

The Messenger

March 2024

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From our Pastor

Promises, promises

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,

We are in the early weeks of our Lenten pilgrimage, moving toward the great Feast of Easter and its promise of new life. This isn't a promise we need to wait until the end of the month to experience; we're experiencing it even now as the early spring flowers start to break through the dirt of winter and we're expected to enjoy our first 60+-degree day.

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 living as people of the covenant, heirs of the people with whom God made promises so many generations and thousands of years ago.

We hear of those promises every week of our Lenten journey this year.

Lent is the time for the renewal of our baptismal covenant. We've already heard in our Lenten Sundays so far of God's covenant with Noah and the animals, then of God's covenant with Abraham and Sarah. By faith we join in this covenant, which calls us to follow Christ to the cross and into the resurrection.

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

Blessings to you, dear church, as you live in, under and with this covenant in these 40 days of Lent and in all the days of your life.

Pastor Brenda +



Coming in May: Lutheran Day at the Capitol

Each year, Lutherans gather at the state Capitol building in Harrisburg to meet with their legislators and advocate for legislation that supports the least among us, those people who are favored by Jesus.

It's called Lutheran Day at the Capitol, and it's scheduled for Thursday, May 9. Lutheran Day is sponsored by the organization called Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania. This year's Lutheran Day at the Capitol is a special one, as it celebrates the 45th anniversary of LAMPa. The anniversary will be marked at a gala on the night of May 9.

The agenda of LAMPa is set each year by LAMPa's policy council, made up of Lutheran pastors and lay people. One of Pennsylvania's bishops serves on the policy council on a rotating basis. Pastor Brenda has served on the policy council since 2019, and is currently serving as chair of the policy council. Her term ends in fall of 2025.

Pastor Brenda is hoping to fill a table at the gala with people from northwestern Pennsylvania. If you have an interest in attending Lutheran Day at the Capitol, then the gala celebrating LAMPa's history, please contact her. (Details about prices and hotels will be forthcoming as soon as LAMPa releases them.)

Lent and Easter

We continue our journey through Lent as we enter March, and even though it seems Lent has just begun, we will also celebrate Easter in March, on March 31.

During Lent, we continue to offer:

Morning Prayer, Mondays through Fridays at 8:30 a.m. in the choir pews in the chancel.

Evening Prayer (Vespers), 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.

Lenten Study will take place during our Thursday Happy Hour Zoom. If you would like to participate, please contact the church office so that we can email you the Zoom link and make sure you have the materials for the study.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Fridays at 5:30 p.m. in 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/UCamd1F705R3knw7NEksvFvg>.

Holy Week will include Vespers on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., Maundy Thursday services on Thursday, March 28, at 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m., Good Friday service on Friday, March 29, at 7 p.m., and the Great Vigil of Easter, the first service celebrating Jesus' resurrection, on Saturday, March 30, at 7:30 p.m. This year, our synod's bishop emeritus, the Rev. Dr. Ralph Jones, will be our guest preacher.

The **Resurrection of our Lord** will be celebrated Sunday, March 31, at 9:30 a.m.

From Our Directors of Parish Ministry

Thank You

Holy Trinity has been a busy place the past month: a fun Fastnacht for Kids; our traditional Fastnacht Luncheon; our Lenten Prayer Retreat; and of course, the very inspirational funeral service for Henry Heil. Pulling so many events together in such a short time frame takes a serious commitment from our congregation and boy did our church family come through. We would like to take a moment and thank all the folks who helped out in preparation, clean up, food deliveries, games, etc.:

Cheryl Lanning; Chuck Lanning; Mike Balas; Heather Balas; Pastor Brenda; Intern Mark Littke; Linda Armstrong; Nikki Weaver; John Weaver; Melissa Archambeau; Bonnie Massing; Marie Riley; Duane Lewis; Liz Lewis; Mary Reames; Judy Teets; Fran Black; Catherine Richardson; Kris Long; Jill Murrin; Kathy Nantz; Denise Hall; Barbara Swartz; Kathy Thompson; Carol McQueen; Kris Abraham; Tammie Daniello; Linda Broadbent; Ed Pitcher; Beth Harpst; Sydney Balas; and Jennifer and Jim Martin!

With so many moving parts it would be easy to miss someone. If we did miss you, please forgive us and know that our appreciation runs much deeper than our clerical skills. There are so many reasons to be a proud member of Holy Trinity and our people stepping up to help out is one very good reason! As Pastor Roth used to say every year before clean up day: "Many hands make light work." That piece of Scripture has never been truer than this past month. Thank you one and all.

From Our Director of Music

January 2024 began with a visit by the Three Kings for the celebration of The Feast of the Epiphany on January 7th. The choir sang the original version of the much-loved hymn, *We three kings of Orient are* by Rev. John Henry Hopkins, Jr., with Trey Wilt as Gaspard, the gold king; John Myers as Melchior, the frankincense king; and David Hollenbaugh as Balthazar, the myrrh king. Music that day also included Théodore Dubois' *Marche des Rois Mages*, *La Marche des Rois* a 13th century French Provencal, carol, and a charming setting for the choir of *What is this lovely fragrance wafting?* as arranged by Healey Willan. A week prior, the choir sang *A New Years' Carol* with Billie Hollenbaugh playing Celesta.

For Henry Heil's Funeral Service, on Saturday, February 10th, the choir was augmented with Andrew Joos, Lauren Upchurch, Florence Jowers, and Dr. Paul Weber. The choral music included Malcolm Archer's setting of *Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester* and *O Lord support us* by the Pittsburgh composer, John W. Becker. Here are links to YouTube videos of these two choral anthems:

[Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester / Malcolm Arnold](#)
[O Lord support us / John W. Becker](#)

After Easter, The Friends of Music will commence concerts at HTLC. Please stay tuned for further details.

Steve Repasky - Director of Music

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.



Happy Birthday



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

62 years

March Birthdays

- 1 Fran Black
- Carol McQueen
- 2 Hannah McKinney
- 3 Bonnie Massing
- 4 Jeremy Miller
- Elizabeth Lewis
- 6 Paul Good
- Richard Meeker
- 8 Ruth Heil
- 9 Kelly Oros
- 10 Duane Lewis
- 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
- 27 Dean Archembeau
- 28 Janet Kunczt
- 30 Betsy Hildebrand

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 pancake mix and syrup.**

Donations may be placed in the marked box in the cloister or on the table in the office hallway.

Sunday Church School Lenten Project Reminder

The Parish Education Committee is reminding you that we need help from the congregation with our SCS Lenten Project.

Bunnies can be brought in during Lent 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 **Sunday, March 10**, 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

Coming up: Indoor yard sale

Our next fundraiser for our New Orleans Youth Gathering trip will be Friday and Saturday, March 8 and 9, an indoor yard sale in Trinity Hall downstairs.

The hours for the yard sale will be Friday from noon to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Please consider donating items from your household -- kitchen-ware, dishes, outdoor items, clothing, books. We will sell items on these two days, and all proceeds will go to the New Orleans trip.

Any items not sold will be donated to the Good Shepherd Center. You can drop off items any time the church is open. We are storing them on the stage in Trinity Hall before we begin setting up next week.

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 **Friday, March 15, 2024.**

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

_____ Lily _____ Daffodil _____ Tulip (\$10.00 each)

_____ 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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Office Hours:

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