: Our LWML ladies will again sponsor a “Ladies Winter Luncheon” in January, to start up our new schedule. All confirmed ladies of the church are welcome, plus any of their guests, friends, or family. The date, time, and location will be announced soon. Pay attention to the January newsletter and future bulletins, to mark that date and plan to attend!!

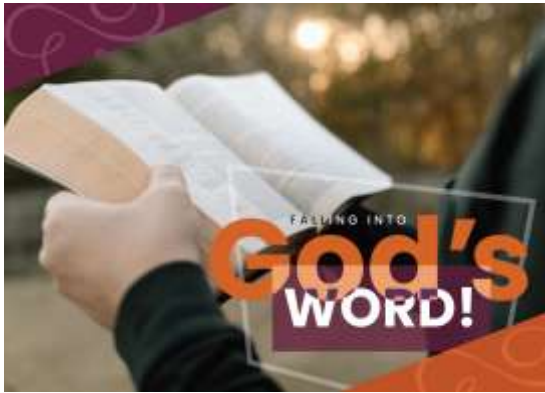


What do you do with your Portals of Prayer after you have finished using them? We would like to extend their use by recycling them.

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.

“Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts.”

—Janice Maeditere



BIBLE STUDIES

The men's Bible study will resume again on Tuesday, December 2. Additionally, the men's Bible study will not meet Tuesday, December 23 and Tuesday, December 30. They will resume meeting on Tuesday, January 6.

The women's Bible study will have ended for the fall session. They will resume meeting on Tuesday, January 6. They will be studying a book called *Colossians and Philemon: Take a New Look at Christ*.



Holy Trinity has been a **Toys for Tots** collection site for many years. If you would like to drop off any new/unwrapped toys, there is a box in the School Office Lobby and in the Narthex.



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



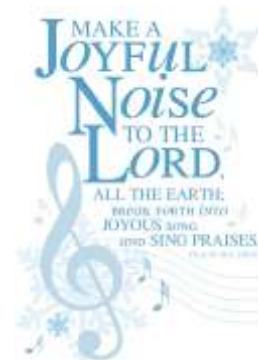
The latest Directory update has been printed and is available in the Narthex. We make a few bulk printings of the directory throughout the year, but there are always consistent changes to the directory.

So whenever you would like an updated copy, please contact the Church Office. We can provide it via email or printed copy.

Also, please remember to contact the office whenever you have a change in your contact information.



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.





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 your Elder.



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/>.

Red River Breeze

Sunday, December 7

4:00 p.m.

This group of acoustic instruments plays Celtic and Renaissance music on traditional instruments and has been playing together since 1999. A Christmas favorite back again!

Epiphany Concert – Handel’s Messiah Part I

Sunday, January 11, 2026

4:00 p.m.

Our annual tradition, now featuring Handel’s masterwork in part one of two performances. Part one is the traditional Christmas section. This caps off the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany seasons in style! This is the holiday tradition in Clarksville.

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!

(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!

"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.*



LUTHERAN WITNESS MAGAZINE

The *Lutheran Witness* magazine is now available free on the World Wide Web from our LC-MS website.

You can access the magazine in at least three ways:

1. Simply Google **Lutheran Witness**
2. Go to the synod webpage: www.lcms.org and **click on Lutheran Witness**
3. Go directly to the magazine at: www.lcms.org/pages/witness/asp

If you would like to receive your personal copy of the magazine by regular mail you may do so. Just provide a check made out to HTLC with "Lutheran Witness" on the memo line in an envelope marked **Lutheran Witness** and put it in the collection plate or mail it to the church office.

The annual cost for this publication is **\$15.00**.

The deadline to contact the office is Monday, January 26, 2026.



PETAL PUSHERS 2026

The **Rose Parade** theme for 2026 is: *The Magic in Teamwork* and the Lutheran Hour Ministries Float entry is: *Bringing Christ to the Nations*.

The Lutheran Hour Ministries Float has been a continuous participant for 76 years! Sign-up to help decorate in 2026 by going online to: www.lhm.volunteer and select Petal Pushers.



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 843-9595.





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 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



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



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 is a link on the school site to email Bill Hiskey. Please contact your Elder if you have a pastoral need.



The church services are being “**lived 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... Carolyn Merkle and Joan Thomason



OUR MEMBERS THAT ARE HOMEBOUND...

Greg Bergmann, Charles James, and Irma Lamm

NOTE: Contact your Elder if you have questions about any of these members.

"Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."

—Calvin Coolidge

Congratulations
on Your
New Baby!



CONGRATULATIONS!

Christian and Tiffany Krzywos had a healthy baby girl, **Cadance Jean**, on Tuesday, November 18. The proud grandparents are Richard and Nancy Melke.

*May God richly bless
this miracle of new life.*

THE ANGEL'S SONG IN THREE WORDS

On the very first Christmas Eve, frightened shepherds were suddenly surrounded by light and music. A choir of angels filled the night sky, singing: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14, KJV).

Nineteenth-century pastor Charles Kingsley reflected on how those three simple words — glory, peace, and good will — still capture the meaning of Jesus' birth and the hope it brings.

Glory. God's glory isn't shown in dazzling displays of power but in humility and mercy. The baby in the manger revealed God's greatness by stooping low, forgiving, and showing love.

Peace. True peace is more than the absence of conflict. It comes when we follow God's example of selflessness, giving up pride and selfish ambition to live in harmony with one another.

Good will. God's good will toward us is a gift that transforms our lives. Through Jesus, God invites us out of selfishness and sin into a life marked by love, kindness, and community.

The angels' song wasn't meant only for shepherds long ago. It still sings to us today, calling each of us to live in glory, peace, and good will.



**WE EXPRESS OUR CHRISTIAN
SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILIES OF:**

Belinda Settlemoir in the death of her husband, Mark Settlemoir. Mark died on Thursday, November 20, at 64 years of age. Mark was also a member of Holy Trinity and frequently attended the Tuesday Men's Bible Study. A celebration of life was held in Bowling Green, KY.

Jackie Blindauer in the death of her father, Phil Zimmermann. Phil died on Thursday, November 13, at 85 years of age. The funeral service was held in Wisconsin.

Del Rathert in the death of his sister, Shirley Holley. Shirley died on Monday, November 10, at 90 years of age. A celebration of life service will be held at a later date.

We commend Belinda Settlemoir; Jackie & Dan Blindauer; Del & Sally Rathert, Tim & Heather Rathert, Josh Rathert, and Kelley Matthews, Brennan Rathert, & Makenzie Matthews and their families to the comfort and compassion of our Loving and Living Lord Jesus Christ.



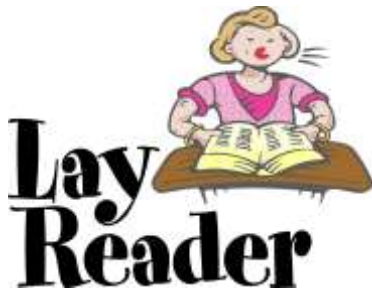


WELCOME!

GREETERS FOR DECEMBER

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

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>
7	CONNIE PRESS DAN & JACKIE BLINDAUER
14	MARLY & DEB HIATT DAVID & LAURIE JURGENS
21	JEFF & HILARY EVERESOLL KEVIN & PAM SCHMALTZ
28	AL & LAURIE SEAVEY TIM & HEATHER RATHERT



READERS FOR DECEMBER

First person – 8:00 service
Second person – 10:30 service
(Unless noted otherwise)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>
7	DAVID KING PAM SCHMALTZ
14	BRUCE BORTH STEVE BROOKS
21	BART WHITE HEATHER RATHERT
28	LAURIE SEAVEY DAVID JURGENS

ACOLYTES



ACOLYTES FOR DECEMBER

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

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>
***3	ADVENT SERVICE 6:30 P.M. CHARLOTTE FRITZ
7	MASON ROSBOTTOM ELLIE HISKEY
***10	ADVENT SERVICE 6:30 P.M. STELLA JONES
14	QUINN OTTO A.J. SIMPSON
***17	ADVENT SERVICE 6:30 P.M. SYDNEY DAVENPORT
21	HUNTLEY MOORE VERA FRITZ
***24	CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLIGHT SERVICE 7:30 P.M. AUGUST MERKLE
***25	CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 10:00 A.M. A.J. SIMPSON
28	LIAM PAYNE ELLIE HISKEY
***31	NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE 6:30 P.M. STELLA JONES



ALTAR GUILD FOR DECEMBER

<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>NAME</u>
8:00 A.M.	PATTI STUCKWISCH
10:30 A.M.	SHERYL MORRIS JACKIE BLINDAUER



COMMUNION SERVERS FOR DECEMBER

8:00 A.M.	CHARLIE STUCKWISCH
10:30 A.M.	DAN BLINDAUER



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

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>
7	MICHAEL HARTWEIN A.J. ZIRBEL
14	A.J. ZIRBEL AYDEN WITHERSPOON
21	MICHAEL HARTWEIN A.J. ZIRBEL
28	MICHAEL HARTWEIN AYDEN WITHERSPOON

POWER POINT FOR DECEMBER

***3	ADVENT SERVICE	6:30 P.M.
	NELSON FELICIANO	
7	DAWSON OWENS	
***10	ADVENT SERVICE	6:30 P.M.
	NELSON FELICIANO	
14	ELIZABETH NEHM	
***17	ADVENT SERVICE	6:30 P.M.
	NELSON FELICIANO	
21	ELIZABETH NEHM	
***24	CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE	7:30 P.M.
	SHERYL MORRIS	
***25	CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE	10:00 A.M.
	SHERYL MORRIS	
28	NELSON FELICIANO	
***31	NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE	6:30 P.M. TBD



3	Ginger Witherspoon Walter A. Cain	19	Richard Melke Patricia L. Stuckwisch
4	Lyle Stratton Michael P. Parsley Jennifer Whittamore	20	Marly R. Hiatt Jill M. Goodwin Kathryn R. Goodwin
5	Melody M. Haase	21	N. Wayne Kirk
6	Tatum G. Shirley	22	Doris W. Deuth Mark Crothers
7	David J. Nelson	23	Keven Neff Aaron J. Zirbel
8	Elena P. Frock	25	JESUS CHRIST
9	Nayda Feliciano Maya C. Loftus Mallory R. Langlois	26	Barry J. Moore Nicholas C. Eldridge Gabrielle R. Hiskey Eloise J. Cain
10	Kristin O. Ducloux	27	Michael R. Case
11	Laura Crothers	30	Paul L. Wood
15	Kathy Petrusch Isaac J. Goodwin	31	Elliott S. Rogers
17	Gunnar Young		
18	Kaitlon M. Cain Jackson Cobb		



4	Don & Donna Ludwig (21 st)	22	Luie & Desiree Trudy (19 th)
11	Harlan & Judy Klankowski (61 st)	29	Andy & Sue Ann Toopes (46 th)
18	Mark & Marilyn Titschinger (54 th)	30	Adam & Samantha White (15 th)
21	Jimmy & Lorie Donohue (34 th)	31	Aaron & Jill Goodwin (20 th)