

The Messenger

March-April-May

2025

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From our Pastor

We're going on a journey

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 begin Lent, as we do each year, with Jesus being driven into the wilderness, into the parched desert, where he is tempted and tested and offered the world. In this year's gospel reading on the first Sunday in Lent, that wilderness time is linked with Jesus' baptism, which he leaves "full of the Holy Spirit."

Jesus is baptized, and his journey begins.

The linking of Jesus baptism to the start of his ministry in the wilderness reminded me of a hymn in our hymnal called "I'm Going on a Journey."

I'm going on a journey, and I'm starting today.
My head is wet, and I'm on my way.
Christ's mark is on me; it's on you, too;
it says he loves me, and he loves you, too!

Our heads are wet and we're on our way. This is our Lenten journey, with heads wet from baptism, and a faith journey, both individual and collective, that calls us to follow Jesus in the work of caring for each other and proclaiming to the world, "and he loves you, too!"

As we gather this Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5, our focus turns to the journey once again.

Blessings to you, dear church, as we journey.

Pastor Brenda +

Lent at Holy Trinity

Lent begins this year with Ash Wednesday on March 5. Please mark these dates on your calendar.

Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. There will be two liturgies at Holy Trinity for in-person worship at 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m. Both services will include imposition of ashes and the Eucharist. Both services will be live-streamed.

For those who wish to participate in the liturgies but do not feel safe with in-person worship, Pastor Brenda will be available at the church between the end of the early service (approximately 1:15 p.m.) and 2:30 p.m. to distribute both ashes and Holy Communion. That means you can watch the live-streamed service, then come to the church to receive ashes and Holy Communion.

Lenten Prayer Retreat

Mark your calendar for our Lenten Prayer Retreat, which will be held Saturday, March 8, the first Saturday in Lent, from 9 a.m. to noon. The prayer retreat this year will include the opportunity to paint Ukrainian Easter eggs, led by Bonnie Massing.

We will begin in the sanctuary with communal prayer, then break off into interactive prayer stations that will be set up throughout the building. You will go to the prayer stations on your own.

We will gather together at the end of the morning for a meditative rite of healing, with laying on of hands and anointing.

Please join us as we begin this Lenten season in prayer.

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 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 6, 20, 27, April 3 at 7 p.m., and March 13 and April 10 at 8 p.m., is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82364136263?pwd=KgQu821I9bkCOiMLYObeebPM2Z6yst.1>

Meeting ID: 823 6413 6263

Passcode: 521875

Stations of the Cross

We will gather 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/UCamd1F705R3knw7NEksvFvg>.

Join us during Holy Week

As we look ahead to mid-April, we are planning worship every day during Holy Week, which begins on April 12-13 with our Palm Sunday services.

Here is the listing of services for Holy Week:

Saturday, April 12, 5:30 p.m. — Eve of Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 13, 9:30 a.m. — Palm Sunday

Monday, April 14, 7 p.m. — Evening Prayer for the Monday in Holy Week, with rite of healing

Tuesday, April 15, 7 p.m. — Evening Prayer for the Tuesday in Holy Week

Wednesday, April 16, 7 p.m. — Evening Prayer for the Wednesday in Holy Week

Thursday, April 17, 12:10 p.m. and 7 p.m. — Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 18, 7 p.m. — Good Friday

Saturday, April 19, 8 p.m. — The Great Vigil of Easter

Sunday, April 20, 9:30 a.m. — Celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ

We are planning to live-stream services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday evening, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday.



From Our Directors of Parish Ministry

Recently the good people from the Thiel Archives gave me a document they found while working on categorizing the vast papers associated with the Roth Family and their time at Thiel. The document I received was the Weekly Bulletin from the December 2nd 1923 church service. As I find learning new about old fascinating, this was a real find for me. Here are a few of the tidbits that captured my mind's eye:

- The abbreviation for Pennsylvania was not PA but rather PENN'A.
- The Reverend Doctor Henderson N. Miller was the Pastor and he lived at 50 Eagle Street and could be reached by phone at 200-M. If you needed to call the church that number was 431-R.
- The 1st Sunday in Advent schedule was as follows:
 - Sunday School began at 9:30 am and was the Annual Promotion Day
 - Service began at 11:00 am with the sermon title- "A Church Meeting Where No One Will Be Absent."
 - Junior Luther League (ages 6-12) was to begin at 3:00 pm.
 - Senior and Intermediate Leagues began later at 6:30 pm.
 - The day wrapped up with Vespers at 7:30 pm. It was the Annual Public Thank-Offering services under the auspices of the Women's Missionary Society. A missionary from Erie was the guest speaker and a collection for the Thank-offering fund was taken.
- The weekly schedule was also printed for review:
 - Monday at 7:30 pm: Community Training School of Religious Education (Baptist Church).
 - Tuesday at 4:00 pm- Catechetical Classes
 - Wednesday at 7:30 pm- Church Council and the Women's Missionary Society study class.
 - Thursday at 3:00 pm- Ladies Aid Society Meeting
 - Friday Evening- Ladies' Bible Class (with tureen supper).
 - Saturday 7:00 pm- Choir Rehearsal. (I particularly appreciated the Choir Director's plea): "It is very much hoped that the people who can sing will attend rehearsals regularly in order to give the church the leadership in music that the church needs. It is not asking too much of our singers to give this service to the church. Members of the Ladies' Aid Society, members of church council, and others are giving vastly more of their time, and without compensation. The church is not in a position to have a paid choir."

Quarterly statements were mailed earlier but the bulletin included the following plea: "The church needs every dollar owing, in order to pay to the bank money which has been borrowed to pay for the repair on the boiler, street assessments, etc. But if any member has been unfortunate and can not (sic) pay, let him request the council to be excused, and that member will be excused." (I guess skipping an envelope was a more serious business back then.)

The Thanksgiving Service was the best attended in years and brought in an offering of \$62.50 (nearly \$1,200 dollars today). Attendance in general is becoming noticeably better but all were

reminded that: "Attendance at church is the only possible means by which members can receive benefit from the preaching of the Gospel." (No Bobby Schuller on You Tube for these folks).

The bulletin ended with a comment on the \$5,000 (\$93,000 today) bank note for the Sunday School building that is due in one year and that each member's pledge balance is due no later than December 15, 1924.

Thanks to John Moore and Bob Olson, I have become obsessed with history (well them and the fact that history is less scary than current events these days) and learning about Holy Trinity's past from a single bulletin page isn't a bad way to pass a cold February day. As I like to quote Harry Truman: "Nothing in the world is new only history we haven't learned yet," it is interesting to note that the history of a hundred years ago isn't too much different from today:

- Trying to find the money to keep the doors open
- The moving target of weekly attendance
- The boilers
- Choir participation (a paid choir, really?)

One thing that clearly was different-they sure spent a lot of time in meetings!

From Our Director of Music

Our next Friends of Music concert is on Sunday, April 27 at 7:00 p.m. with an evening with classical guitarist Eric Hamilton. Eric Hamilton is a Youngstown, Ohio native. Having lived and performed from California to the East Coast since the 1970s, he has studied with some of the world's renowned guitarists: Christopher Parkening, Roland Dyens, and the Beijing Duo. Eric has also produced recordings with the award-winning Mason Williams of *Classical Gas* Fame. Currently, he has fourteen CDs of music for solo guitar available. These recordings include both small and large ensembles, and with full orchestra.

Thank you to everyone for supporting the Friends of Music series at our church.

Classical Guitarist ERIC HAMILTON



Applications For Holy Trinity Scholarships

Available on March 3rd

Scholarship applications will become available on **March 3rd**. 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.



<u>Sunday</u>	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 2025						
Transfiguration of our Lord 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion 10:45 SCS/Confirmation Classes 7:00 AA Big book meeting Fastnacht for kids	3 7:00 Property Committee Scholarship Apps Available	4 12:00 Fastnacht lunch	5 Ash Wednesday 12:10 Ash Wed service 1:30 Staff Meeting 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 7:00 Ash Wed Service	6 8:30 AM Prayer 6:30 Egg Decorating 6:30 Dance Lessons 7:00 Happy Hour (Zoom) /Lenten study	7 8:30 AM Prayer 5:30 Stations of the Cross	8 5:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion (spoken) Lenten Prayer Retreat <i>Spinners and Weavers Eggs</i>
9 1st Sunday in Lent 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion 10:45 SCS/Confirmation Classes 7:00 AA Big book meeting	10 8:30 AM Prayer	11 8:30 AM Prayer 9:00 Flying Quilts 6:30 Worship and Music	12 8:30 AM Prayer 6:15 Vespers 6:30 Dance Lessons 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	13 8:30 AM Prayer 5:30 Officers' Planning Meeting 6:30 Finance Committee 6:30 Egg Decorating 6:30 Dance Lessons 8:00 Happy Hour (Zoom) /Lenten study	14 8:30 AM Prayer 5:30 Stations of the Cross Girl Scouts 6-8:30	15 5:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion (spoken) Bacher Funeral 1pm
16 2nd Sunday in Lent 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion 10:45 SCS/Confirmation Classes 7:00 AA Big book meeting	17 8:30 AM Prayer	18 8:30 AM Prayer 7:00 Congregation Council	19 8:30 AM Prayer 6:15 Vespers 6:30 Dance Lessons 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	20 8:30 AM Prayer 6:30 Egg Decorating 6:30 Dance Lessons 7:00 Happy Hour (Zoom) /Lenten study	21 8:30 AM Prayer 5:30 Stations of the Cross	22 5:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion (spoken)
23 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion 10:45 SCS/Conf Classes 7:00 AA Big book meeting	24 8:30 AM Prayer	25 8:30 AM Prayer 9:00 Flying Quilts	26 8:30 AM Prayer 6:15 Vespers 6:30 Dance Lessons 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	27 8:30 AM Prayer 4:00 CCSS 6:30 Egg Decorating 6:30 Dance Lessons 7:00 Happy Hour (Zoom) /Lenten study	28 8:30 AM Prayer 5:30 Stations of the Cross	29 5:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion
30 4th Sunday in Lent 8:45 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion 10:45 SCS/Conf Classes 7:00 AA Big book meeting	31 8:30 AM Prayer					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:30 AM Prayer	2 8:30 AM Prayer 6:15 Vespers 7:00 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Dance Lessons	3 8:30 AM Prayer	4 8:30 AM Prayer	5 5:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion (with prayer for healing)
		5:00 Parish Ed		6:30 Dance Lessons 7:00 Happy Hour (Zoom)		
6 5th of Easter NO Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion 10:45 SCS/Confirmation Classes 7:00 AA Big book meeting	7 8:30 AM Prayer 7:00 pm Property	8 8:30 AM Prayer 5:15 Worship and Music	9 8:30 AM Prayer 6:15 Vespers 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Dance Lessons	10 8:30 AM Prayer 5:30 Officers' Planning Meeting 6:30 Dance Lessons 6:30 Finance Committee 8:00 Happy Hour (Zoom)	11 8:30 AM Prayer	12 5:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion (with prayer for healing)
13 Sunday of the Passion 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion 10:45 NO SCS/Confirmation Classes 7:00 AA Big book meeting	14 8:30 AM Prayer 7:00 Evening prayer	15 8:30 AM Prayer Chrism Liturgy 7:00 Congregational Council 7:00 Evening prayer	16 8:30 AM Prayer 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Dance Lessons 7:00 Evening prayer	17 6:30 Dance Lessons	18 7:00 Maundy Thurs Service	19 5:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion (spoken) 7:30 Easter Vigil Service
20 Easter Day 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion 10:45 NO SCS/Confirmation Classes 7:00 AA Big book meeting	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22 9:00 Flying Quilts	23 6:00 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 Dance Lessons	24 6:30 Dance Lessons 7:00 Happy Hour (Zoom)	25 GOOD FRIDAY	26 5:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion (spoken)
27 2nd Sunday of Easter 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion 10:45 SCS/Confirmation Classes 7:00 FOM Concert 7:00 AA Big book meeting	28 7:00 GACT Auditions in Hospitality Room	29 9:00 Flying Quilts 7:00 GACT Auditions	30			

April 2025

Sunday Church School Lenten Project 2025

Calling All Bunnies

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 (March 5) 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, April 6**, 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!

Join Us For Our Sunday School Closing Reception!

On **Sunday, May 18th**, we will join together to celebrate the completion of another year of learning at Holy Trinity! Your Parish Education Committee will host this event in the Hospitality Room after worship that day.

Join us as we recognize and thank all of our teachers, leaders and helpers (for both youth and adult classes), enjoy some refreshments, and socialize! EVERYONE is invited, whether you have participated in classes this year or not. Please plan to stay a little while after church for some fun & fellowship!

SAVE THE DATE: HOLY TRINITY GRADUATES TO BE HONORED

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 8, 2025!** On that day after worship, we will be recognizing all Holy Trinity graduates at a reception in the Hospitality Room. In the meantime, if your family has a graduate this year from High School, College, Graduate Program, etc., please make sure the church office is aware, so we can plan to honor all of our scholars! Expect more information to come as we get closer to that date. Thank you.

Kris Abraham,

Parish Education, Committee Chair

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 **Thursday, April 3, 2025.**

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: _____

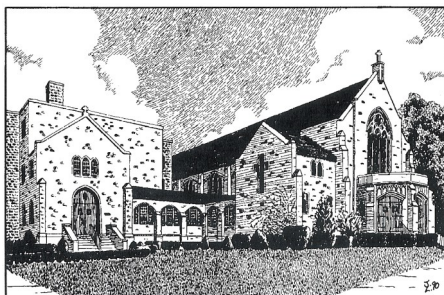
_____ I/we wish to pick up my/our Easter plant (s) after the 9:30 a.m. Service on Easter Day. Flowers can be picked up the Tuesday after Easter if you are unable to pick them up on Easter Sunday.

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

(Your name)

(Phone)

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Monday - Thursday
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