

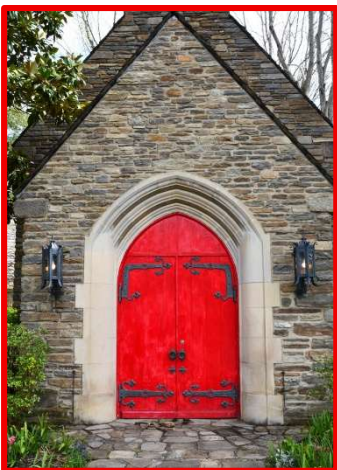
## Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends in Christ,

My husband, Myron, and I were driving in San Francisco while we were on vacation this summer and I saw an Episcopal church with a red door. I remembered that there was something significant about churches having red doors. So, I did an internet search and found that it's not only Episcopal churches that have red doors, but that it's pretty common in Lutheran churches as well. So, here's what I found.

### Why do some churches have red doors?

- **Blood of Christ:** Red represents the blood of Jesus, reminding us that we have been saved by his sacrifice. We are saved by grace through faith.
- **The Passover:** It echoes the lamb's blood painted on doorposts in Egypt, shielding God's people from harm. This explanation foreshadows Jesus as the true lamb of God sacrificed for our sins.
- **Place of Sanctuary:** Medieval churches throughout Europe would paint their doors red as a sign of sanctuary. The doors were a symbol of hospitality for all who sought safety. Passing through these doors meant a person was safe from physical pursuit, and today it remains a spiritual invitation to find emotional and spiritual sanctuary.
- **The Holy Spirit:** Red is the color used to indicate the active presence of the Holy Spirit. It marks the presence of Holy Ground; therefore, all are welcome to experience the warmth and love of God, just as they are.
- **Reformation Heritage:** Tradition says that the doors of the Wittenberg Castle church (All Saints' Church) in Germany where Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses in 1517 were painted red.
- The less theological explanation indicates that the church property's mortgage has been satisfied.



I really like this symbolism. The simplicity of a red door that conveys so much about what it means to be a Christian and what it means to be a church community. I especially like the language around the church building as a safe place, a place of hospitality and a landing spot for those in need. By extension, as followers of Christ, I hope we see ourselves this way. I want everyone to feel the love and forgiveness that we sometimes take for granted.

I hope this gives you a new way to view our church building, not just on Sundays, but every day. Continue to invite others to share the love of Christ and the spiritual safety of the Holy Trinity community.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Jane*

## HIGHLIGHTS

Oct. 24: Bunco Is Back!  
Oct. 25: Reformation Sunday  
Oct. 25: Chili Cook-Off & Silent Auction  
Nov. 1: All Saints Sunday  
Nov. 1: Daylight Savings Time Ends  
Nov. 14: Christmas Card Workshop  
Nov. 26: Happy Thanksgiving!  
Nov. 28: Advent/Christmas Decorating  
Nov. 29: First Sunday in Advent

P.S. As we approach Reformation Sunday, look for some changes to my office door. ☺

# Being Holy Trinity

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## President's Letter

Hello All,

It is hard to believe that fall is here already!

My message is brief - I hope you all consider our needs. We need three or four people willing to join our council. We could use more people willing to help with snow removal. We need to prayerfully consider our financial giving.

There are many ways you can serve your congregation - long and short term. If you are interested in ways you can serve your congregation, please talk with me, Pastor Jane or any council member.

Thank you all!

God bless you, Holy Trinity and our country.

Peace and Love,

*Pete*



## Hospitality: The 5-10 Link for Welcoming Churches

**5 minutes** before and after service, make sure you meet someone you never met. Avoid leading with the question, "Is this your first time?" Because it may not be. They may have been there for years, but your paths never crossed. Simply offer a, "I don't think we've met yet" or the simple, "Hi, my name so and so, what's yours?"

**The 10** refers to distance. When someone you haven't met is within 10 feet of you, go and greet them. Even if you're standing in an already established circle, have the courage to excuse yourself and break the circle to greet the person you haven't had the opportunity to meet yet. In fact, if you had to break the circle to greet them, invite them in the circle of fellowship you were already standing in — which leads to the last rule:

**Link.**

**"Link"** refers to connecting them to other people in the church. In the process of getting to know them (their name, where they're from, what work they do) perhaps they have something in common with someone you already know. Maybe they just started teaching at a local elementary school and your friend works at that same school. Connect them to your friend.

We cannot have a passive mindset when we're working on making people feel welcome. We have to be active and intentional and diligent. We also have to take a risk, in the sense that we may have to step out of our comfort zone to really greet someone we may not know at church.

People come to church not just to connect with God, but with God's people as well. Everyone is in need of a community. Each of us has the power and ability to help someone feel a sense of belonging in our community.

*Thoughtfully submitted by your Hospitality Team*

## Lutheran Liturgy in Worship: Why Do We Use it Today?

Have you ever wondered why we worship the way we do each Sunday? Why do we repeat certain prayers, responses, songs, and patterns from week to week?

As a church musician, I've come to appreciate that the liturgy is much more than simply "the order of the service." The word *liturgy* means "**the work of the people.**" It reminds us that worship is something we do together. We gather, hear God's Word, pray, share in Holy Communion, sing, and are sent back into the world to live out God's love.

For Lutherans, this pattern has deep roots in the early church. Over the centuries, the church has continued to shape and adapt the liturgy while keeping Christ, the gospel, Word, and Sacrament at its center.

### A Variety of Worship at Holy Trinity

This fall, Pastor Jane and I are continuing to make some changes in our worship at Holy Trinity while also bringing back both new and other familiar Lutheran liturgical traditions.

- **The first two Sundays of each month** will generally use traditional Lutheran liturgy and hymnody from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)*.
- **The third and fourth Sundays** will feature our Praise & Worship Band, along with communion liturgies from *This Far by Faith: An African American Resource for Worship*. This wonderful resource that the ELCA adopted draws from the rich musical traditions of African American spirituals and gospel music. Some of these songs and liturgical settings have also become part of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW)*, allowing the whole church to experience and celebrate these gifts.

We'll continue this rotation until the season of Advent. My hope is that as we experience these different settings, musical styles, and ways of worshiping, they will become increasingly familiar and comfortable for all of us which encourages strong and robust congregational singing.

And perhaps that is one of the beautiful things about Lutheran worship: ***the music and style may change, but what brings us together does not.*** Each week we gather around Christ, hear God's Word, receive God's grace in Word and Sacrament, and are sent to share God's love with the world.

I look forward to making this musical and liturgical journey together with you!

Jason Meissner  
Director of Music



Choir is always warmly welcoming new members to join in our rehearsals on Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 pm.

We usually sing in worship twice a month.

If you have questions, please email Jason at [holytrinitywamusic@gmail.com](mailto:holytrinitywamusic@gmail.com).

# Reimagining Holy Trinity

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I'd like to take this opportunity to update you with the Holy Trinity Reimagined project.

As I hope you all have seen, our public spaces look more like the welcoming spaces we envisioned. The furniture is in place, the new flooring is installed, and the artwork and large screen TV are up. There will be welcome signs installed at each entrance. Please take time to look at the refreshed areas when you can.

We originally established a \$40,000 budget for this project. Through your generosity we have raised over \$37,000. We think the final costs now to be around \$38,000. Thank you all for your generosity!

The next step in this process will be to make our online welcome just as warm. We will be refreshing our website, adding engaging features to our social media pages, and taking a fresh look at the words we use to introduce Holy Trinity to others.

A few years ago, a team developed this mission statement for Holy Trinity:

*Our mission is to help yearning souls fully experience and share God's grace – His free gift of forgiveness and His strength to overcome the power of sin in our lives.*

As part of Project Reimagine, we wanted to express the same purpose in language that feels more conversational and easy to understand. The refreshed version reads:

*We welcome people just as they are, help them discover God's love and forgiveness, and encourage them to share that love in everyday life.*

You will also see us using a shorter tagline: *You're welcome here. Find hope. Grow in love.*

Thank you all for the ways you've helped bring Project Reimagine to life. This is more than updating rooms and improving our online presence. We are building a church community where people feel welcomed, valued and included. My hope is that whether you come in person or find us online, you experience the warmth of Holy Trinity and discover that we are a place where you can grow, serve, and share God's love with us.

Yours in Christ,

*Pete Jensen*

Congregation President.



to Jeff Ferstadt and Pete Jensen for cutting our extensive lawns and Walt Wilinski and George Jonovic (backup) for cutting and trimming the labyrinth grass this year.



## **3rd Quarter Contribution Statements**

will be emailed or mailed the first full week in October. When you receive yours, please check for any discrepancies with your records and let the church know if you find any. Thank you!

**December/January Newsletter Deadline**  
Wednesday, November 18



## Film Study

We will begin a film study in October called "Ed's Story." Dates are to be determined.

"Ed's Story" is a film series about hope featuring pastor and author Dr. Ed Dobson as he lives with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). The core message of this series is about finding hope, meaning and resilience while wrestling with worry, identity, forgiveness, gratitude, and healing. Inspired by a phone call reminding him that "it ain't over till it's over," Ed lived well past his initial prognosis of 2-5 years to witness major family milestones.

## BUNCO is Back!

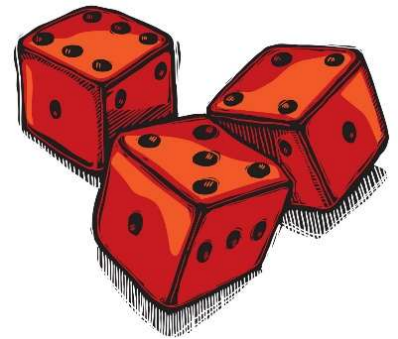
**Saturday, October 24**

**1:00 – 3:00 pm**

Join in the fun!

Don't worry if you've never played, it's easy to learn. You will be playing like a pro after one game! We will be collecting food items for Hope Pantry.

Watch soon for the sign-up on the bulletin board or on our website.



## Let's Turn Up the Heat at Our Chili Cook-Off & Silent Auction for Hope Closet & Pantry!

Who's ready for a day filled with tasty chili, friendly competition, and plenty of fun for a great cause? The **Holy Trinity Event Team** would love to see you at our **Chili Cook-Off & Silent Auction on Sunday, October 25, at 11:00 am**. Worship begins at 10:00 am, and with the Packers kicking off at 4:25 pm, you won't miss a thing!

Come hungry and ready to cheer on our cooks as they share their very best chili recipes. You'll get the delicious job of **sampling the entries and voting for your favorite**. Whether you're a true chili connoisseur or simply enjoy a warm, hearty

bowl, there will be something for everyone to savor.

And there's more than chili on the menu! Take some time to browse the **Silent Auction**, place a bid, and perhaps head home with a special find. Best of all, **every bid supports Hope Closet & Pantry and the people they serve**.

So invite a friend, bring your appetite, and join us for a wonderful day of food, fellowship, and giving back. **Bid big, share some hope, and help us make this event a sizzling success!**

# November @ Holy Trinity

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**All Saints Sunday** will be celebrated at Holy Trinity on Sunday, November 1, 2026.

"All includes those beloved by others. All Saints creates a space that embraces with honor the multitudes of individuals among the beloved dead. We see their faces, say their names, and recognize in the worshipers around us others who carry their own memories and litanies of saints. All Saints sets out a place for all of them — an assembly the book of Revelation describes as 'a number no one could count' with saints 'from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages' (7:9). All Saints brings into focus our own beloved dead while also stretching our imagination toward the whole company of saints, more diverse and populous than we can fully comprehend." \*



With that in mind, if you have lost a loved one in the last year, please contact the church office if you would like their name read in church during the worship service. In addition, this year we will offer a time for all to remember their loved ones by lighting a candle.

\* Stewart, Benjamin M. "All Saints Day." *Living Lutheran*, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 31 Oct. 2022, [www.livinglutheran.org/2022/11/all-saints-day/#:~:text=For%20Lutherans%2C%20All%20Saints%20resonates,in%20the%20mercy%20of%20God.](http://www.livinglutheran.org/2022/11/all-saints-day/#:~:text=For%20Lutherans%2C%20All%20Saints%20resonates,in%20the%20mercy%20of%20God.)

## Women's Ministry Events

After a summer break, we are back in action. Here are some events we are planning for 2026/2027. There will be more details for each as they get closer. We hope you will join us!

- Save the date for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual **Christmas Card Workshop: November 14**.
- We continue to support our service men and women by participating in **Operation Home Baked**.
- **Bunco** is coming back! October 24, January 23 and April 24.
- Spring card workshop.

And maybe some surprises!

If you have any questions or would like more information about Women's Ministry, contact one of us: Phylaine Nicholas, Jenny Erdmann, Jane Guyette, Kathy Dobert, Cathy Dietrick & Barb Wilke.



## Not getting Holy Trinity emails?

We've heard that some members have noticed that emails from the church have gone into their 'spam' folder. Email service providers periodically adjust their spam detection tools and certain mass emails - like our Weekly eNews and our Volunteer Signup requests - get identified as potential spam. Please check your spam folder periodically to see if this has happened; and, if any HT email in there looks legitimate, add it back to your 'safe senders' list.

## West Allis Warming Shelter Update

Last fall discussions began within the West Allis community to address rising homelessness in West Allis. One of the top needs identified was that there were no overnight warming shelters in the city. Mount Hope Lutheran Church's leadership spent much time this year figuring out the logistics of how to open this type of temporary shelter for the winter. Unfortunately, due to city zoning requirements and other issues, Mount Hope will not be submitting an application to open a shelter this winter season.

# Chili Cook-off & Silent Auction

SUNDAY  
OCTOBER  
25  
11:00 AM



Turn up the heat and join  
us for a fun and flavorful  
Chili Cook-Off!

Cooks compete with their best  
recipes — and you get to taste and  
vote for your favorite.

Silent Auction  
Bid Big. Give Hope.

Auction features some great finds!  
Every bid helps support Hope Closet  
and Pantry and the people they serve.

*Don't miss this sizzling event!*

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH [WWW.HTWA.CHURCH](http://WWW.HTWA.CHURCH)



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**Have You Moved or Will You Be  
Temporarily Away?**

Please notify the church office (see  
contact info above)

