

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends in Christ,

I've been trying to keep my eyes open for signs of hope in our world. I think we can get too bogged down in the day-to-day activities of life and lose sight of what is around us.

I was in my first call when Covid hit. We weren't meeting in person. I was recording services and sending them out on Facebook. In those days I got into the habit of driving around the small town we lived in (population 1200) and giving thanks and praying for different people and places. I prayed for hope and life and peace.

I would stop and pray at the police station and fire department. I would park outside the school and pray for the students, teachers and staff who weren't able to gather there. I would pray for the businesses suffering because people were relying more on mail order goods. I prayed for the lonely folks at the nursing home. I would pray for the other churches and their leaders. You get the picture.

When things started getting back to "normal" I somehow forgot how much I enjoyed those prayerful drives. Worship was back in person and I went back to my *usual* prayer model. Less driving. Same prayers. But there is something about driving around a town, neighborhood or even a city and stopping to pray for others that is really uplifting. Really hopeful.

We are reminded throughout the Bible that God is the source of hope. That hope provides stability in hard times. We hear it in hymns and in the Psalms. As I am writing this, the heat wave has broken and I am sitting in my living room with every window open. So, I am reminded that, if we listen, we can sense hope in gentle breezes and bird songs.

Hope and faith are closely related. "Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don't see. ... By faith we understand that the universe has been created by a word from God so that the visible came into existence from the invisible." (Hebrews 11:1, 3)

So, I encourage you, as we move towards the end of summer, to have hope for what is now and hope for what is to come. And, perhaps take some time to stop and pray for others.

Blessings,

Pr. Jane

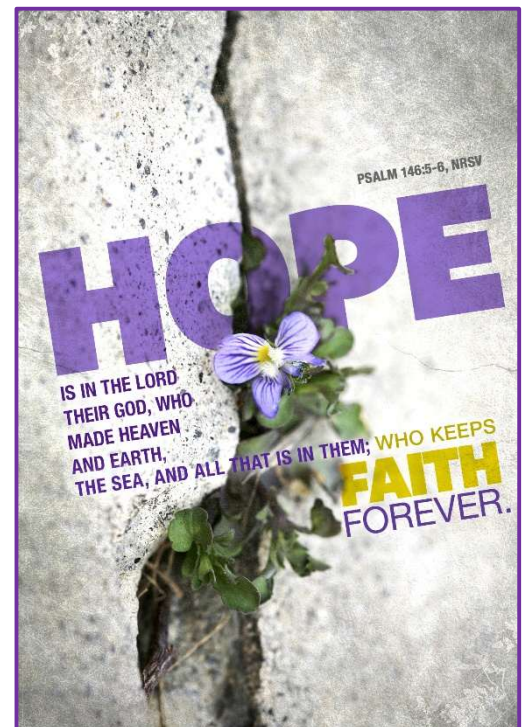
HIGHLIGHTS

Aug. 1: Furniture Moving Day

Aug. 2: Outdoor Worship @ 10:00 am

Aug. 6: Furniture Sale

Aug. 20: Live @ the Labyrinth



Being Holy Trinity

President's Letter

Hello All,

It is hard to believe that summer is half over. We have quite a few interesting things happening at Holy Trinity.

We have had three out-of-state youth groups stay at Holy Trinity while they were in town for mission trips to the area. We are happy to have been able to offer them shelter while they were here.

We are in the midst of our HT Reimagined campaign. The conversion of the lounge and narthex areas is well underway. We hope to have the project completed by early fall. This is possible due to the generosity of our members. No money was taken from our existing budget. We are making good progress towards our goal. When completed, the area will look great and make the entrance ways to our church feel more inviting and open.

Thank you to all who are involved in this project.

We need council members. We have some vacancies coming up for 2027. Please consider serving your church. The terms may feel long but trust me, three years go by quickly.

If you have any questions, please contact me or any other council members.

We again are reminded that we have an ageing building. We have had repairs performed when required. We are over budget for our annual number. We hope that all major repairs have been taken care of and things will stabilize for the rest of the year. I want to thank all the volunteers who help to take care of the facility.

Thank you all for your support and help!

Peace and Love!

Pete

Use Global and Cultural Moments to Spark Low-Pressure Outreach

For community outreach, we've previously written about helping our neighbors and then provided you five conversation starting questions. The third and last article in this series discusses using global and cultural moments for outreach.

Global and cultural moments naturally create shared experiences — making them powerful opportunities for connection. Events like Live @ the Labyrinth, parades, Olympics, Lunar New Year, the World Cup, local festivals, or seasonal rhythms such as graduation or back-to-school already capture people's attention. Think of other events that are occurring in our community. All provide an outreach opportunity.



This doesn't require large events or heavy planning. Simple, relational moments can make a meaningful impact:

- Hosting small gatherings around an event;
- Encouraging members to invite neighbors to watch or celebrate together;
- Thoughtfully connecting shared moments to deeper purpose and hope.

Small, intentional acts of kindness create relational ripple effects for building trust, sparking conversations, and opening doors for future invitations.

Thoughtfully submitted by your Hospitality Team

Continuing Education at St. Olaf College

This past July 13th –16th, I had the opportunity to attend the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) national conference at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.

This year was especially meaningful as ALCM celebrated its 40th anniversary. Founded at St. Olaf College in 1986, ALCM was established to support and equip Lutheran church musicians of all denominations in their calling to lead the church's song. Returning to the St. Olaf campus forty years later provided an opportunity to celebrate the organization's history, recommit ourselves to the ministry of church music, and dream together about what the next forty years may bring.

The conference was held alongside Festival Week of Lutheran Summer Music, a program for youth and college students preparing for vocations in church music. The theme, "*Now and Forever*," invited participants to reflect on how God's voice continues to shape the Church across generations.

Through workshops, discussions, worship, and hands-on learning opportunities, church musicians from across the country explored topics such as worship leadership, technology, composition, congregational song, and innovative approaches to ministry. One of the greatest gifts of the conference was connecting musicians of all ages who share a passion for serving Christ through music, along with establishing new connections and collaborations of church musicians across the country.

Each day included worship in St. Olaf's beautiful Boe Memorial Chapel, home to its magnificent 90 Rank pipe organ (*5,068 pipes to be exact!*) Worship services intentionally incorporated the richness of Lutheran liturgy and music, utilizing the many musical expressions available within our worship traditions. The shortest worship service lasted an hour and forty minutes, while the longest — featuring a pre-concert by faculty and students of Lutheran Summer Music — was nearly three hours long!

Some of the workshops I attended included:

- **Reclaiming Contemporary Worship:** Exploring how contemporary worship is not a departure from Lutheran tradition, but can faithfully embody Lutheran theology through accessibility, musical diversity, congregational participation, and cultural relevance.
- **The Creative Use of Handbells in Worship:** Discovering new ways handbells can enrich worship beyond the prelude, including leading portions of the liturgy and supporting congregational song.
- **Body, Mind, Spirit, Voice: Our Calling as Pastoral Musicians** (presented by Anton Armstrong): Reflecting on the transformative power of choral music and the calling of church musicians to nurture and inspire those we teach and serve.

****A Reminder****
CHOIR rehearsals begin
Thursday, September 3
6:30 - 7:30 pm
Come ONE, come ALL!

One theme surfaced repeatedly throughout the conference and in conversations with church musicians from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: many congregations continue to face declining attendance and changing patterns of participation following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The message was both challenging and hopeful: if the Church is willing to thoughtfully adapt how it communicates, worships, and reaches out to people in today's world while remaining grounded in the Gospel, it will continue to thrive. As one presenter summarized, "If we aren't willing to make adaptations that address the realities of our present world, there will be no church."

This conference was a wonderful reminder that the Church's mission remains the same, even as the ways we live out that mission continue to grow and evolve. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn, worship, and bring new ideas back to our congregation as we continue to make music and proclaim God's love together, *in song!* --- **Jason Meissner, Director of Music**

Reimagining Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity Reimagined – We’re Almost There!

A Quick Project Reimagine Update

What started earlier this year as a simple idea is now close to the finish line! We wanted our public spaces to feel more like the front porch of our ministry — a place that gives guests a warm first impression and helps everyone feel welcome. We’re excited to share how far things have come.

Honoring the Style of Our Church Home

As the plans came together, we kept coming back to what makes our building so special: its beautiful mid-century modern style, open and light-filled spaces, warm wood paneling, and glass feature walls. That look has helped guide the colors and furnishings we chose. New tables, sofas, and chairs are scheduled to arrive in early August for the lounge and both the east and west lobby areas. Our hope is to make these spaces feel bright, flexible, and easy to enjoy — whether you’re stopping for coffee hour or settling in for a meaningful conversation.

In early fall, we’ll also update part of the east lobby flooring. The current penny-pattern floor will be replaced with carpet squares, helping the area feel more connected, comfortable, and welcoming.

How You Can Help

As we’ve shared before, our public areas cover nearly 4,600 square feet, so this project reaches a big part of our church home. The total estimated cost for Project Reimagine is \$40,000, which includes the lounge windows, flooring, furnishings, artwork, and accessories. As of June 30, we’ve raised \$19,000 through generous pledges and gifts. We’re about halfway there! That leaves \$21,000 to go. If you’d like to help, please take a look at the bulletin board for gift options.

Thank you for considering being part of this effort. Project Reimagine is about more than new furniture — it’s about creating a warm, welcoming front porch for ministry, where people feel at home and community can begin the moment they walk through the door.

Phylaine Nicholas, on behalf of the Welcoming Committee



to Joe Davison for installing the new tenant mailbox and repairing the pulpit, band panel, and Labyrinth gazebo information box.

to Pete Milosevich and Randy Franke for painting the lounge walls.

to our neighbor, Tim Kraemer, for all the flower pictures from the Labyrinth and around the church.



Do You Have an Announcement for the Congregation?

If so, please turn it into the church office by noon on Wednesday. That way it can make it into the weekly email blast on Thursday and Sunday’s bulletin. Thank you!

October/November Newsletter Deadline Wednesday, September 16

2026 HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH MID-YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY

As you enjoy your summer, I wanted to provide a summary of our financials midway through the 2026 church year. With project HT Reimagined in full implementation, it is an exciting time to take advantage of all that Holy Trinity has to offer.

Net donated funds including collected pledges for planned operations remain strong. Support for HT Reimagine has also been deep and wide throughout our membership. I, along with other Council members, will continue to provide periodic updates regarding HT Reimagined.

Summary for the six months ending June 30, 2026:

- Pledges and Offerings donated are \$12,877 ahead of budget and \$11,637 ahead of last year. Timing of pledge collections may account for some of our positive position, but our strong first half reverses a negative three-year trend where donations were down year over year. Thank you.
- Rental Income is \$1000 above budget (due to increased space being rented) and \$2043 above last year (due to the increased space and a small rent increase). Interest income is slightly behind budget and last year (due to slightly lower interest rates and the timing of CD interest payment postings). Overall Operating income is \$13,069 above budget and \$13,065 above mid-2025. Support for our mission program activities benefit from your ongoing generosity.
- Expenses are ahead of our current budget and last year in all operational areas except Property & Facilities. 2026 is proving to be a challenging year in many aspects of our property maintenance. Routine facilities expenses including building, systems, equipment, and surrounding property maintenance were approximately \$38,000 above budget and also last year. The Council was aware of several large expense items early this year and allocated the full \$20,000 Alice Staple annual reserve amount for 2026 to facilities. Additional reserve funds will be utilized as needed to cover necessary facility upkeep and maintenance. Our tenants and our members deserve a quality facility that meets or exceeds their needs.
- Since the kick-off of project HT Reimagined through the end of June, we have raised \$19,324 and have spent \$16,241. As previously announced, Holy Trinity has borrowed \$25,000 from ELCA Federal Credit Union to cover the full funding cash flow needs of the project. This is the maximum loan amount the Council can authorize without a vote of members. Our continuing Capital Campaign will raise funds to pay off this loan and finish HT Reimagined. Exciting news on our funding progress will be shared during services throughout the summer.

In summary, our financials reflect a mid-year net loss of (\$14,015). This loss is behind our 2025 net operating income position of \$6715 (no major facilities expenses paid) and \$4034 more than the interim budgeted loss projection (facilities expenses were double our budget estimate).

Your continued support will help overcome our mid-year deficit and enhance our facility to broaden and deepen our mission and community impact.

Respectfully,

Thom Kieffer, Treasurer





The 2026 *The Greater Milwaukee Area Relay for Life* was held on Saturday, July 18. In spite of the unhealthy air in the area the past few days, we were able to provide a meaningful experience for those in attendance.

With donations still coming in, this year's *Relay for Life* raised \$39,000 in the fight to help the

American Cancer Society end cancer as we know it, for everyone. Holy Trinity was once again the top fundraising team with \$11,000. Thank you to all the donors. Your support really does make a difference.

John Balzer

Out with the old, in with the new... It's time for a furniture sale!

Exciting news! As shared in the HT Reimagined article, our new furnishings are set to arrive in early August. That means we're making room — and you're invited to help us send the current furniture off in style at a giant furniture sale in Fellowship Hall on **Thursday, August 6, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.**

Know someone who could use a cozy chair, couch, table, lamp, or other great find? Spread the word and invite them to stop by!

We'll be moving the old furniture to Fellowship Hall on Saturday, August 1 beginning at 9:00 am. If you are able to help, stop on by. We will also need volunteers for the sale – you can sign up to help on the bulletin board at church or by calling the church office.



Men's Devotion & Service Group

This small group commonly meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month. We read the Bible verse and related devotion from *The Upper Room* booklet and have discussion about the included questions. It's not a Bible study or deep theological discussion. You simply need to be willing to open up and share in a positive and supportive way.

We then take on optional small service projects around the church, like setup/takedown of the Labyrinth tent and other church events, cleaning & tidying, and minor repairs.

The devotion portion takes about 60-75 minutes, the optional projects take 20-60 minutes. Total time is about 1.5 - 2 hours.

Contact Randy Franke, Jeff Dobbert, Dan Brienzo, George Jonovic, or Walt Wilinsky if you're interested.





There's still one more month to soak up the fresh air, enjoy great events, and make fun memories together — we hope you'll join us!

1st Sunday Outdoor Worship

August 2 @ 10:00 am

Come worship with us outside for a joyful morning of prayer, praise, and community as we celebrate God's goodness in the fresh air. Bring a lawn chair, invite a friend, and enjoy this special time together!

Live @ the Labyrinth

Thursday August 20 – B.D. Greer and the Gents

6:00 - 8:00 pm

We were disappointed to cancel July's event due to unhealthy air quality from the Canadian forest fires, but here's the good news: our final summer event is right around the corner!

On August 20, B.D. Greer will be joined by the Gents, featuring two of Holy Trinity's own musicians — Jason Meissner and Nicolas Beundia!

If you missed B.D. at last year's picnic, this is your chance to catch her live! She's a powerhouse vocalist with a soulful mix of jazz, soul, and Americana that has wowed audiences from New York City to the Midwest. With her big voice and magnetic stage presence, B.D. is one of Milwaukee's most exciting performers.

Her career has taken her from Broadway National Tours to the NYC USO Troupes, Norwegian Cruise Lines, and even guest vocals with the Lt. Dan Band, led by actor and musician Gary Sinise. These days, she's lighting up Milwaukee's music scene as the frontwoman of B.D. Greer & the Gents.

You may have seen her at some of the region's favorite festivals and events, including Summerfest, Jazz in the Park, Bastille Days, Summer Soulstice, and the Oshkosh and Fond du Lac Jazz Festivals.

Bring your favorite drink, grab a chair or blanket, and settle in for a relaxed summer evening of live music at the Labyrinth. It's the perfect chance to unwind, connect, and enjoy the good vibes — plus food from Rupena's will be available on a "Pay-What-You-Can" basis.



Chili Cook-Off Coming in Late October!

Think your chili is a crowd favorite? Now's the time to dust off that winning recipe and put it to the test! Guests will sample and vote for their favorites while browsing our Silent Auction benefiting Hope Ministries.

More delicious details are coming soon — stay tuned!



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Have You Moved or Will You Be Temporarily Away?

Please notify the church office (see
contact info above)

May the God of hope

fill you with all joy
and peace in believing.

Romans 15:13

