

THE CHURCH IS THE Messenger

...JESUS IS THE MESSAGE!



The Messenger is the monthly newsletter of

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

350 East Madison Street
Lombard, Illinois 60148
Office - 630.620.0072

www.htlclombard.org



Find us on Facebook at
"Holy Trinity Lombard"

Holy Trinity's mission is to
strengthen relationships between
God and all people in Christ.

*God's work, our hands;
in the village, in the world.*

March 2017



March Schedule

Ash Wednesday



- | | |
|----------|--|
| March 1 | Ash Wednesday - Imposition of Ashes at both services
12:00 noon
7:00 pm—Choir led service
Joyful Juniors and Senior Choir singing |
| March 5 | 9:00 am – Choir led service
First Communion Service for Youth
Joyful Juniors and Senior Choir singing
10:45 am – Praise band led service
Youth Choir singing |
| March 12 | 9:00 am – Choir led service
Senior Choir singing
10:45 am – Praise band led service |
| March 19 | 9:00 am – Choir led service
Substitute Pastor
Handbell Choir playing
Blessing of Home Communion
10:45 am – Praise band led service |
| March 26 | 9:00 am Choir led service
Senior Choir singing
10:45 am – Praise band led service |

Pastor Amy Gillespie presiding at all services, except as noted
Holy Communion will be served at all services

A Message from our Pastor

Hello Holy Trinity church and community,

As I'm writing this article it is 68 degrees out in February! Have we actually reached Spring yet? Once you read this it will be the month of March and one of the first things to happen in March, on March 1st is Ash Wednesday. In March this year, we turn our attention towards the season of Lent where we may feel a dissonance with our environment. We move into the season of Spring in the midst of Lent and we also celebrate St. Patrick's day in this month of March.

As things start to brighten up outside and the buds pop out of the tree limbs, it can be a struggle to find the energy and discipline to take time to focus on what Jesus' dying and rising means to you. Growing up, I always wracked my brain for something to "give up" over Lent to show my penitence, "because that's what you do," is what I thought. I probably put as much effort into coming up with something to give up for Lent as I did in trying to figure out what to be for Halloween. I didn't realize the connection of "giving something up" with the idea of fasting and why that is practiced in the first place.

According to the book I'm reading about the church seasons I mentioned last month, *The Circle of Seasons: Meeting God in the Church Year*, Lent originated in the early church as a forty-hour fast from Good Friday to Easter Sunday, the same time Jesus was in the tomb. Later in the 4th Century, Lent evolved to forty days stretching from Ash Wednesday to Easter. There are a number of disciplines that arose as traditional observances of the Lenten season; three of which are fasting, repentance and almsgiving. One of the main reasons to fast in Lent is to create space for our relationship with God. When we empty ourselves of food or other things that leave us over-full or over-scheduled, we open ourselves to time and space with God, an opportunity to listen for God in our lives.

We now have five weeks of Lent (not counting the Sundays, as they are

still considered feast days) and then we reach Palm Sunday when Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey; Jerusalem, where Jesus would be tried and crucified on Good Friday and rise again on the third day. We tell the story and retell it over and over again each year to remind us of what Jesus has done for all of us. In this time of reflection and repentance, offer yourself that space for God to fill; Take some time to look into spiritual practices you may not know about or have never tried.

For the five weeks of Lent, I will be studying *lectio divina* which is latin for "holy reading." This is a practice that allows you to sit with Scripture, to ponder the words and phrases, to think on your response to them and what God is speaking to you through them. I learned this spiritual practice on a retreat led by seminarians at my church in Albany Park. That retreat gave me space and time to ponder where God was calling me and helped me discern my path to ministry.

I will be sitting with Scripture each Friday of Lent practicing *lectio divina* starting Friday, March 3rd from noon-1pm at the Corner Coffee House in Lombard (100 W. St. Charles Rd. Lombard, IL 60148). The location may change depending on the noise level of our first meeting. If that happens, we will send an email out to everyone with the updated location. If you're able to join over your lunch break, please do! We may not go the whole hour if that helps. There is no prior experience needed, we're simply making space for God to speak to us in this Lenten season.

If you are hungry for other spiritual practices or don't have the time to join this one, please let me know and we'll explore some ideas together.

Blessings on your Lenten journey,
-Pastor Amy



Confirmation
Ministries**What's
New?****Confirmation Corner**

We've had some great people step up and lead confirmation while I've been gone most of February. The confirmands had a team building night with the youth group early February, then Julie DeLeon led the confirmands in a service project the next week. They made Valentines for the senior citizens in the congregation and handed them out for Valentine's Day. I'm so proud of the confirmation class and their parents for strengthening the cross-generational bonds within this unique community of all generations through this service project! The next week Jackie Krisik led a game night for the confirmands to expend some energy and get to know each other better. I'm so grateful to these parents that stepped in to spend time playing and serving with the confirmands.

This month we are going a little deeper into our spirituality and what the season of Lent means. As Ash Wednesday is the first day of March, we will be (attempting) to make ashes together from the Palms from Palm Sunday last year. Full disclosure, this is my first time making ashes for Ash Wednesday so I'm hoping the confirmands learn something and we can help each other grow deeper in our faith as we live out the fullness of Ash Wednesday.

Later in March we will be taking a handful of confirmands to Camp Lutherdale for a Confirmation Retreat focused on the Apostle's Creed. I'm really excited for this opportunity to learn together and get a change of scenery. As always, if you're interested in helping form the faith of these confirmands, join us any time on Wednesday nights at 7pm or if you have a 6, 7th or 8th grader that's curious and wants to check it out, come and see!

I'm also looking into resources and ideas for adult confirmation studies. If this interests you, please let me know, the more the merrier. holytrinitypastora@sbcglobal.net.

-Pastor Amy

Women's Ministries

**Peace Circle Update**

The first meeting of 2017 for Peace Circle will be on Tuesday March 7th. All women of Holy Trinity are invited to join us at 12:30 p.m. at Casey's restaurant, which is located at 415 E. North Avenue in Lombard. Please call Jan Christiansen at 630 788-9509 or Marilyn Hill at 630 629-9407 by Sunday March 5th so we can confirm the correct number for the reservation.

Children's Ministries

**Mark your
Calendar!****Vacation Bible School 2017—June 12-16 from 9 am to noon**

This year's program is called "Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace". It will be set up in a "marketplace" type format similar to VBS in 2015 and is sure to be an awesome week filled with stories, crafts, games and music.

Check the website or office counter for registration forms to be available or posted soon.

Youth Ministries

Concrete What's New?

News

February started off with a lot of fun as the group headed into Wisconsin for a quick retreat. We spent some time in Lake Geneva at the U.S. National Snow Sculpting Competition. The sculptures were incredible and we were glad we braved the cold to see them. We spent the night at the Schweppe family home in Williams Bay where we played games, watched movies, ate, and spent time in fellowship with each other. It was a great chance to get away and relax. Thanks to Ralph and Elaine Schweppe for opening their home to our group; to Jeff and Laura Schweppe who invited us to their home to cook breakfast; to the youth group parents who supplied the food for the weekend, and to Bob Stoner for driving and being an adult leader on the trip.

On Wednesdays, we continued to study God's word and work on developing our relationship with Jesus. We spent one Wednesday with the Confirmation students playing games and getting to know each other a bit better. We have started working on decorations for the Variety Show and Dinner and are working to put together a special act for the show. We hope that you all will join us for this special evening.



Share Your Talent

Annual Talent Show—Don't Miss This!

Tickets are now on sale for the 2017 Variety Show and Dinner. The show is Saturday, March 11 at 5 pm. Purchase your tickets between services or contact Julie Sprague.

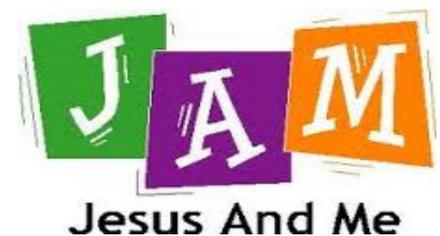
Adults are \$15 and Children under 12 are \$10. All proceeds will help to support this year's mission trip to Wind River Reservation in Wyoming.

Don't miss this evening of fun and fellowship!

Children's Ministries

JAM News What's Going on in Sunday JAM?

For the season of Lent, the Children and families of Sunday JAM will be collecting donations for the ELCA World Hunger campaign and they are inviting you to join them. This campaign is called "40 Days of Giving" and gives us the opportunity to come together with the larger church body to fight hunger and poverty during the season of Lent. Watch and listen for more details to follow throughout the season and prayerfully consider making a specific donation to Holy Trinity towards this cause.



Reminders!

Annual Flower and Plant Sale—Order Forms Due Date: March 14
Please pass a form along to friends, family and neighbors.
Proceeds will benefit our church's general fund.

Save the Date: Easter is April 16

Take Stock in Our Youth

This summer Holy Trinity’s Youth Group, Concrete, will be participating in a mission trip through the YouthWorks Organization to the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming. The youth will leave Lombard on Friday, June 23 and return on Sunday, July 2. During the week, the youth will work together with other youth and leaders on the mission site to serve the community in various ways. There will also be time during the week to learn more about the culture of the area in addition to developing their faith through devotion time and worship. Watch for information coming later this Spring regarding the Worship Service during which the Youth will share their mission trip experience.

In order to participate in this trip, each youth is responsible for paying \$339 to cover the costs of the time spent on the mission site. Additionally, the group will need to fundraise more than \$6,000 to cover the costs of travel, including the rental of vans, gasoline and food while we are in route.

We are reaching out to you because we need your help to make this experience possible for HTLC’s youth! Please consider “Taking Stock” in HTLC’s youth by buying at least one share of stock to support this faith building trip. Shares are just \$25 each. Your dividend, for each \$25 share, will include a ticket to the Stockholder’s Meeting and Dinner; a thank-you meal served by trip participants to be held early in the Fall of 2017. (Children under 12 may attend the dinner for free.) This event is not just a dinner, but a chance to see pictures from the trip and to hear many stories about the Youths’ experience.

By purchasing stock, you’re not just supporting a trip; you’re supporting the faith formation of the young people of this congregation who will grow in their Christian faith during the week of service, worship, Bible study, prayer and discussion. They will return to share God’s love within the HTLC community and beyond!

If you are interested in purchasing stock in HTLC youth, you may fill out the form below and return it to Holy Trinity to the attention of Julie Sprague marked “Youth Stock”. Checks should be made payable to Holy Trinity. In return, we will send you an acknowledgement and more information on the Stockholder’s Meeting and Dinner.

Thank you so much for your support,
Concrete

Share Holder Information:

of Shares _____ Payment Amount: _____

of Dinner Tickets Needed _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone or E-mail address _____

March Birthdays



John Hallman	3/02	Roxanne Knapp	3/18	Jane Moen	3/25
David Sanders	3/03	Charlene Tiknus	3/18	Randall Patterson	3/25
Laurel Burritt	3/04	Kevin Waters	3/18	James Rogers	3/26
Ruth Lombard	3/04	Sherry Chromzack	3/19	Andrea Dauksa	3/27
Linda Belitz	3/05	Andrea Hartwick	3/19	Geraldine DeFalco	3/27
Kimberly Kraynak	3/05	Shirley Polen	3/19	James Horne	3/27
Laney Staffeldt	3/07	Mary Rohde	3/20	Deborah Embry	3/28
Molly behrendt	3/08	John Dekker	3/21	Beverly Stasi	3/29
Ernest Heizmann	3/08	Pam Ryan	3/21	Sara Amara	3/30
Algis Tiknus	3/10	Susan Bergmann	3/22	Joann Lombard	3/30
Carole Bodenstab	3/13	Harriett Dunne	3/23	Gregory Bergmann	3/31
Janessa Bender	3/15J	Donna Sell	3/24		
Joel Smrz	3/17	Gloria Hester	3/25		

Congregation Life

Grace Garden

Spring is on its Way!

Spring is coming soon and before we know it we will all be in our yards planting our gardens of flowers and vegetables. The flower sale is underway and plans are in the works to continue our very own Grace Garden for the third year. Julie DeLeon has done a great job heading up this awesome ministry which provides fresh vegetables and fruit for the congregation and local community throughout the summer.



Now is the time for each of us to consider how we might help this Grace Garden Grow. Below are a few ideas:

1. Make a monetary donation to Holy Trinity “(mark the envelope Grace Garden), or add it directly onto your flower order. These donations will help to offset the costs of plants and necessary items for the 2017 garden.
2. Contact Julie DeLeon to help plant the garden in the spring.
3. Sign up to “adopt the garden” for a specific time period or day of the week this summer. Watch for a sign-up sheet to be posted in the parlor. We need to keep the garden watered on those warm summer days.

Any help that you can provide will help to make the garden a success! Blessings to you all!

Congregation Life

From Pastor Amy

A warm and hearty thank you for all your thoughts and prayers for Jacob and I as I recovered from surgery. I’m feeling tons better and all restrictions are lifted so back to normal! Thank you also for the thoughtful cards and meals that people sent and provided. I now realize how much a card can lift your spirits, thank you all so much!

With gratitude,
Pastor Amy and Jacob



A Note of Appreciation

Dear church family,

Hugh and I want to thank all who offered their support, prayers, meals and help during our recent surgeries and hospital stays. Hugh has been in and out the hospital or rehab after his heart procedure since Thanksgiving and I went into the hospital in January for an emergency appendectomy and consequent infection just a couple of days before Hugh was to be discharged from nursing home rehab to go home. My surgery further complicating matters since I couldn’t care for him very well during my recovery. Thank God that our cousins from Columbus, Ohio who volunteered to come and care for both of us during the first two weeks of recovery! Thank God for, in addition to our adult children, we had willing and caring friends from the congregation who supplied meals, offered help, shopped, sent cards and visited during our recovery as well. We could not have healed and recovered without you and we thank and appreciate everything so much! Hugh still has a long road to go in recovery but he is improving daily and we have faith that we will make it through together being upheld by our Lord and our family.

God bless you all for caring
Lola and Hugh Claycombe

Council Meeting Minutes: January 16, 2017

Meeting was called to order by Bernie Pawlowski at 7:05pm. All Council members were present with the exception of Jim Horne. A quorum was declared.

Pastor Amy opened in prayer and blessings and a devotion from Coretta Scott King – Equality, tolerance and interracial non-bias – MLK Day is a day of service to build the world Martin Luther King so envisioned. It is our choice to walk in the light or live in darkness. MLK tried to live his life serving other – Make MLK Day a way to serve with unconditional love to carry forth his legacy.

Jay Zielinski motioned to accept the minutes from last meeting and from the impromptu council meeting on 1/15/17, with a 2nd from Todd Kudla. Motion accepted.

Treasurer's Report by Sue Pawlowski:

December put is in a really good place with more than anticipated giving - 2016 December Offering \$35,291, ending the year \$4,987 ahead of plan.

We received \$168,000 in pledges which is \$16,000 better than last year, however it's still very difficult to plan when we still have 64% of the congregation that hasn't pledged. Maybe we should send the proposed 2017 budget to the entire congregation and ask again, for those who haven't pledged if they would please do so because we have a big gap to fill. *Lesson learned for 2018 is to ensure we have a proposed budget in place before asking the congregation for their pledge.

A significant milestone at Beacon Hill, they gave Pastor Amy a card with \$50 for the special services, which was an unexpected first and so very appreciated.

Reminder that there is a special budget forum next Sunday and we're hoping to get much of the budget detail worked out and questions answered so we don't have to go into so much detail at the Congregational Meeting.

Julie DeLeon motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report with a 2nd from Rich Kassal. Motion accepted.

Pastor's Report:

Dates to note – Had vacation dates Jan. 10-15th; Pending surgery, date likely early Feb. depending on doctor availability.

Outside/Inside Supports - Mutual ministry committee, First call theod started again this month with coaching component; Intentional impact again this month as well; text study Tuesdays every week.

Visiting/ongoing pastoral care – Pauline and Art communion visit before Christmas; Saw Hugh at rehab on Dec. 27th, should be coming home shortly; Ed Hartwick communion visit; Attended colleague and Pastor Greg Moser wake, Helen Jacobs – moved to hospice in Beacon Hill, visited twice this month.

Outside/Inside activities since last council meeting – Christmas Eve 4, 6, 10pm; Christmas day 10am Lessons and Carols; New Years day 10am Lessons and Carols; Met with Jan Wallinder for mother's memorial gift wishes

Committee Meetings and follow-up attended since last council – Personnel meeting on 1/8/17.

Ongoing and upcoming ideas/events –

- [Ongoing] Care Team still getting together; Cancer Support Group still getting together as well.
- [Ongoing] Reviewing job descriptions and clarifying with staff as of personnel meeting 1/8/17 we will review job descriptions concurrent with reviews based on contract dates.
- Need to plan times/coordinate for First Communion program in Winter
- Focus groups/transition team for ideas for 2017 and beyond (Feb/March)
- Synod Assembly June 9 – 10th in Tinley Park, discuss later who will attend (3 lay voting members allocated)
- Churchwide strongly urges us to update our constitution due to changes to the model constitution. Discuss when to pursue this and how.

Council Updates and New Business by Bernie Pawlowski

Thank you Todd Kudla for his 6 years of service. Lola Claycombe will also be leaving council this year and Rich Kassal will be coming back on for another year. We are in need of a couple more volunteers for Council. Scott Meers will mention this need at Thursday's Bible study and at Service on Sunday.

We need to post the council meeting minutes either in the Messenger or on the board. These postings will have a month lag because we can't post the minutes prior to them being accepted/approved by council.

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Dennis Colburn announced that we received an anonymous gift of \$5,000. Recommendation that Pastor Amy thank them for the very generous giving they have sent year after year.

Motion to adjourn at 7:55pm by Dennis Colburn with 2nd from Todd Kudla. Motion passed and all joined hands to pray "The Lord's Prayer."

Next regularly scheduled council meeting will be Feb, 20 2017 at 7pm.

Prepared and Submitted,
Julie DeLeon, HTLC Council Member



bə-nev-lən(t)s
[Benevolence]

GENERAL FUND OFFERINGS & EXPENSES

For month of
January 2017

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Offerings	\$ 24,817.47	\$ 22,607.19	\$ (2,210.28)
Expenses	\$ (24,817.47)	\$ (27,508.20)	\$ 2,690.73
Surplus/ Deficit	\$ -	\$ (4,901.01)	\$ (4,901.01)
Year-to-Date			
Offerings	\$ 24,817.47	\$ 22,607.19	\$ (2,210.28)
Expenses	\$ (24,817.47)	\$ (27,508.20)	\$ 2,690.73
Surplus/ Deficit	\$ -	\$ (4,901.01)	\$ (4,901.01)
Benevolence Giving			
January Offering		\$ 660.00	
Year-to-Date Benevolence		\$ 660.00	

From our Treasurer:

Please refer to the weekly bulletin for updates on our financial status.

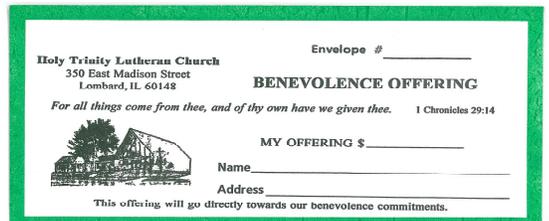
Sue Pawlowski
Treasurer

God's
work.

Our
hands.

Your contributions to "Benevolence" through the congregation support the work of our church-at-large throughout the nation and globally.

Benevolence envelopes are marked with a green border and are available in every pew or through the church office.



Sign Up for Automatic Contributions Using Simply Giving

Please contact Kim in the church office to get information regarding Simply Giving.



www.elca.org



- Serve as an usher at worship - *contact Jim Roos*
- Serve as a greeter before worship - *contact Shirley Polen*
- Serve as a lector at worship - *contact Pam Horne*
- Serve as an assistant minister at worship - *contact Judy Nyberg*
- Be a music leader (instrumentalist or vocalist) at contemporary worship - *contact Pat Barnett*
- Become an Adult Choir or Bell Choir member - *contact Pat Barnett*
- Help with the Nursery on Sunday mornings - *contact Stella Roth*
- Serve as part of the Altar Guild - *contact Gwen Marchese*
- Run contemporary worship projection - *contact Pat Barnett*
- Join the Prayer Blanket Ministry team - *contact Lola Claycombe*
- Help the Property Committee maintain the congregation's building and grounds - *contact Paul Pietrantonio*



- Amy Gillespie** PASTOR
holytrinitypastora@sbcglobal.net
- Kim Kudla** OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
holytrinity1@sbcglobal.net
- Julie Sprague** CHILDREN/YOUTH MINISTRIES
holytrinitysprague@sbcglobal.net
- Pat Barnett** ADULT MUSIC LEADER
pbarnett@maine207.org
- Karen Colburn** CHILDREN'S CHOIR DIRECTOR
holytrinitycolburn@sbcglobal.net
- Stephen Meers** PRAISE AND CELEBRATION GUITARIST
holytrinitymeers@sbcglobal.net
- Roger Griffith** CUSTODIAN
holytrinityroger@sbcglobal.net
- Pastor Kevin Jacobson** MISSIONARY, Surinam



Worship at Holy Trinity

9:00 am Choir Led Worship

- Holy communion is celebrated weekly, and the nursery is open for family use, supervision is available.

9:00 am Sunday Jam (Jesus and Me)

(begins with children in worship)

- Developmentally appropriate and fun faith learning for 3 year-olds through fifth grade.

10:00 am Coffee and Fellowship

- Located in the main floor lounge; enjoy refreshments, nourishment and conversation with friends, both old and new. Come join in the fellowship and get to know your neighbors! Sign up on the calendar in the lounge to host Coffee and Fellowship.

10:45 am Praise Band Led Worship

- Holy Communion is celebrated weekly, the nursery is open for family use, but there is no supervision during this service.

Holy Communion is celebrated every Lord's Day at both worship services. All who are part of the church of Christ, regardless of the denomination of their home congregation, are welcome to the Lord's Table. No questions asked, come and share in the Lord.



The Church office is open at the following times:

Monday-Wednesday 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

8:00 am to 1:00 pm on Thursday

9:00 am to 12:00 pm on Friday

To be added to the Messenger e-mail list, or for any questions about anything in this Messenger, send an e-mail to:

holytrinity1@sbcglobal.net