

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends in Christ,

When we learned the new setting in worship recently, some people were confused by the words Kyrie eleison, so I thought I would take the time to elaborate on that key phrase in Christian liturgy.

This phrase comes to us from the Greek, Κύριε ἐλέησον. Kyrie means "Lord." Eleison means "have mercy."

So, when we sing, "Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way; Kyrie eleison, every day," we are asking God to have mercy on us, our lives, and all that we do every day, and in every way.

This phrase is an ancient prayer used in Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox and other Christian denominations around the world. You may recognize the English phrasing from the Prayers of the People that we offer each week in worship.

With that in mind, I thought I would discuss how the Prayers of the People/Prayers of Intercession in worship are crafted.

If you get a chance to look at page 105 in the hymnal, you'll notice that it says the prayers are prepared using a pattern.

- for the church universal, its ministry, and the mission of the gospel;
- for the well-being of creation;
- for peace and justice in the world, the nations and those in authority, the community;
- for the poor, oppressed, sick, bereaved, lonely;
- for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit;
- for the congregation, and for special concerns.
- And, of course, prayers from those assembled.

Then each petition, each section, ends one of three ways:

- Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.
- Let us pray. Have mercy, O God.
- Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Each of those responses is, essentially, Kyrie eleison. Lord have mercy. Lord show us your love. Lord give us your grace. Lord walk with us. Even though we don't deserve it. Even though we have done nothing to earn it. We know that we are God's beloved. Amen. (So be it.)

Kyrie eleison and blessings,

Pastor Jane

For more information, see: <https://blogs.elca.org/worship/5077/>

HIGHLIGHTS

Feb. 1: 2026 Budget Review

Feb. 8: Annual Meeting

Feb. 18: Ash Wednesday

Feb. 21: Bunco

Feb. 25: Lenten Soup Suppers &
Services begin on Wednesdays

Mar. 8: Daylight Saving Time begins

Mar. 21: Bunco

Mar. 25: Last Lenten Soup Supper &
Service

Mar. 28: Indoor Spring Clean

Mar. 29: Palm Sunday

Lent @ Holy Trinity

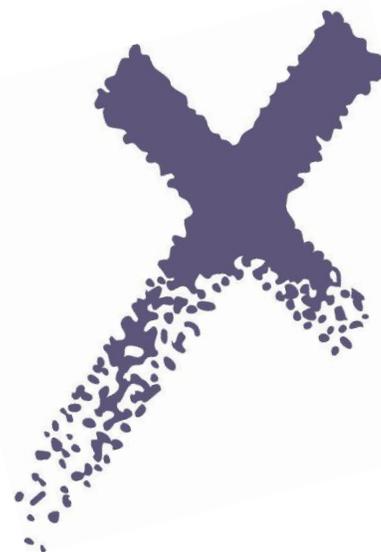
Lent Begins February 18

Lent is a holy time for deepening one's relationship with Christ through service, sacrifice, and hope as Easter nears. We reflect on God's boundless love and how He brings healing and compassion to us even in our darkest moments.

Join us for the official start of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 18 @ 6:30 pm. Each Wednesday during Lent - February 25 thru March 25 - we invite you to a Soup Supper @ 5:45 pm. Sign up in the narthex to share your favorite soup, bread, or dessert.

The suppers are followed by an evening worship service @ 6:30 pm.

Come, join the conversation in-person or online!



Holy Week:

Palm Sunday
March 29

Maundy Thursday
April 2

Good Friday
April 3

Easter Sunday
April 5

Lentenly Speaking: Musically why?

As we enter the season of Lent—a sacred time of preparation and reflection—you may notice a shift in our musical and liturgical approach during worship. Throughout these 40 days, our music and liturgy are intentionally more reflective and contemplative, helping us walk thoughtfully toward Holy Week and Easter.

On **Sunday mornings**, worship during the **first and second Sundays of each month** will lean more heavily into our *ELW Lutheran liturgies*, drawing on their rich, traditional foundations.

One notable change during Lent is the “**Alleluia Fast.**” In keeping with longstanding church tradition, both “*Glory to God*” and “*Alleluia*” are omitted during Lent, echoing Christ’s 40 days in the wilderness. In place of the Alleluia, we sing “**Let Your Steadfast Love Come to Us, O Lord**” as our Lenten Gospel Acclamation.

Our **Wednesday Evening Lenten Services** are designed to be simple, prayerful, and reflective — an especially welcoming space for those new to our community or exploring faith:

- Worship begins with a procession and evening hymn from Marty Haugen’s *Holden Evening Prayer*, “**Joyous Light.**”
- Each week, a hymn is thoughtfully chosen by Pastor Jane to reflect and respond to her sermon and pastoral message.
- Worship concludes with a cantor-led and congregational response, “**Watch, O Lord,**” from *Unfailing Light* by Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl.

These midweek Lenten services are intentionally shorter, offering a gentle entry point for newcomers and a meaningful time for all to pause, simplify, and reflect as we journey together through this sacred season.

****PLEASE NOTE**** *We are always looking* for more singers, and cantors for Choir, Praise Band, and singing in Wednesday Lenten worship services. Instrumentalists, especially guitarists are in high demand!

Please reach out to Jason Meissner at 262.510.9145 if you feel you might be called to assist and help in leading worship.

Welcome to New Members Tim & Cathy Malwitz! They were received on Sunday, January 18. We are so happy to have you join the Holy Trinity family!

Our Annual Meeting is **Sunday, February 8, 2026** following the worship service. Budget Review takes place on Sunday, February 1 after worship. 2025 Annual Reports are available at the Welcome Desk or by contacting the church office.

Women's Ministry

We sure had a lot of fun at our January 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 upcoming dates: **Saturdays, February 21 & March 21**. It's a simple game to learn and we enjoy our time with conversation and laughter.

We are looking forward to some upcoming spring events. We will be hosting a *Spring Card Workshop* and will be collecting for *Movers for Moms* again this year. Stay tuned for more information.

Thank you for your support!

Easter Flowers!

Order your Easter Flowers and help make the Sanctuary blossom in vibrant colors for Easter this year. Watch for the order form in your Sunday bulletin and online through the weekly Thursday E-Blast or our website beginning in mid-February. Flower order deadline is **Sunday, March 15**.



Indoor Spring Clean

Our annual Indoor Spring Clean happens on **Saturday, March 28** beginning at 9:00 am. All members are invited to come lend a hand as you are able. There are many tasks – some heavy, some light, some you can accomplish while sitting. All that cleaning makes for hungry folks, so you can also help by providing snacks for the team. Watch for a sign-up in the narthex in March.

Events Sneak Peek

Although there is a deep freeze expected today, preparations have already begun for the 2026 season of Live @ the Labyrinth. We are pleased to announce several updates for this year's schedule: there will be three evenings of music on the third Thursdays — **June 18, July 16, and August 20**; outdoor worship will take place on the first Sundays — **June 7, July 5, and August 2**; and Saturday morning Yoga sessions will resume beginning **June 6**.

As previously communicated, the Connecting Roots and Labyrinth Event teams have merged into a single Event Team and have revised the event calendar. The Valentine Cookie Sale has been retired after more than twenty years, and a new fall event — a Chili Cook-Off and silent auction benefiting Hope Ministries — will be held on **Sunday, October 25**.

Anyone interested in participating in the planning of these events is welcome to join our meetings, which are held on the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm. For additional information, please contact any Event Team member: Karen Brienzo, Cathy Dietrick, Lisa Mootz, Phylaine Nicholas, Jeanne Weiss, or Barb Wilke.

Stay tuned - lots more info to come...



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Electronic Service Requested



Connect with us on
Facebook:

facebook.com/htwa.church

Have You Moved or Will You Be Temporarily Away?

Please notify the church office (see
contact info above)

LENT

serve · pray · hope



Ash Wednesday, February 18 @ 6:30 pm

Wednesday Lenten Services

Feb 25 - Mar 25

Soup Supper @ 5:45 pm | Service @ 6:30 pm

Sundays @ 9:15 am