

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends in Christ,

We have almost completed our Lenten journey for this year. And now we wait.

We wait for the One who is called the King of the Jews to ride into Jerusalem amidst cries of Hosannah!

We wait for the One who is called Healer to wash the feet of those who still do not comprehend who He is. We wait for the one who is called Prophet to break bread and drink from the cup with his disciples one last time.

We wait for the One who is betrayed by a beloved friend for thirty pieces of silver. We wait for the One to be taken prisoner. We wait for the One who is put through an unfair trial for daring to oppose those in authority by showing love and compassion for others.

We wait for the One whose closest friend, his rock, denies him out of fear.

We wait for the One who is brought before another who will help decide his fate and who tried to bring him to actual justice, only for those who witnessed all that he had done to turn their backs on him.

We wait for the One who is flogged, beaten, humiliated, spat upon, and defiled. We wait for the One who has to carry his own instrument of death upon his back up to Golgotha, the place of the skull.

We wait for the One who screams, writhing in pain as his mother watches from afar, broken, and unable to protect him. We wait for the One who has spikes driven through his flesh and bones, inflicted with so much pain that most would die.

We wait for the One who is raised upon a cross with two thieves. We wait as he offers forgiveness and a place with him in paradise.

We wait for the One who cries out with his last breath, asking his father to forgive them for they know not what they do.

We wait for the One whose body is taken down from the cross and lain in a tomb meant for another. We wait as the entrance is closed with a stone.

We wait for three days for the One in darkness, in our doubts, wondering if all that he said and did was for naught.

We wait for the One with the hope that the prophecies of old are in fact true. We wait for the resurrection.

Finally, we celebrate the One who truly is the One spoken of in Scripture. The One who is love embodied.

And still, we wait for the One to return.

And as we wait, we share the love and compassion shown by the one Christ. We share the healing of time spent together in worship and fellowship. We hope. We pray. We sing. We do.

Easter Blessings!

Pastor Jane

HIGHLIGHTS

Mar. 29: Palm Sunday

Apr. 2: Maundy Thursday

Apr. 3: Good Friday

Apr. 5: Easter Sunday

Apr. 18: Bunco

May 2: Spring Card Workshop

Holy Week @ Holy Trinity

He is risen. There is hope! While many believed everything was over when Jesus died on the cross, something greater awaited. Three days later, at sunrise, his followers received incredible news: “He is not here. He is risen.”

Even two thousand years later, these words continue to inspire hope. We invite you to join us for a warm and inclusive Easter Sunday celebration at 9:15 am at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, where people of all ages can gather to reflect on and embrace the promise of Easter.



Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sunday
March 29
9:15 am

Maundy Thursday
April 2
6:30 pm

Good Friday
April 3
6:30 pm

Easter Sunday
April 5
9:15 am



Easter Sunday

Celebrate with us at our 9:15 am service!

Everyone is invited — bring your family & friends!

Afterwards, enjoy a Continental Breakfast together; all are welcome to attend.

Singing the Joy of Easter

Every Easter morning feels like the heart of our year together in worship. The light, the lilies, and the first resounding “Alleluia” after Lent’s silence create something timeless — a moment when faith and song in various styles meet in full celebration. For me, the sound of our congregation confidently raising its voice on Easter Sunday is a glimpse of heaven breaking into our midst. This year our Easter Sunday music will be a mix of both traditional and more modernized styles of music for our Easter Sunday Worship.

Two hymns, in particular, express that joy in a way that has shaped generations of Lutheran worship: *“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”* and *“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”*.

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” — its jubilant “Alleluia” refrain resonates in the air, as if angels themselves were leading the song. It’s a hymn that connects us across centuries to believers who first proclaimed, “He is risen indeed,” with wonder and amazement.

Then later, *“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”* invites a quieter confidence. It doesn’t shout its joy — it breathes it. Its gentle assurance that “He lives to silence all my fears” reminds us that Easter’s victory isn’t just for one day; it’s a truth we carry with us through every season and throughout our lives.



This year, our Easter service will conclude with a vibrant and joyful twist: a *jazz-inspired* rendition of “*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*.” The familiar melody, set to Ludwig van Beethoven’s “*Ode to Joy*”, has been a symbol of Christian unity and praise since the early 20th century. Its lively rhythm and harmonies will send us forth with energy — reminding us that resurrection joy isn’t confined to the sanctuary, but carries out into all of life.

We will also continue our more modernized use of liturgy from the ELW, for both traditional and Praise Band Services through the end of May. It’s important that we as a congregation sing our liturgies and hymnodies with strength and confidence in worship.

May these songs — ancient and new, triumphant and tender — echo in your hearts this Easter season. For truly, in every note and every breath of praise, we make a joyful noise proclaiming the same truth: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

With music and joy,
Jason Meissner
Director of Music



Grow Our Church Through Meaningful Conversations

We may want to grow our church and build God’s Kingdom — but not just in numbers. People long for *real engagement*, not simply attendance. Because growth means little if meaningful conversations and life-giving relationships aren’t happening.

Five Conversation Starting Questions

Many believers want to talk about faith but aren’t sure how to move beyond small talk — or they fear sounding awkward or pushy. Here’s a few simple questions to provide confidence and clarity. These questions aren’t meant to force spiritual conversations, but to gently open the door to people.

1. Where have you seen hope lately?
2. What’s something bringing you joy lately?
3. What’s been on your heart or mind recently?
4. What’s something you’ve experienced that shifted your view of life?
5. If you could change one thing about the world, what would it be?

We need to listen well and ask thoughtful follow-ups, rather than rushing to respond or steer the conversation. Authentic listening builds trust — and trust creates opportunity for deeper conversations and spiritual growth.

Thoughtfully submitted by your Hospitality Team

Reimagining Holy Trinity

Creating Inviting Spaces for Community and Ministry

A Vision for Transforming Our Public Areas

Project Reimagine: A Fresh Look at Our Church Spaces

In February, the Welcoming Committee took a close look at our church’s public spaces — the East and West Lobbies, Lounge, and Hallway — putting ourselves in the shoes of a first-time visitor. We asked, “What do these areas say to someone new? How do they make people feel?” By setting aside our familiarity, we saw with fresh eyes: traffic flow issues in the East Lobby, a cluttered hallway, outdated furnishings, and a West Lobby in search of a purpose.

We realized these spaces are more than just passageways — they’re the front porch of our ministry and the first impression we give to guests. These areas should communicate, “You’re expected and wanted.” Currently, visitors are met with mismatched furniture, disconnected spaces, and missed opportunities to make everyone feel welcome. This project isn’t just about updating furniture; it’s a decision to strengthen our ministry’s effectiveness.

We’ve already made some quick improvements: rearranging furniture in the East Lobby, organizing Hope Ministry donations into neat bins on shelves, and moving sign-up sheets to clipboards to keep the hallway and bulletin boards uncluttered. These small changes help create a cleaner, more welcoming environment.

Looking ahead, we asked ourselves: What could these spaces become? How could they better serve our mission to connect with and support the community? We’re excited to share our initiatives that show our commitment to relevance and hospitality, and that open the door for new possibilities — collaboration labs, meeting spaces, after-school hangouts, and more.

A New Gathering Place: The Coffee Bar

If you’ve walked in recently, you’ve seen our new coffee bar — an anchor feature by the east entrance, visible as soon as you arrive. It’s designed for both coffee and treats, with supplies tucked away to keep the area tidy and inviting.



Embracing Our Architecture

Our building’s mid-century modern style — open, light-filled spaces, wood paneling, and glass feature walls — inspired our approach. We’re leaning into this aesthetic with clean lines, warm woods, and curated accents that feel timeless, not trendy. New sofas and chairs encourage relaxed, meaningful conversations, while café seating remains for coffee hour. The space will be bright, flexible, and social.

We’re also updating the flooring in a portion of the east lobby for a cohesive look, replacing the current penny pattern with carpet squares. Our goal is simple: If someone says, “Let’s sit here for a minute,” we’ve succeeded.



Lounge Transformation: From Traditional to Modern

The lounge will see a dramatic change. Gone are the mismatched traditional tables, patterned chairs, and outdated wallpaper. In their place, you'll find cohesive walnut tables that can nest together for meetings, clean-lined mid-century chairs, soft wall colors, and clearly defined lounge and meeting zones. The result is a space that feels airy, intentional, and modern.

A Welcoming Transition

The walkway between the east and west entrances is also being reimagined. The new seating will encourage lingering and connection, with comfortable upholstered chairs and small tables arranged in pairs, rather than in rows. Bulletin boards will make way for church-specific, modern artwork, and a single curated bulletin board will remain for essential updates. A transparent glass wall opens up the lounge, providing sound privacy for meetings while making the entire space feel larger and more inviting.



West Lobby: A Warm, Intentional Welcome

In the West Lobby, we're replacing ornate, patterned furniture with simple, modern pieces to let architectural features like the mosaic cross stand out. Small side tables will be replaced with a round or kidney-shaped coffee table, and a pedestal table with chairs will create a cozy meeting spot.

Project Summary and Call to Action

Our public areas total nearly 4,600 square feet — a significant part of our church home! The estimated cost of Project Reimagine is \$40,000, which covers window replacement in the lounge, new flooring, furnishings, artwork, and accessories. Thanks to generous pledges, we've already raised \$10,000, leaving \$30,000 to reach our goal. We invite you to participate in our "Money Wall" fundraiser outside the sanctuary — just select an envelope and donate the suggested amount.



We encourage everyone to look at our spaces with fresh eyes and join us in reimagining how they can be more inviting, warm, and friendly — spaces that say, "You're expected and wanted." Remember, this isn't just a furniture update; it's about creating a welcoming front porch for our ministry, where first impressions are formed and community begins.

Phylaine Nicholas, on behalf of the Welcoming Committee



Women's Ministry

Women's Ministry is supporting the Movers for Moms project again this year. This important project collects and distributes items for new moms in underserved communities in Milwaukee. Collection bins along with a list of needed items will be on display in the narthex during the **month of April**. Collected items are picked up and delivered to moms on Mother's Day. Last year we collected 100 items! Can we surpass that this year? YES!

We sure had a lot of fun at our last Bunco game. We had some new folks join us. One was by invitation from a friend (Notice, Share, Invite)! We hope you will be able to join us for our upcoming date: **Saturday, April 18 at 1:00 pm**. It's a simple game to learn and we enjoy our time with conversation and laughter.

Also, mark your calendars for **Saturday, May 2**. We will be hosting a Spring Card Workshop. You will make and take home 6 beautiful Spring themed cards. There is no cost. A free-will offering is appreciated to cover the cost of supplies. Watch for the sign-up on the bulletin board.

Thank you,
Women's Ministry

Live @ the Labyrinth

Summer is coming – despite the recent blizzard!

Join us for music at the Labyrinth on the third Thursdays: **June 18, July 16, and August 20**. Outdoor worship will be held on the first Sundays: **June 7, July 5, and August 2**. Saturday Morning Yoga starts **May 30**.

Planning meetings are open to all and take place on the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm. Contact any Event Team member — Karen Brienzo, Cathy Dietrick, Lisa Mootz, Phylaine Nicholas, Jeanne Weiss, or Barb Wilke — for details.

Stay tuned for more updates.



The 2026 Church Council was installed on February 22. Members are Pete Jensen (President), Erika Milosevich, Pastor Jane, Cathy Dietrick (Vice President), Lisa Mootz, Phylaine Nicholas (Secretary), Thom Kieffer (Treasurer), and Nancy LaForest. Thank you to all for serving our congregation!



Contribution Statements

2026 1st quarter contribution statements will go out the week after Easter: probably on that Wednesday. Looks for yours in your email first – don't forget to check your spam/junk folder – then by mail – hopefully, by that weekend. If you don't

receive yours by April 15, please contact Katie in the church office.

Once you receive your statement please review it and compare it to your records and let the office know of any discrepancies. It's so much easier to correct errors early, rather than at next year's tax time.

June/July Newsletter Deadline

Wednesday, May 20



to quilters Cathy Dietrick, Kristi Czaplewski, Shirley Kight, Chris Davis, and Marilyn Klanchar for making this piano quilt. The quilt has a very functional purpose: to regulate the temperature and humidity around the piano to protect it from drying out and cracking and help keep it in tune longer.

to the Snow Team for keeping entrances, parking lots, and sidewalks cleared this winter: Dan Brienzo, John Devine, Randy Franke, Tim Harty, George Jonovic, and Jim Scheidegger, along with Jeff Ferstadt and Pete Milosevich on the big plow.



2026 HOLY TRINITY QUARTER 1 FINANCIAL UPDATE

I would like to provide a brief update on our financials through the first quarter of the 2026 church year. Monthly donation support supporting our budgeted operational functions is on target. Members continue to fulfill their pledges, and our weekly collections are stronger than amounts collected in our recent past. As I have mentioned in the past, pledged donations and weekly collections are essential to our spiritual health and community outreach. Through the first quarter, our routine expenses are in check and on budget. Non-routine expenses related to our facility and the equipment needed to operate are above budget. While not totally unexpected, maintaining our equipment, building and grounds are essential.

We are both blessed and challenged by our church property. Our aging building and expansive grounds require increased maintenance, replacement of essential equipment and **Reimagined** spaces to keep our property not just functional but vibrant. We are good stewards of our building and the wonderful ground it rests on. We are thankful for our non-profit tenant, Ignite Child Development Services and work hard to keep the space they rent more than just functional but welcoming and warm. We were excited when they affirmed our commitment by increasing the space they are renting to include an additional classroom beginning in the second quarter.

Capital campaigns and targeted donations are essential to fund critical mission activities, fuel growth and support our facility with long-term improvements. Members rallying behind the momentum of spirit that we are experiencing will carry us to a bright and stable future. Supporting the vision of fellowship and friendship by giving of time, talent and treasure will make Holy Trinity Lutheran a shiny beacon in our community. OK, if not shiny, well maintained and welcoming. With your support, our facility will truly be REIMAGINED.

With our growing momentum and support, we encourage activities supporting our missions in Outreach, Ministries, Fellowship, Hospitality, Stewardship and Worship to utilize budgeted funds to continue to strengthen Holy Trinity. Your continued support will help meet or exceed our budget and bridge any gaps to build a bridge to our Reimagined future.

Respectfully,
Thom Kieffer, Treasurer





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Have You Moved or Will You Be Temporarily Away?

Please notify the church office (see
contact info above)

He is Risen

EASTER CELEBRATION SERVICE

APRIL 5, 9:15 AM

Bring the whole family!