



**2026**

### **A Personal Note**

#### **Genesis 4:1-15: Jealousy Kills**

When we read the account of Cain and Abel, the first murder, we usually want to associate ourselves with the faithful Abel. After all, he was the Christian, worshipping rightly (with true faith and a right heart) whereas Cain worships God out of duty, in hopes of gaining something: reflecting a “works righteous” attitude, observed by Father Luther in his outstanding commentary on Genesis (a must read for every Christian).

Yet the sentiment of jealousy strikes a chord in all of our hearts, throughout the week and sometimes every day. Consider those that God seems to favor more than us, among our Christian brothers. God is, of course, allowed to reward whomever and whenever and however He wishes, particularly when it comes to temporal blessings. Just as He gives bread to the faithful, He is so generous that He provides for many of the needs of evil people too, as we confess in the Small Catechism on the Fourth Petition of the Lord’s prayer. God loves to give. He does not only give an abundance of spiritual graces to the faithful, but often blesses them in material ways also. We should not demand it but should not be surprised by it either. Nobody likes a kid who demands rewards from his dad for doing a good job, but praises a grateful kid who is surprised by a gift that he believed he honestly did not deserve. Yet we sinners wonder why our slice of bread is thinner than someone else’s: “why isn’t my sacrifice as good as his?” .....even though we know that it legitimately has come from a noble Abel-like faith and motivation!

The battle inside between the old and new Adam is harder than that with the external world and the devil. And coveting, though seemingly one of the least serious sins, is the root of so many others, and can even lead to murder. We often find all sins interconnected, and, of course, they all lead back to the First, of worshipping other gods, and not letting God be god. That includes self-pity when it appears that God has His favorites, and is prejudiced against us, although that is not at all true (Acts 10:34).

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In moments when your thought patterns drift into those dark and unhealthy places, think upon the Lord Jesus Christ, who thinks upon you 24-7. If anyone could complain, it would have been him, and yet not one tiny complaint was found on His tongue as He marches to the slaughter for us. As our Lenten hymn “Glory be to Jesus” (LSB 433) states: “Abels’ blood for vengeance pleaded to the skies; but the blood of Jesus for our pardon cries”. Jesus’ blood cries out of the puddle of our bloody jealousy and selfishness, and it pleads for us. And it works.

So don’t run from your cross, but embrace it. Do the opposite of those in the world when they witness someone faring better than they: do not be jealous, nor feel upstaged, nor allow that competitive spirit to be fueled. Rather, rejoice! In the army, the commanding officer assigns our places. And we foot soldiers don’t know the full battle plan. Yet he often gives the hardest assignments, and even the seemingly lowliest, to those most trustworthy or those who can handle the most stress, and excel under pressure and, in short, can endure suffering. We belong to the Lord’s army. He calls the shots. And as the parable of the unjust steward demonstrates, the fact that God’s grace trumps justice (Matthew 20:1–16) always works to our advantage. He is always love, because He is often unfair. If He were fair, we would all be abandoned on earth and left to burn in hell. Instead, He is gracious. He gives us not what we deserve, but way more! So we can trust all of His decisions as good for the world as He is saving it, and He is purifying our souls as well. Like the marking on Cain, the one we receive in the waters of Baptism and the Blood of the Holy Eucharist, marks each of us sinners too, and protects us from the evil one. On the final Day, equality will be established after a resurrection that is guaranteed. The Lord showers His blessings upon His holy people. So there is never a justification for jealousy, thinking that you deserve a better life, or did something wrong which caused your predicament, or that you are unable to handle more. Instead, you can rest in Christ and be satisfied with your lot in life. It is, after all, His. He has lent it to you. So, grab hold of it with all your might, treasuring it like gold, just as Christ embraced His lot, a cross, a priceless treasure, thinking about you as if you were the only one in the world.

### **Smiths Grove Site Outreach**

Ideally, worship services take place each week at the Smiths Grove site (First Christian Church, 427 College Street). They occur each Saturday at 5 PM. Prior to worship, Bible study is held at 4 PM.

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, 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 get to know one another and grow in service to the Lord Jesus!

***Pastor Ristau***

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## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL MINISTRY

### **More Renovations**

It is the middle of summer and although our building isn't as busy as it is during the school year, there is still a lot of activity. We are half-way through our summer care program that runs for 7 weeks and serves around 85 kids. VBS is complete and was a big success. And renovation projects continue to make progress.

One of the big renovations for the school is the addition of a playground for 2 and 3 year olds that will be placed in the alcove area between the church and the gym. An access door will

be installed and a new surface and play structures will be installed. This will allow for more access to our other play area for our older students. State regulations require schools to follow ratios which prohibit multiple classes using a play space at the same time. And with the growing number of students we were struggling to find play spaces for all of our age groups.

Summer is always the time when repairs take place, floors get stripped and waxed, carpets get cleaned, and furniture gets moved, adjusted, etc. It takes a lot of coordination, volunteers, and planning to get all of the classrooms ready for the next school year. This can be particularly tricky while trying to work around other summer activities.

God continues to use the school ministry to impact children and families for the sake of the Gospel. We are so blessed to be able to minister to so many and to make such a big difference in our community. Thank you to all of our members that back and support the school ministry.

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





**HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!**  
**Saturday, July 4, 2026**



The Church and School offices will be **CLOSED** on Friday, July 3 in honor of **Independence Day**.

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

In addition, Pastor Ristau will be off Wednesday, July 1 – Friday, July 3. He will be preaching at the Higher Things Youth Retreat in St. Louis and will be available by phone or email.

The office will also be closed Monday, July 6 and Tuesday, July 7 because Elizabeth will be on vacation. She will not be able to check voicemails or emails while she is away but will try to get caught up on those as quickly as possible when she returns on Wednesday, July 8.

## FREEDOM WORTH GUARDING

Because many Americans have never known life without freedom, it can be easy to take our liberties for granted. The Israelites, however, knew the harsh reality of slavery. Yet even after God led them out of Egypt, they struggled to embrace their newfound freedom. Faced with uncertainty, they grew fearful and complained against Moses and Aaron, longing for the familiarity of their former bondage rather than trusting God's provision.

Their story feels surprisingly familiar. As Christians, we have been set free through a far greater deliverance. Our freedom was secured at a great cost through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And yet, we sometimes drift back toward old habits, attitudes and patterns that once held us captive.

Scripture reminds us to stand firm in the freedom we have been given. As Paul writes in Galatians 5:1 (NKJV), "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

True freedom is not simply the absence of restraint. It is the opportunity to live fully in God's grace, walking in obedience, joy and purpose. This kind of freedom is worth celebrating, protecting and living out every day.





### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mary Brentlinger	<a href="mailto:Wendy1755@yahoo.com">Wendy1755@yahoo.com</a>
Jackson Cain	<a href="mailto:Cainjackson4412@gmail.com">Cainjackson4412@gmail.com</a>
Jim Davenport	<a href="mailto:jdavenport226@aol.com">jdavenport226@aol.com</a>
Katie Fritz (secretary)	<a href="mailto:ktfritz@yahoo.com">ktfritz@yahoo.com</a>
David Hoffman (president)	<a href="mailto:Ds77hoffman@gmail.com">Ds77hoffman@gmail.com</a>
David Jurgens	<a href="mailto:D_Jurgens@hotmail.com">D_Jurgens@hotmail.com</a>
Harold Ristau	<a href="mailto:harold.ristau@htlc-bg.org">harold.ristau@htlc-bg.org</a>

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 the General Assembly meeting on June 7, 2026 and their regular monthly meeting on June 16, 2026. A few paper copies of just the minutes will also be provided in the portico on the welcome center.

#### **General Assembly Meeting**

**Date/Time:** Sunday, June 7, 2026, 10:30am

#### **Opening Prayer**

#### **Agenda:**

- Call for Associate Pastor
  - Discussion
  - Majority vote approval to continue call
- Budget
  - Discussion
  - Majority vote approval for fiscal budget

#### **Closing Prayer**

**Meeting Adjourned: 11:20am**

#### **Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, June, 16, 2026, 6:30pm

**Opening Prayer:** Rev. Ristau

**Attendance:** Board members: Mary, Jim, Katie, David H, Jackson, David J, Rev. Ristau  
Non-Board members: Al Seavey, Corey Zirbel

#### **Agenda**

- **Approve this meeting agenda**
- **Minutes from previous meeting: previously approved via email**

(CONTINUED)

## **MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES**

- **Property Ministry (Al Seavey)**
  - Project report on church renovation project discussed in property section of newsletter
- **Lutheran School Ministry (Bill Hiskey)** Discussed school statement of activity
- **Youth Ministry (Sheryl Morris)**
- **Security and Safety Team (Nelson Felciano)**
  - April report provided by Nelson Felciano
  - The team still has positions open for general personnel to be observant of the facilities during services; anyone interested should contact Ron Alvarez, Robert Henson, or Nelson Felciano.
- **Finance Ministry (Neisha Schadwill)** See Finance ministry team for report
- **Elders Ministry (Corey Zirbel)** See Elders ministry team for report
- **Technology Ministry (Mike Bryant)**
- **Outreach Ministry (Carol White and Pam Schmaltz)**
- **Servant Groups (Bonnie Borth and Jackie Blindauer)** Report summarized below
- **Fellowship Ministry (Nancy Melke and Jackie Blindauer)** See Fellowship ministry team for report
- **Parish Report (Rev. Ristau)** Report discussed

### **Old Business:**

- 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration planned for Sunday, October 18
  - Rev. Parsons preaching
- Budget approved last Sunday at congregation meeting
  - Establish first meeting
- Call Process
- Update on hearing project
  - Discussion on options

### **New Business:**

- Moving expense reimbursement. To be consistent, it should hold for Pastor Ristau and new associate pastor.
  - Rev. Ristau contacting district to see if there is a district norm
- Request for constitution change from Elders. Amend by-laws to require general assembly vote before beginning any call process.

*VI. The pastor page 10*

*A. Call*

*A pastoral call shall first be approved by the General Assembly before a call committee is established by a simple majority vote.*

- Motion for Bylaw VI to be on the agenda by the next general assembly meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> David Hoffman – 2<sup>nd</sup> David Jurgens - Approved

- **Members:**

David Hoffman

Katie Fritz

Jim Davenport

Jackson Cain

Pastor Ristau

Corey Zirbel

Marly Hiatt

Geneva Bentley

Ayden Witherspoon

**Motion to Adjourn:** 1st David Jurgens – 2<sup>nd</sup> Jim Davenport – Approved

**Closing Prayer:** Lord's Prayer

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:55pm

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 6:30pm

(CONTINUED)

## **MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES**

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**Ministry Reports:** (most are in their own section in the newsletter)

### **Servant Groups**

We will be meeting on July 12 at 11:00 am to review the groups and the purpose. Groups have been updated to remove some people who are no longer members and new members will be added in before the meeting. This way the leaders will be able to contact the new members to let them know which group they are in.

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

### **MINISTRY TEAMS 2025-2026**

#### **Holy Trinity Youth**

Ignite Ages 2 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade Sheryl Morris  
Ablaze Ages 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade Sheryl Morris

#### **Lutheran School**

Todd Otto/Bill Hiskey, D.S.M.

#### **Elders**

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

Pastor Press

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 Ristau

Mara Evangelical church

Nelson Feliciano

#### **Servant Groups**

Jackie Blindauer & Bonnie Borth

### **CALL COMMITTEE**

As you know we are in the process of calling an Associate Pastor. Here is the list of members serving on the Call Committee:

**Geneva Bentley**

**Katie Fritz**

**Pastor Ristau**

**Jackson Cain**

**Marly Hiatt**

**Ayden Witherspoon**

**Jim Davenport**

**David Hoffman**

**Corey Zirbel**

Please support the committee with your prayers.

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## MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES



### CHILDREN'S/YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

Ministry Team Leader: Sheryl Morris

**Ignite Sunday School** is a combined multi-age class for PreK through 5<sup>th</sup> grade that meets in the Ignite room (012) each Sunday at approximately 9:15am. We hope you can join us! This class is NOT meeting the month of July.

**Ablaze** is a place where students in grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> can engage in deep conversations and grow in their relationship with God. Join us on Sundays at approximately 9:15am in EO-201 upstairs. This class is also NOT meeting the month of July.

Students in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades are joining the Adult Bible study in the Fellowship Hall.

### IMPORTANT NEWS:

1. **ARK VISIT:** We had nine people attend the Ark Exhibit and Creation Museum in early June. What an impressive structure and a great way to see and learn how Noah's ancestors built and lived on the ark during the flood. Everyone had a great time! We will definitely plan another trip in the future!



2. **VBS RECAP:** We were blessed to have an average of 90 kids who heard about how we can trust in Jesus when we are alone, feeling powerless, needing hope, and needing help! Our mission project for VBS was through the Giving Box Project and Life's Better Together – Organization. We collected cash and gift cards to help the families with severe illness in their families and facing financial hardships. We want to say a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered their time and talents to our VBS True North program and donated to "Life's Better Together organization!"



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### CHILDREN'S/YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM



3. **JULY** is our month to regroup as a ministry and prepare for our new Sunday School and Youth Ministry for the 2026-27 year. We look forward to working with our youth in developing a closer relationship with Christ our Savior through Bible study, fellowship, and serving others. Look for more information in the bulletin and newsletter in August about our Sunday School Kickoff to start the year and other events this fall!

4. **VOLUNTEERS:** We are always looking for volunteers to work with our youth! Current needs are volunteers to help teach our Ablaze youth (Junior High to High School age) on Sunday mornings. We are hoping to have a "team" of teachers to share in this responsibility. We are also looking for members to serve on our Youth and Children's Ministry Team. This team works hard to develop activities and an environment that help our youth grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. We meet approximately every quarter and volunteer at events for our youth. We ask that you prayerfully consider joining our team. If you have any questions, please contact Sheryl Morris at 270-784-2781. We look forward to hearing from you!

### ELDER'S MINISTRY TEAM

Head Elder: Corey Zirbel

#### **ELDERS ASSIGNMENTS**

From the Board meeting on 6/16/26:

- Update on sanctuary renovation
- Discussions on having dedication service when we return to the sanctuary. Date is still TBD but is looking like Sunday, July 19. One service at 9:00am with potluck to follow. Pastor would like to recognize our BOD and Ministry Team members that day as well.
- Update on delinquent list: Pastor and Elders have been working on contacting those who have been delinquent more than two years. We will be sending out a few letters to those whom we haven't made contact with.
- Elders and Pastor have a monthly visit schedule for shut-ins. We have two groups and will alternate the visits monthly between Pastor and Elders.
- Proposed amendment to the HTLC constitution as to the calling of a pastor.
- Jerome Jascur has resigned his position as elder and will be replaced by Aaron Witherspoon.
- Next meeting is Thursday, July 2 at 6:30pm.



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**ELDER'S MINISTRY TEAM**

In previous years we have had several HTLC families "assigned" to our Elders and we are doing that again. If you have a spiritual issue that you need assistance with, the Elders are available for you as well as the pastor. Please know that this includes having communion at home if you are unable to attend worship services at this time.

Following is a listing of the Elders and the families assigned to each of them. Copies of these lists are posted on the bulletin boards in the Narthex.

**Peter Brandt**

1. Steve & Melissa Albert
2. Ron & LWanda Belek
3. Mike & Janet Bryant
4. Alex & Ann Cain
5. Mike & Barb Calvin
6. Jessica Chevalier
7. Jeff Dachtler
8. Aaron & Jill Goodwin
9. Martin & Sharon Hahn
10. Michael Hartwein
11. Bill & Eleanor Hiskey
12. Heather Hugo
13. Wayne & Brenda Kirk
14. Irma Lamm
15. Will & Angie Luck
16. Katherine & Adam Maulden
17. Deb Maulden
18. Emily Maulden
19. Henry & Rosy Mertz
20. Andrew & Melissa Tolbert
21. Paul Wood

**Michael Hartwein**

1. Frances Bridges
2. Don Brod
3. Steve Brooks
4. Jimmy & Lorie Donohue
5. Kanita Ducloux
6. Jeff & Hilary Eversoll
7. Nelson & Nayda Feliciano
8. Colin & Katie Fritz
9. Breanna Moser
10. David & Marty King
11. Al Knudson
12. James Lapp
13. Don & Donna Ludwig
14. Jerry & Michelle Mefford
15. Ellen Murphy
16. Rande & Kay Murphy
17. Kim Newhart
18. Markus & Neisha Schadwill
19. Jim & Elaine Towe

**Marly Hiatt**

1. Bill & Sarah Hiskey
2. David & Laurie Jurgens
3. David & Susan Justus
4. Harlan & Judy Klankowski
5. Josh & Emily Langlois
6. Heidi & Elizabeth Lindsey
7. Juanita Linhardt
8. Kyle & Maya Loftus
9. Jay Markel
10. Ron & Beth Markel
11. Cliff & Karen Mitchell
12. Elizabeth Nehm
13. Scott & Jean Nehm
14. Jeff & April Owens
15. Jessica Payne
16. Kay Payne
17. Ed & Kathy Petrusch
18. Andy & SueAnn Toopes
19. Alex & Vanessa Ulm
20. Chris & Andrea Unick

**(CONTINUED)****Ron Crittenden**

1. Walter & Barbara Dobring
2. Nick & Elizabeth Garber
3. Marsha Holm
4. Charles & Janet James
5. Kenneth & Dana Johnson
6. Frank & Susan Kutschenreuter
7. Nancy Linhardt
8. Veronica Loggins
9. Kelley Matthews
10. George & Jennifer Merkle
11. Deanna Moore & JonMichael Tuck
12. Shirley Moore
13. Bob Otto
14. Matt & Jeanie Price
15. Barbara Pugh
16. Tim & Heather Rathert
17. Bernie & Donna Schewe
18. Brian & Nina Vratana
19. Linda Woods

**Bob Otto**

**ELDER'S MINISTRY TEAM**

**Harlan Klankowski**

1. Ellen Birdwell
2. Roy & Deanna Boddeker
3. Bruce & Bonnie Borth
4. Peter & Cindy Brandt
5. Mark & Laura Crothers
6. Doris Deuth
7. Alan & Adrienne Dieball
8. Bob Eversoll
9. Mary Jane Gerlach
10. John & Kathy Hamilton
11. Ralph & Joyce Piel
12. Rick & Margaret Simpson
13. Shane Simpson
14. Joan Thomason
15. Kirk & Joleen Toth
16. Robert & Anna Waldren
17. Dick & Nancy Webber
18. Bart & Carol White
19. Jim & Donna White
20. Amy Wieting

1. Joe & Sue Banister
2. Greg Bergmann
3. Nicholas & Bethany Boeneke
4. Greg & Leslie Brauer
5. Mike & Pam Case
6. Janese Cleary
7. Ron & Jay Davis
8. Nicholas & Kylie Eldridge
9. Barbara Frost
10. Don Green
11. Tina Hansen
12. John Heinze
13. Marly & Deb Hiatt
14. Jerome & Nancy Jascur
15. Jacob & Heather Jordan
16. Jim & Sheryl Morris
17. Del & Sally Rathert
18. Jack Sikes
19. Eva White
20. Ken & Jackie White

**Jason Owens**

**Keven Neff**

1. Ronald & Lori Alvarez
2. Mary Brentlinger
3. Thelma Crabtree
4. Joe Ertl
5. Irene Garrett
6. Frank Jessie, III & Elizabeth Moss
7. Beth Levan
8. Bill & Kathleen Parsons
9. Martin & Stacy Peterson
10. Larry Poteet
11. Amy Poteet
12. Paul & Julie Powers
13. Kevin & Pam Schmaltz
14. Belinda Settlemoir
15. Faye Talbott
16. Mark & Marilyn Titschinger
17. Joe & Debbie Turner
18. Luie & Desiree Trudy
19. Lisa Weiser
20. Aaron & Ginger Witherspoon

1. Steve Adams
2. Dan & Jackie Blindauer
3. Joshua & Katie Borne
4. Aaron & Beth Britton
5. Darrell & Jennifer Burns
6. Ron & Wendy Crittenden
7. Jim & Jessica Davenport
8. Mark & Jessica Heyungs & Leah Nelson
9. Matt Linhardt
10. Craig & Christine Long
11. Mark & Greta McClendon
12. Barry & Jamie Moore
13. Kurt & Kim Otto
14. Josh Rathert
15. Daniel & Amber Rosbottom
16. Vernon & Sherry Small
17. Ralph Stewart
18. Sandy Ynda
19. Corey & Megan Zirbel

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**MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES****ELDER'S MINISTRY TEAM****Aaron Witherspoon**

1. Brian & Jackie Adams
2. Geneva Bentley & Johnie Trent
3. Karen Buege
4. Jackson & Katie Cain
5. Lynn & Carole Clark
6. Brian & Tiffany Denton
7. Dave & Susan Hoffman
8. Robin & Martha Lawrentz
9. Richard & Nancy Melke
10. Don Merkle
11. Keven & Myrna Neff
12. David & Shirley Nelson
13. Drew & Sheridan Pinerola
14. Glenn & Joyce Schilke
15. Dick & Claudine Stirn
16. Deb Urman
17. Jordan & Amber Wessling
18. Helen Wicklander
19. Dennis & Sandy Widmann

**Corey Zirbel**

1. Neal & Traci Gleason
2. Katie Law
3. Todd & Kelley Otto
4. Judy Owens
5. Jason & Sonya Owens
6. Raul & Anne Padilla
7. Michael & Kimberly Parsley
8. Craig & Jodi Praxl
9. Mark & Connie Press
10. Harold & Elise Ristau
11. Al & Laurie Seavey
12. Carolyn Spiller
13. Lyle Stratton
14. Charlie & Patti Stuckwisch
15. Mike & Diane Thorpe
16. Chris & Melissa Veith
17. Del Wolff
18. Cindee Wood
19. Sue Woods
20. Steve Zielke

**(CONTINUED)****A PRAYER FOR PARENTS**

Heavenly Father,

Make me a better parent. Teach me to understand my children, to listen patiently to what they say and to answer all their questions kindly. Keep me from interrupting or contradicting them. Help me be as courteous to them as I would have them be to me.

Forbid that I should ever laugh at their mistakes, or resort to shame or ridicule when they displease me. May I never punish them for my own selfish satisfaction or to show my power. Let me not tempt my children to lie or steal. Guide me, hour by hour, that I may demonstrate in all I say and do that honesty leads to happiness.

Reduce, I pray, the harshness in me. When I am out of sorts, help me, Lord, to hold my tongue. May I ever be mindful that my children are still children, and help me not expect from them the judgment of adults. Let me not rob them of opportunities to grow, to serve themselves and to make decisions. Grant me the wisdom to allow what is good and the courage to deny what may harm them.

Make me fair, just and kind. And fit me, Lord, to be loved, respected and imitated by my children.

Amen.

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### FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Ministry Team Leaders: Jackie Blindauer and Nancy Melke



Back by popular demand! Summer fun at the Brandt's is our next Fellowship event. We will meet on Saturday, July 18 from 3:00-7:00pm at Peter and Cindy Brandt's house.

Activities include corn hole, ping pong, foosball, swings, teeter totter, and the possibility of a bonfire as the sun sets. Like last year, we'll also have live music as we visit with one another. A Dulcimer group (SoKY HeartStrings with several HTLC members!) will play from 4:30-5:30 as we visit. Supper will start at 5:30pm.

Peter and Cindy are providing chicken and attendees are asked to provide salad, sides, and desserts. A sign-up sheet will be at the portico entrance to the gymnasium where we've been having worship services while our sanctuary renovations continue.

The location of the event is 731 Martinsville Ford Rd (BG). Take Cemetery Rd (Hwy 234) 10 miles past I-65. At the Hwy 961 sign, take a left onto Martinsville Ford Rd. The Brandt's are the last house on the right and there is a long black fence on the right before the driveway. Call Cindy (270-303-3993) or Peter (270-202-2908) if you need help getting there. If using navigation, be sure to enter the who street name: "Martinsville Ford Road."

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Sunday, August 30 at 4:00pm – Food Fusion Feast

September – a show "Smoked" – date and time TBD

Sunday, October 18 at 4:00pm – 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration with special service and meal to follow

From the June 16 Board Meeting minutes:

- Upcoming events include Bowling on June 28, Summer Fun at the Brandt's on July 18, and Food Fusion Feast on August 30. September TBD, October 18 is the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary Celebration and November 8 is the Veterans' Dinner. In 2027 a murder mystery dinner is being planned with an original script.
- Soon you will be able to order Polo (Golf) dry fit shirts or a long sleeve dry fit jacket. These are going to be available to help us promote HTLC and the school. There will also be a t-shirt, long sleeve, and possibly a sweatshirt order to help celebrate our anniversary.
- Thanks to all 75 people who bought Hot Rods tickets. Unfortunately it was a rained out game. Use your tickets at another game and enjoy.
- No full meeting was held in June but on June 9 we discussed the dry fit shirts that will be ready soon to purchase.

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**MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES**



Committee Leader: Open

**May Giving to the General Fund:**

Date	Amount
5/3	\$12,999
5/10	\$ 9,239
5/17	\$10,768
5/24	\$ 9,508
5/31	\$ 8,304
Total	\$50,818

Fiscal Year to Date (5/31/26)

Actual Giving: \$591,136

Weekly Average: \$12,315

Fiscal Year

Budget: \$730,580

Budgeted

Weekly: \$14,050

Account Balances:

Special Projects Money Market: \$116,912

Operating Account: \$92,000

Building Loan: \$0

David King  
 HTLC Financial Secretary

**ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS:**

To give on the internet, go here:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z9WQ>



To give with your smartphone, scan this:

If you have questions, contact David King (270-438-6263).



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**LUTHERAN SCHOOL MINISTRY TEAM**

Team Leader: Todd Otto



**LIMITED Enrollment for the 2026-2027 School Year is OPEN!**. Contact the School Office at 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.

**NOW HIRING** for the 2026-2027 school year –

a. The preschool is also hiring a Monday-Friday preschool teacher. Pay is based on experience and tuition benefits are available. Please contact the school office (270-843-1001) or Heather Carroll if you are interested or go online to [www.htlsbg.com](http://www.htlsbg.com).

b. The preschool is hiring substitute teachers. Please contact the school office at 270-843-1001 or Heather Carroll if you are interested in subbing. interested. You may also go online to [www.htlsbg.com](http://www.htlsbg.com).

c. The school is also hiring classroom aides. Pay rates for this position are hourly. Please contact the school office or Bill Hiskey if you are interested. You may also go online to [www.htlsbg.com](http://www.htlsbg.com).



**Summer Care** concludes on Friday, July 24.

The **2026-2027 school year** begins Wednesday, August 12 for K-6<sup>th</sup> graders and Monday, August 17 for preschoolers.



We continue to collect the following items in containers in the Fellowship Hall and/or Narthex:

**Aluminum Can Recycling** - the collection bin – located near the church van. Please bring your crushed cans to HTLS in bags and the monies will be used in various capacities to benefit the ministry of HTLS.

**Kroger Community Rewards** – Percentage of sales is credited to the School. It must be renewed each year. Contact the School Office to renew your card.

**Raise Right Gift Card Program** - Can be ordered throughout the year. The whole list of vendors is available online. Send your order form & check to the School Office and we'll get the order placed immediately.



(CONTINUED)

## MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES



### Facilities Report (from the 6/16/26 Board meeting minutes)

#### **Upcoming Preventative Maintenance**

- Trane will be on site to do PM for the HVAC system in the EO building.
- Bowling Green Refrigeration to do PM on non EO HVAC systems: clean coils, replace filters, test pressures.
- Testing of all Exit signs, emergency lights, and red door alarms before school resumes.

#### **Current Projects**

- Insulation that covers the large exterior ducts leading into and out of the air handler on the roof which services the EO building has deteriorated. West KY Insulation will be replacing sometime in July.
- Installation of an exterior door for the school to have access to the play area on the east side of the Sanctuary. Project to be fully completed before school begins in the Fall. Waiting on permit approval.
- Install new signage so that owners of cars left in lot overnight will be aware their car may be towed.
- Continued work on organizing and cleaning up the second-floor storage room.
- All electronics and musical equipment removed during the move process are in the first-floor computer lab. Needing "persons in the know" to decide on what we keep/donate/discard.

#### **Completed Projects**

- Stewart Richey replaced the damaged window in the gym.
- Completed auditing of the access card and key databases for accuracy.
- Martin Hahn completed the application process for an energy rebate from TVA due to the new AC units for the preschool building. We received \$800.

#### **Renovation Update**

- **Phase 1 Completed:** Removal of all furniture and items in the Sanctuary, Narthex, and storage rooms.
- **Phase 2 Completed:** May 22 – May 29 Removal of asbestos
- **Phase 3 Completed:** June 1 – June 2 Matrix Environmental completes asbestos abatement air clearances and AHERA program closeout paperwork to the state
- **Phase 4 Completed:** June 3 – June 12 Floor Installations (Epoxy flooring with flakes)
- **Phase 5 In Process:** Will be completed by June 19 Drywall installation and misc. drywall repairs
- **Phase 6:** June 29 – July 10 Painting of Sanctuary, Narthex, hallway, and storage rooms
- **Phase 7:** July 13 – July 17 Installation of carpeting in the choir loft
- **Phase 8: Saturday, July 18** Move back into the Sanctuary and Narthex; just like the removal of furniture and items from the Sanctuary and Narthex took a look of help, this move back in day will as well. We appreciate it if you would consider dedicating a portion of your time on Saturday to help with this project as it will help things go more smoothly. Thank you for your consideration.





True Royal men's shirt



Women's Polo



Softshell Jacket

**COMING SOON!** HTLC embroidered polos and jackets (see left panel for examples)! To help get Holy Trinity's name out in the community and hopefully provide opportunities for conversations and outreach, the fellowship committee will be offering men's and women's polos and jackets. They will be embroidered with the LCMS triple cross and include text of Holy Trinity Lutheran, Bowling Green, KY! All shirts will be royal blue. Be on the lookout at church for more specifics on sizing, prices, and the logo; these will need to be pre-ordered and pre-paid. *If your family is looking for a less expensive option, there will be silk-screened t-shirts with 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo available in early fall closer to our October anniversary celebration!* Or if able, purchase both! Order forms will be available soon!!



**GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING AND SURVEY RESULTS**

On Sunday, June 7, 2026, a 2/3 or ¾ majority voted in favor of continuing to pursue to path of calling an associate pastor. A slightly higher majority voted in favor of the 2026-27 fiscal year budget which included the projected salary.

Based on input from the congregation, priorities for an associate pastor are listed and ranked below (those items on the same line received equal votes):

1. Youth ministry
2. Visiting
3. Preaching strength; Campus ministry; teaching (Adult Bible Study)
4. Young adults, Children ministry
5. Social ministry (acts of human care in surrounding BG community); leading and planning worship; cultivating stewardship

Other comments included: a focus on young families, ministry among the elderly, small group Bible studies, as well as several comments on ensuring the associate can work well with the senior pastor and also school staff.



# Confirmation

CLASSES

**CONFIRMATION:** Until mid-August, Pastor Ristau is seeking young people who are ready for confirmation. Pastor is flexible when it comes to admitting younger people into the class, while trying to confirm students by the time they are 12 years old (before reaching teenage years, after which time instruction ideally continues during youth group and Sunday mornings), if a child desires it. These decisions would be on a case-by-case basis in discussion with the family. Please reach out to Pastor Ristau directly for more information.



The Men's Bible study will resume this fall, on Tuesday, September 8 at 9:30am. Contact Dick Stirn at 270-793-9991 if you are interested in attending.

The Women's Bible study will resume this fall on Tuesday, September 15 at 9:30am. Pastor Press will be doing the lessons this fall. Contact him at 651-788-6940 or [press@csp.edu](mailto:press@csp.edu) if you are interested in attending.

# Men's Retreat



We invite all men to participate in the Men's Retreat on Friday, October 2 – Sunday, October 4 at Camp Arcadia in Arcadia, Michigan ([www.camp\\_arcadia.com](http://www.camp_arcadia.com)). We will have an opportunity to hear, meet, and talk with Chad Foster, a LCMS Pastor, as the speaker for this event. The main event (October 2-4) costs \$289.00 for room and board and it's \$75.00 for an extra evening on October 1. The website to register is [www.camp-Arcadia.com/register](http://www.camp-Arcadia.com/register) or you can call Rachel at 231-889-4361. Please contact Bill Parsons if you have other general questions at 231-944-6150 or David Jurgens if you have questions about transportation at 270-256-2260.



## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

We have an AED. It was donated to Holy Trinity by HTLC member, Emily Petrusch Langlois.

It is located on the wall by the entrance door to the ladies bathroom in the gym.





**JUST A REMINDER:** If you would like to have flowers on the altar for our Sunday services please contact the Church Office.



**POWERPOINT DURING CHURCH:** We are looking for a few people to help with advancing the PowerPoint slides during the Sunday, 8:00am worship service. If you are interested in assisting with this opportunity, please contact Beth Markel.



**ALTAR GUILD VOLUNTEERS**

We need volunteers to wash communion ware after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Service. It takes about 30 minutes – every Sunday of the month. There are a few additional communion services throughout the year as well.

If we have enough volunteers you may only be needed a few times a year for this service. Please contact Sue Banister at 270-782-1131 or Patti Stuckwisch at 270-999-0115 if you are willing to volunteer.



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



**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 Lutheran Church & School are on the Internet.

Our websites are continually updated.  
The addresses are:

**Web Site Addresses**

Church

[www.htlc-bgky.com](http://www.htlc-bgky.com)

School

[www.HTLSBG.com](http://www.HTLSBG.com)

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



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](mailto:church.admin@htlc-bg.org)

**School e-mail address**

[school.admin@htlc-bg.org](mailto:school.admin@htlc-bg.org)

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

Friendly  
Reminders

**PLEASE REMEMBER:** During the week all of the outside doors of the facility are locked. This is a safety issue for the students and staff.

Please contact the church secretary if you need entrance.



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  
**(CONTINUED)**

**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.



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



**OUR MEMBERS THAT ARE HOMEBOUND...**

**Greg Bergmann, Charles James, Irma Lamm, Don & Donna Ludwig, and Del Wolff**

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



**UNITED IN HOLY MATRIMONY LAST MONTH WERE...**

**Alexandra Blindauer and Josh Chamberlain**

The ceremony was held in Wisconsin on Friday, June 5. Alexandra is the daughter of HTLC members Dan & Jackie Blindauer.

**AND**

**Deanna Marie Moore and JonMichael Tuck**

They were united in a private ceremony on Saturday, June 6 held in Murfreesboro, TN. Deanna is a HTLC member.

**We pray that the Lord will bless their marriages and that He will always be in the center of their lives together.**





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

**Janet Bryant** in the death of her brother, Mark White. Mark died on Tuesday, June 2 at 75 years of age. A graveside memorial service was held in Tennessee.

**Andrew Toopes** in the death of his sister, Beth Smallbeck. Beth died on Tuesday, June 9 at 67 years of age. The funeral was held in Las Vegas, NV.

**Susan Justus** in the death of her mother, Margie Evans. Margie died on Tuesday, June 16 at 95 years of age.

**We commend the families of Mike, Janet, & Nathan; Michael, Jaclyn, & Asher; Andy & Sue Ann Toopes; Susan & David Justus, and Heather Hugo to the comfort and compassion of our Loving and Living Lord Jesus Christ.**



**FREEDOM**

Each one of us is born most free  
And we alone can choose  
To do what God would have us do,  
To use what God would use.

Or, we are also free to seek  
The proud and selfish way —  
A life where other gods come first  
To reign and hold full sway.

But when we follow where Christ leads,  
We find that freedom's place  
Is really in God's Will for us,  
And we have chosen GRACE!

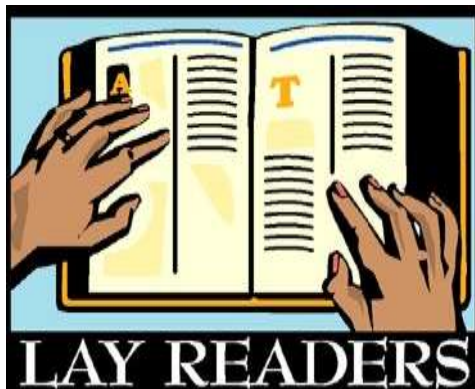
—Peggy Ferrell, Prayers and Poems





**GREETERS FOR JULY**  
 (7/5 (Portico), 7/12 (Portico), 7/19 (Narthex)  
 7/26 (Narthex)  
 (First person/couple - 8:00 service  
 Second person/couple - 10:30 service)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>
5	MARK & CONNIE PRESS
12	BRITTANY, ASHLEY, & ROBERT HENSON
19	DAVID & LAURIE JURGENS
26	PETER & CINDY BRANDT KEVIN & PAM SCHMALTZ



**READERS FOR JULY**  
 No Lay Readers Until 7/26  
 (First person - 8:00 service  
 Second person - 10:30 service)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>
26	BART WHITE DAVID JURGENS



**ACOLYTES FOR JULY**  
 No Acolytes until 7/26  
 (First person - 8:00 service  
 Second person - 10:30 service)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>
26	HUNTLEY MOORE CHARLOTTE FRITZ



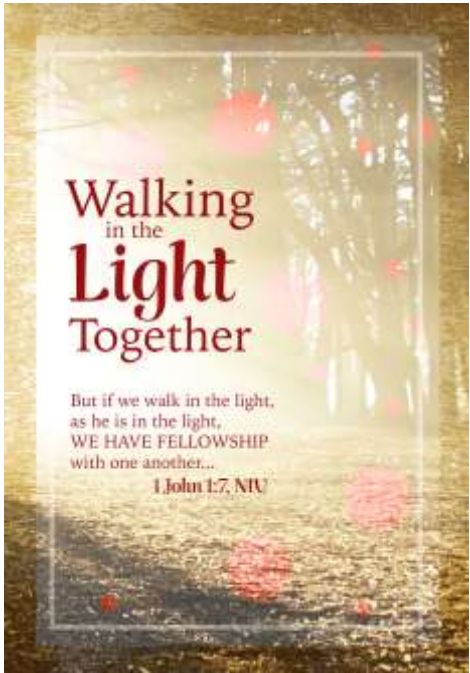
**Combined Services: 7/5, 7/12, 7/19**  
 Sue Banister  
 Janet Bryant  
 OR  
 Megan Zirbel

**8:00am and 10:30am Services on 7/26**  
 8:00am Sue Banister  
 Janet Bryant  
 10:30am Megan Zirbel



**COMMUNION SERVERS  
FOR JULY**

8:00 A.M.                BRUCE BORTH  
10:30 A.M.              DAVID JURGENS



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

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>
5	NO POWERPOINT
12	NO POWERPOINT
19	NO POWERPOINT
26	MICHAEL MOORE A.J. ZIRBEL

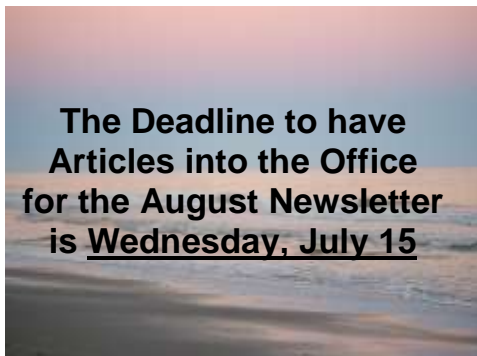


**CHRISTIAN SYMBOL**

**SHELL** — A scallop shell, often shown pointing downward with three drops of water falling from it, is a Christian symbol of baptism and the washing away of sin. The three drops of water represent the Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

From the earliest centuries of the church, the shell was connected with baptism because it could be used to pour water over a person's head. In a time when many baptisms took place in rivers, lakes or outdoor settings, a simple shell served as a natural vessel, reminding believers that God uses humble, ordinary things to accomplish sacred purposes.

Today, the scallop shell continues to appear in baptismal fonts, church art and Christian design. It quietly proclaims the message of baptism: washed by grace, claimed by God and welcomed into the family of faith.





1	Jessica L. Payne	14	Craig J. Praxl
2	Amy E. Wieting		Joseph L. Oates
	Debra K. Hiatt	16	Susan L. Kutschenreuter
	Andrea N. Unick		Annie C. Tolbert
3	Mary Jane Gerlach	17	Karen J. Mitchell
4	Donna C. Ludwig		Jonathan S. Crothers
	Heather R. Hugo		Breeanna M. Heyungs
	Jaclyn D. Bryant		Danica Heyungs
5	Barbara A. Pugh	18	Kimberly S. Parsley
	Kaydence R. Stewart	20	Sandra S. Widmann
6	Heather A. Jordan	22	Jessica R. Davenport
	Georgie M. Zirbel	24	Jerry G. Mefford
7	Amelia Britton		Ashley B. Henson
	Bryn E. Unick		Corinne C. Owens
8	Clifford C. Mitchell, Jr.	25	William G Brewer
9	Judith G. Owens	26	Bonnie J. Borth
	George A. Merkle	27	Henry M. Mertz
	Megan D. Zirbel		Jeanie Price
	Samantha G. White	29	Michael M. Bryant
10	Jennifer R. Kuklish-Merkle		Nathanial R. Bryant
12	Raul H. Padilla		Bentley Cobb
13	Kathleen C. Parsons	30	Faye Talbott
	Ginger K. Stewart		Judy Klankowski
	Elizabeth Moss	31	Barbara A. Calvin
			Brian Denton



3	Kevin & Pam Schmaltz (38 <sup>th</sup> )	12	Michael & Jaclyn Bryant (12 <sup>th</sup> )
	Kenneth & Dana Johnson (19 <sup>th</sup> )	16	David & Shirley Nelson (38 <sup>th</sup> )
6	Ron & LWanda Belek (58 <sup>th</sup> )	19	Greg & Leslie Brauer (46 <sup>th</sup> )
8	Bill & Sarah Hiskey (27 <sup>th</sup> )	22	Ron & Beth Markel (48 <sup>th</sup> )
9	Keven & Myrna Neff (60 <sup>th</sup> )	24	Bart & Carol White (55 <sup>th</sup> )
	Daniel & Amber Rosbottom (15 <sup>th</sup> )		Jackson & Kaitlon Cain (5 <sup>th</sup> )
11	George & Jennifer Merkle (30 <sup>th</sup> )	25	Mark & Jess Heyungs (11 <sup>th</sup> )
		26	Al & Laurie Seavey (29 <sup>th</sup> )