

# The Messenger

March 2023

Volume 88, Issue 3

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## From our Pastor

### Parched and ready to drink

*O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we continue our walk through the 40 days of Lent this month, we are in the midst of this great paradox: Lent holds together our human experience of sometimes walking through a parched desert while surrounded with the promise of streams of living water.

This is our life as people claimed by God in the promises of baptism.

We turn in most of Lent to the stories of Jesus in John's gospel. When we hear about sin in John's gospel, it is good to remember that frequently that sin is understood as the state of being separated or out of relationship with God, not a moral wrong-doing or failing.

The living waters of baptism show up in many forms in the Lenten readings. The image, sound, taste, and refreshing coolness of water are all the more powerful when held in contrast with the parched and dusty wilderness — experienced by people feeling spiritual thirst or a loss of direction, as well as the increasing concern in many parts of the world, including our American west, over the threat of actual lack of water because of lingering drought conditions.

We return, again and again, to the promises made with water that we will be renewed, refreshed and reborn in our life in Christ.

Blessings to you, dear church, in your thirst and in your rebirth in these 40 days of Lent.

Pastor Brenda +



## Morning Prayer

We will be gathering at the church to pray Morning Prayer on weekdays during Lent at 8:30 a.m. We meet in the sanctuary, and are seated in the choir pews in the chancel. Because we typically pray for every member of the congregation by name during Lent at these services, we have created a simplified order of Morning Prayer for you to pray at home every day during this season. See that order, and the list of names for each day, in an insert in this newsletter.

## Wednesday Evening Prayer and Thursday Lenten study

We will gather for Evening Prayer on Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. At this quiet, mid-week, traditional vespers service, our prayers rise as incense as we enter the quiet of the night.

We will not have a Lenten study on Wednesdays after Evening Prayer, but we will have a Lenten study as part of our Thursday evening Zoom Happy Hour. If you would like to participate via Zoom, please contact the church office so that we can email you the Zoom link.

The link for the Happy Hour, which will be held March 2, 9, 23, 30 at 7 p.m., and March 16 at 8 p.m. is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88223177589?pwd=NZxdkpnWUFUTENoa2dzNjhPQW1Ydz09>

Meeting ID: 882 2317 7589

Passcode: 190669

## Stations of the Cross

We will gather in person to pray Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings at 5:30, in the chancel area of the sanctuary. Please enter through the office door. For those who would like to pray Stations from home, our recording of Stations of the Cross from 2020 is available on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCamdlF705R3knw7NEksvFvg>.

## Sunday Church School Lenten Project 2023 - Reminder

The Parish Education Committee is requesting participation from the congregation in our SCS Lenten Project.

For the Good Shepherd Center's Easter basket distribution this year, we will again be collecting chocolate bunnies. We ask that the bunnies be medium-sized, preferably 6 oz. Having a uniform size helps make the preparation of the baskets a little easier for GSC staff.

Bunnies can be brought in, starting on Ash Wednesday (February 22) and placed on a table located in the administrative hall near the back alley door. We will need to have all bunnies dropped off at HT by **Wednesday, March 15**, in order for GSC to have them in time for the Easter basket distribution dates.

Thank you so much in advance for any help you can provide with our Lenten Project!

Kris Abraham, Parish Education Committee Chair

# From Our Directors of Parish Ministry

Don and Sue Achenbach

## Rambam's Ladder

Way back in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, rabbi and philosopher Moses Maimonides wrote a 93-page tutorial on how people should treat the poor. The Jewish tradition of tzedakah was looked upon as a manner of turning wrongs into rights and that helping the poor was “not simply a good act, but rather what God expects.” He communicated his philosophy of giving in eight steps which became known as Rambam's Ladder (his initials in Hebrew were Rabbi Moses ben Maimon). Paraphrasing author Julie Salamon and knowing something about ladders from my previous career, it's probably best to start at the bottom rung and climb up, and so we shall:

**TO GIVE BITTERLY-** when one gives but does so reluctantly and with much complaint

**TO GIVE LESS THAN IS PROPER, BUT TO DO SO WITH A SMILE-** when you give less than is appropriate but do so cheerfully

**TO GIVE DURING A SOLICITATION-** when you give simply because someone asked

**TO GIVE WITHOUT BEING ASKED-** when you recognize a need and give without solicitation

**TO GIVE TO SOMEONE IN NEED, ALLOWING THEM TO KNOW IT WAS YOU WHO GAVE-** Sages would wrap coins in sheets and put them over their shoulders while walking among those in need. The coins would fall out allowing shameless acceptance of the offering.

**TO GIVE TO SOMEONE YOU KNOW BUT THEY DON'T KNOW THAT IT WAS YOU WHO GAVE-** Rabbinic sages would toss coins into the doorways of people in need and be gone before the recipient could see them.

**TO GIVE ANONYMOUSLY TO ANONYMOUS RECIPIENTS-** in Maimonides' mind this was fulfilling the spirit of tzedakah for its own sake but there is still a top rung:

**TO MAKE A LARGE ENOUGH GIFT OR LOAN, OR EVEN BETTER, FIND HIM A JOB SO THAT HE WILL NEVER HAVE TO BEG AGAIN-** “And you will give strength to the resident alien, so he may live among you.” (Leviticus 25:35)

A ladder to gauge our giving, who knew? Well, besides a 12<sup>th</sup> century rabbi/philosopher, you!

# Applications For Holy Trinity Scholarships

## Available on March 1st

Scholarship applications will become available on **March 1st**. The deadline for all applications will be **May 1st**. Please contact the church office if you are interested in any of the following applications:

### **Shaffer-Pearson Scholarship**

Available to active members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church going on to college or other post high-school education as a full-time student.

### **Paula Meleky Scholarship**

Available to members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church with preference given to those pursuing a teaching degree at Thiel College. If no eligible member in the field of education applies, other persons in other fields and colleges will be considered.

### **Dr. Peter And Helen Brath Scholarship**

Available to active members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church enrolled or going to be enrolled as full time Thiel College students.

### **Wilbur P. Baird / Warren Shelly Scholarship**

Available to active members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church going on to college or other post high-school education.

### **The Jack M. and Marjorie H. Dersheimer Scholarship Fund**

Available to active members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church enrolled or going to be enrolled as Thiel College students.

### **The William and Adelaide Horner Higher Education Endowed Scholarship**

Available to active members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church enrolled or going to be enrolled in any accredited Lutheran College or any accredited college in W. PA.

The Scholarship Committee will meet and make recommendations for approval at the June Council meeting.





Thank you for letting us host our Silver Award ceremony at Holy Trinity. It was a beautiful event!



Thank you  
for sharing  
our church  
with Girl  
Scouts!





# Welcome To Our Interim Organist

We welcome Steve Repasky to the organ bench at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. He'll serve as our interim organist after the retirement of Maidene Hackett, who had served us for 20 years.

Steve is originally from Youngstown Ohio, and earned a degree in organ performance from Youngstown State University, before moving to San Francisco, California, where he lived for 40 years. While there, he earned a Master's degree in library science from the University of California-Berkeley. He is a former reference librarian at UC Berkeley.

He served a number of congregations in California in those years. The last position he held was as organist and director of music at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in San Francisco.

He also was a founder and is a partner in the organ-building company, Hupalo & Repasky Pipe Organs, LLC.

He said when it was time to retire, his family made the choice to return to the Youngstown area because of the high cost of living in California. He bought a prairie-style house that is on what was his old newspaper route that he had as a teenager.

Since his return to the area, he has been working with the music department at YSU. He has also been called upon to play the organ at Thiel College for events there. He is helping us to make some connections with musicians in both the Youngstown area and at Thiel.

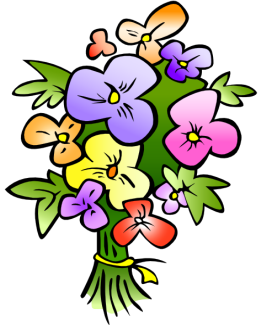
Steve has committed to being with us through Pentecost while the church council works on a job description and begins searching for a permanent musician to serve us.

Steve will play for all of our liturgies except for our Saturday evening service. Andy Joos has been playing for those and will continue at least for a little bit longer.

Please welcome both Steve and Andy, who are bringing stability to our worship life as we consider how to fill the music position permanently.



# Happy Birthday



## March Birthdays

- 1 Fran Black  
Carol McQueen
- 2 Hannah McKinney
- 3 Bonnie Massing
- 4 Jeremy Miller  
Elizabeth Lewis
- 6 Paul Good  
Richard Meeker
- 7 Miranda Bubenheim
- 8 Ruth Heil
- 9 Kelly Oros
- 11 Ruth Gruber
- 12 Kris Abraham
- 13 Peg Browning  
Josh Stubert
- 15 Marj Stubert
- 16 Kyle Roth
- 17 Keegan McCann
- 18 Brent VanKanegan
- 19 Maeve Martin-Call  
Jackson Weaver
- 22 Debbie Faber
- 24 Ted Hildebrand  
Nick Yoos
- 25 Linda Armstrong  
Kris Long  
Pastor Martin Roth
- 26 Paula Banco
- 28 Janet Kunczt
- 30 Betsy Hildebrand

## March Anniversaries

The following members of our congregation are celebrating anniversaries this month. Congratulate them when you see them.

Fred and Betty K. Junk

March 8, 1962

61 years

## Good Shepherd March Request

The Good Shepherd Center is our church community social service agency that supports the needs of many in the area. The Good Shepherd Center's request for Holy Trinity for **March is 20 ounce cans of crushed pineapple**. This is a special request for Easter meals.

Donations may be placed in the marked box in the cloister.

## Souper Bowl Sunday Thank You

A special thank you to all who helped make Souper Bowl Sunday a success. Thanks to Judy Leary, and Linda Bateman for setting up the room. Thanks to Mike Bradley, Carol McQueen, Bonnie Massing, and Sue Achenbach for making soup (and to Carol for the delicious bread). And thanks to Bonnie and Bob Massing, Debbie Faber, Marie Riley, Cheryl Davern, and Tammy Daniello for staying and cleaning up after the event. Especially a hearty thank you to all who came and donated money for the event. Good food, good company, and a great cause! Thanks to all.

## Fastnacht Thank You

Thanks to all who helped make the Fastnacht Luncheon happen yet again. Thanks to soup makers Jill Murrin, Liz and Duane Lewis, Ruth Heil, Scott Riley and Kathy Thompson. Set up people, Don and Sue Achenbach. Thanks to doughnut makers and fryers, Marj Stubert, Gretchen Minetti, Mike Bradley, Scott Riley, Marie Riley and Chuck Lanning. Thanks especially to clean up people, Gaye Gargas, Louise Gilmore, Ed Pitcher, Beth Harpst and Sue Achenbach. Thanks to all who came to enjoy the soup and doughnuts and fellowship. It can't be a party without attendees.

*Bonnie Massing*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 2023						
5 2nd Sunday in Lent 8:45 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion 10:45 SCS/Confirmation Classes 7:00 AA Big book meeting	6 8:30 AM Prayer 6:00 Fiber Arts Group 7:00 Property Committee	7 8:30 AM Prayer 5:15 Worship and Music 7:00 AA and AA Women's 7:00 Parish Ed	8 8:30 AM Prayer 5:15 Girl Scouts 6:15 Evening Prayer (2nd) 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	9 8:30 AM Prayer 6:30 Egg Decorating 7:00 Happy Hour (Zoom) /Lenten study	10 8:30 AM Prayer 5:30 Stations of the Cross	11 5:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion (spoken)  <i>Bonnie Massing Building use- Spinners and Weavers Kitchen and Brath Turn clocks ahead Set Carillon time</i>
12 3rd Sunday in Lent 8:45 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion 10:45 SCS/Confirmation Classes 7:00 AA Big book meeting	13 8:30 AM Prayer 5:30 CPR Class/John Libonati 6:00 Fiber Arts Group	14 8:30 AM Prayer 9:00 Flying Quilts 10:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 AA and AA Women's	<i>Council reports due today</i> 15 8:30 AM Prayer 5:15 Girl Scouts 6:15 Evening Prayer (3rd) 6:45 GSO Board Meeting 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	16 8:30 AM Prayer 5:00 Officers' Planning Meeting 6:30 Finance Committee 6:30 Egg Decorating 8:00 Happy Hour (Zoom) /Lenten study	17 8:30 AM Prayer 5:30 Stations of the Cross	18 5:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion (spoken)
19 4th Sunday in Lent 8:45 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion 10:45 SCS/Confirmation Classes 10:45 Womens Study Group Ruth 7:00 AA Big book meeting	20 8:30 AM Prayer 6:00 Fiber Arts Group	21 8:30 AM Prayer 7:00 Congregation Council 7:00 AA and AA Women's  <i>Flower Order Deadline</i>	22 8:30 AM Prayer 5:15 Girl Scouts 6:15 Evening Prayer (4th) 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	23 8:30 AM Prayer 6:30 Egg Decorating 7:00 Happy Hour (Zoom) /Lenten study	24 8:30 AM Prayer 5:30 Stations of the Cross	25 5:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion (spoken)
26 5th Sunday in Lent 8:45 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion 10:45 SCS/Confirmation Classes 7:00 AA Big book meeting	27 <i>Messenger articles due today</i> 8:30 AM Prayer 6:00 Fiber Arts Group	28 8:30 AM Prayer 9:00 Flying Quilts 10:30 Staff Meeting 7:00 AA and AA Women's	29 8:30 AM Prayer 5:15 Girl Scouts 6:15 Evening Prayer (5th) 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	30 8:30 AM Prayer 6:30 Egg Decorating 7:00 Happy Hour (Zoom) /Lenten study	31 8:30 AM Prayer 5:30 Stations of the Cross	



# Easter Flower / ELCA Disaster Response Form

Help decorate the chancel for Easter by ordering potted flowers for our celebration of the Festival of the Resurrection. You may also make a donation to the ELCA Disaster Response.

Your donation may be made in celebration of, in memory of, or in honor of a person (s) or an event. (Amounts given are not listed in the bulletin.)

The deadline for ordering flowers and making a donation to Disaster Response is **Monday, March 20, 2023.**

Please enclose payment for both Easter flowers and Disaster Response donations when you return this completed form to the church office.

\_\_\_\_\_ Lily (\$12.00)

\_\_\_\_\_ Tulip (\$10.00)

\_\_\_\_\_ Donation to ELCA Disaster Response

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please make checks payable to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church)*

To the Glory of God and in Memory (deceased) of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory of God and in Honor (living) of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory of God and in Celebration (event) of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we wish to pick up my/our Easter plant(s) after the 9:30 a.m. Service on Easter Day. Flowers can be picked up the Tuesday after Easter if you are unable to pick them up on Easter Sunday.

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we wish to have my/our Easter plant(s) delivered to a shut-in.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Your name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Phone)

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Tammy Daniello  
Debbie Faber  
Chuck Lanning  
Jim Martin  
Bob Massing  
Matthew Morgan  
Bob Olson  
Ed Pitcher  
Barbara Swartz  
Nicole Weaver

**Office Hours:**

Monday - Thursday  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.