

OPENDOOR



JULY 2022

HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Hello HTLC Disciples,

While I often think of the long hot days of summer as a time to slow down and take in the warmth, it is also a busy time of planning, adventures, and reconnecting with loved ones. I hope that as you go about your summer you are taking Flat Jesus with you. We all need a reminder that no matter where we are, God's love is surrounding us. I would also love to see your pictures so that we can share in the adventures and the daily tasks of our church family, so we stay connected. Pictures can be sent to me (pastor@htlcweb.org) or the church office (office@htlcweb.org) and be on the lookout for Flat Jesus and our church family!

By the time you read this article Vacation Bible School will be well under way, if not finished. It is a struggle to come back into full activities and navigate a pandemic, but we are trying. I'm excited to be working with the other churches. I believe that being ecumenical gives us a great opportunity to create unity in a time where so much divides us. I am thankful for the leadership of the other churches and their willingness to venture into this new opportunity together. I also think that the theme of Compassion Camp will draw us not only closer together but closer to God. THANK YOU to everyone who making VBS possible! From participants, families, volunteers, and financial donors that we truly appreciate your involvement and support of this faith filled and fun event.



I am also excited to be doing ecumenical work with Bethany Presbyterian Church and Elmwood Church of Christ to support our neighborhood. On **Monday, August 8th from 5:30-7:0pm our churches will host a BBQ and Blessing at Bethany** (3305 Longlois Dr. Lafayette).

During the BBQ local students will receive a backpack, a pair of tennis shoes, socks, and the offer of a haircut. These will be provided free of charge to families to help students as they prepare to go back to school. ***Donations of backpacks, shoes, and socks are needed.*** As reminder, our local elementary schools are kindergarten through 4th grade and students come in a variety of sizes so both children and adult size shoes and socks are appreciated! Bring your contributions to the shopping cart parked under the bulletin board outside the sanctuary. We will also need volunteers to make this event a success; a

Inside this issue:

Lafayette Transitional Housing Christmas in July	3
Ada Graver Baptism	4
2022 Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly	5
Glenn McDonald	6
Upcoming Evenets	7
Birthdays and Anniversaries	8
Council Minutes	9-11
Agnus Day	13

(Continued from page 1)

sign-up sheet will be out beginning in July. If you would like to be part of the planning, please contact me or the church office for further details. We would love to have your help!

I am also starting to hear rumblings around the church about a possible new bathroom and I want to make clear what this is about. The property committee has seen the need for a larger single bathroom. The purpose of this bathroom would be for easy access for someone with a disability, including room for an aid person if needed. This bathroom would also offer a space that parents and care givers can take children to meet family bathroom needs. This handicap and family bathroom can help us in being welcoming to all, but it does come at a price. There are also a couple of locations in the church that are being discussed which could affect price. Currently the property committee is in the stage of gathering information. This information will then be shared with the council and presented to the entire congregation for discussion and decision making. Thank you to the property committee for doing this groundwork, and our council for their discussion and leadership on how we gather and share this information so we can all be a part of this important discussion.

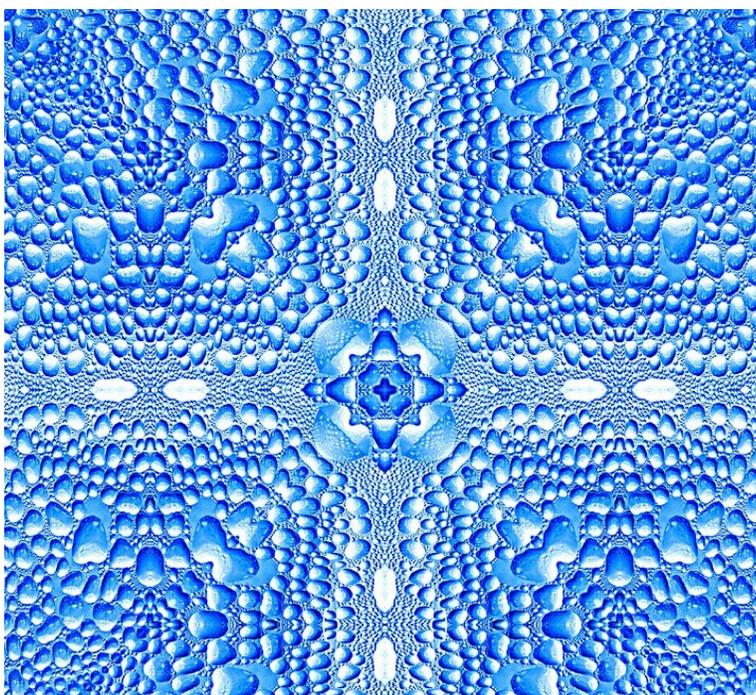
There are also a couple of things I want to share.

- I will be on vacation from Tuesday, July 5th – Monday, July 11th. Rev. Will Peugeot will be leading worship on July 10th and providing emergency pastoral care while I am away.
- I also want to share that the strain of moving followed by covid created the perfect storm and I have a bilateral hernia that will be surgically repaired on Monday, July 25th. I will lead worship on July 24th and July 31st and will work from home during the week to give my body time to heal. Thank you for your understanding and care.

- Finally, I want to thank everyone who has welcomed me into their homes and shared their lives with me. It is wonderful to get to know our shut-ins and share communion with you. I have enjoyed every visit and look forward to many more. If you, or someone you know, would like a visit please contact me. In the coming months I hope to widen this list and visit with additional members to learn more about you. I love building relationships and have enjoyed meeting with people and look forward to getting to know each of you more in the coming months!

Shalom,

Pastor Elizabeth



New Course to be Offered

Are you looking for ways

- to make the words of the Bible come alive and relevant to what is going on in your day?
- to respond instead of react in your daily life, ways to ground yourself more deeply into the love of God?

A new course is being planned on **lectio divina** (sacred reading) and centering prayer as ways that can help us become more grounded in the love of God. The course will start in late September. Look for more information in next month's newsletter. For questions, talk to Pastor or Debra Blum. Debra's contact information is debrasblum@gmail.com.



LTHC is averaging two move-ins each week so we really need your help to stock our Move-In Kit shelves. Here are our most needed items:

Laundry baskets and laundry soap
Dish racks and dish soap
Kitchen trash cans and trash bags
Dishes
Pots and pans
Silverware
Bath towel sets
Kitchen towel and pot holder sets
Twin sheet sets
Comforters

Reach out to Kaitlyn at klayton@lthc.net for details or making your donation delivery.

**When you
finish up a
meeting or
task at
HTLC, Please
turn off the
lights!**





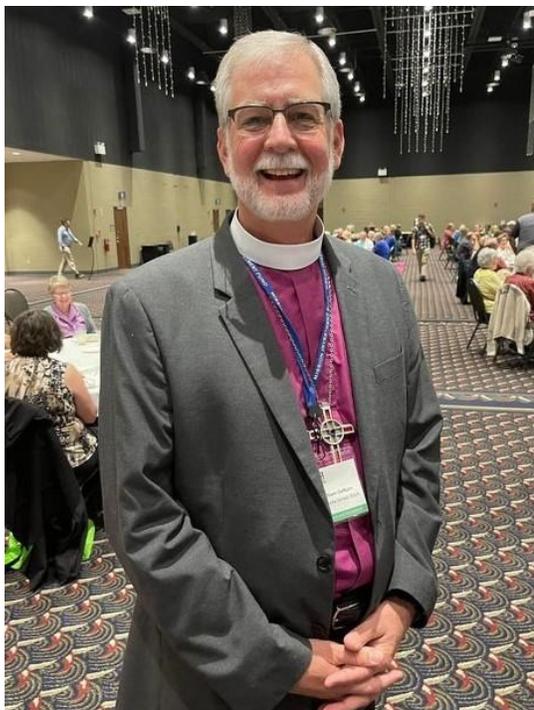
Ada Rae Greaves, daughter of Megan Schwartz Greaves and David A Greaves was excited to participate in her Pentecost Day baptism. She is Cherri and Scott Schwartz's granddaughter. Welcome Ada!



Celebrating the baptism of Ada Greaves



Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly



Bishop Gafajen at Indiana Kentucky Synod Assembly
Photo Credit: Dan Fugate

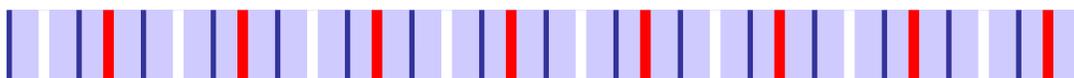
Floyd and Pat Garrott represented HTLC at the 2022 Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly. Mike Anderson and Al Davis were also in attendance. Highlights are always the beautiful worship services and sometimes an exciting event like the election of a bishop. See the news below.

CHICAGO (June 14, 2022) — The Rev. William O. Gafkjen, Indianapolis, was reelected on June 9, 2022, to serve a third six-year term as bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election was held during the synod assembly, June 9-11 at the Horizon Convention Center in Muncie, Indiana.

The bishop was reelected on the first ballot with 204 votes. A total of 192 votes was needed for election.

Gafkjen has served as bishop since 2010. Prior to his election, he was assistant to the bishop of the synod from 2002 to 2010. Previously he served congregations in Minnesota, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Indiana.

Gafkjen earned a Bachelor of Arts from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., in 1979 and a Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., in 1985. He received a Doctor of Ministry in Gospel and Culture from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Ga. For information contact: Candice Hill Buchbinder, 773-380-2877



Everyone needs “Flat Jesus”

Although the fun started with kids reading a book called “Flat Stanley,” the idea of Jesus showing up where-ever you go is great visual reminder for us all.

If you haven’t picked up your own picture, there are copies at church. We probably have crayons too (although classic black and white works too.) Take Jesus with you in the car, to the laundry room, garage, out to help you water your plants, to all sorts of summer adventures to keep you in touch with the presence of Jesus always. Snap a selfie and send it to the office.

We plan to share some of these photos at the church to show all the places Jesus has been this summer.

Love's Bouquet

From "Morning Reflections" written by Glenn McDonald

A few years ago I ran across an advertisement for a love potion.

It was called Love's Bouquet. At the top of the ad were four exciting words: *Never Be Lonely Again!* Further down it read: "Just a touch or two of this powerful love-potion-in-a-bottle is all you need to captivate a new partner or revive a flagging romance.

Love's Bouquet, according to the ad, contains a fiercely irresistible chemical formula which drives people of the opposite sex to you without conscious awareness on their part. "They can't help themselves. Age or appearance doesn't matter!"

The ad included this testimonial from a woman named Jennifer who lives in Wisconsin: "Men who were shy are now genuinely unable to stay away from me."

The possibilities for this product seem endless. Is your church wrangling over theological issues or the color of the carpet in the parlor? Just add a few drops of Love's Bouquet to the communion wine. Conflicts will dissolve and worship attendance will skyrocket.

If only it were that easy.

Real love is not about chemistry. And it's not about feelings. It's not a tidal wave of romantic sentiments that washes us helplessly from one experience to another.

If there really is a potion that drives other people to our sides apart from their consent or conscious awareness, then what is driving them is most certainly not love.

Twenty-three times in the New Testament followers of Jesus are commanded to love each other. Can feelings be commanded? Absolutely not. But *behaviors* can be commanded and *attitudes* can be intentionally cultivated. According to Scripture, love means seeking the good of other people even if we never have warm or positive feelings toward them.



For many of us, that will include family members. It certainly includes people who insist on treating us as if we were their enemies.

"Great lovers" aren't those who can't stay away from each other. They are people who, by God's grace - and according to the celebrated words of the apostle Paul in I Corinthians 13 - learn to keep a lid on their anger. Who are patient longer than they ever thought possible. Who get excited about somebody else's big day. Who refuse to keep records of emotional hurts.

Love, in other words, comes down to seeking somebody else's highest good - just as God is always seeking our highest good.

And that's wonderful news.

Because if real love is a choice, any one of us can become a great lover.

Just the same, it might be wise to steer clear of women from Wisconsin named Jennifer.



Glenn is an ordained Presbyterian minister, has 33 years of congregational leadership experience, and is the author of ten books on discipleship and spiritual formation.



**Back to School
BBQ & Blessing**



Mark the Calendar: Monday, Aug. 8

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Bethany Presbyterian Church, and Elmwood Church of Christ are hosting a "Back to School BBQ & Blessing" on August 8 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at Bethany Church.

Food: Parents and their elementary aged kids are invited to enjoy a picnic of hotdogs, chips and sno-cones.

Fun: They can meet up with some of the folks in our community who help keep them safe like firefighters and police officers.

Blessings:

- Free haircuts will be offered by local beauticians and barbers.
- Our churches are being asked to donate backpacks, gym shoes, and socks. (School supplies will be provided by LSC this year.)

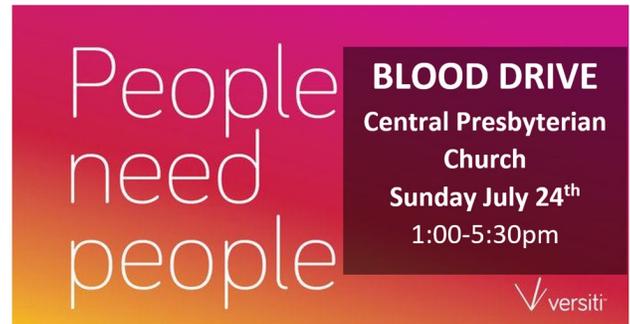
HTLC has traditionally sent a couple reps to a meeting to coordinate the event. Want to meet our Christian friends from Bethany and Elmwood? Let the Office know if you can join the group at 6:30 pm on July 11 at Bethany Presbyterian Church.

Volunteers will also be needed to help host the event. Financial contributions are welcome as well.

Sunday, July 24 Blood Drive

There is a critical blood shortage in our area. Join us in meeting this need in our community!

You are invited to join Lafayette churches in a blood drive on Sunday, July 24, from 1:00 to 5:30 pm at Central Presbyterian Church, 7th and Columbia.



Never donated before? If you are a little nervous, Sue Davis is a veteran donor and can give you the highlights. You even get a cookie when you are done!

Go to this website to make an appointment: https://donate.indiana.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/155024



**Food Finders
Food Bank, Inc.**

Summer is a critical time for children on summer break who do not receive food at school. Purdue Student volunteers leave the community. Food Finders needs help.

HTLC Council has pledged \$3000 as seed money for Food Finders. Please prayerfully consider giving a donation to Food Finders through HTLC. You may send a donation marked "Food Finders" to the church address.

Maybe you'd like to volunteer with Food Finders? Please visit <https://www.food-finders.org/get-involved/>

Shifts generally are 2-3 hours, and you do not have to commit to a regular time. Talk to Will Peugeot, Carolyn Shriver, or Mary and Mike Anderson about their volunteering experiences there.



LET'S CELEBRATE

July Birthdays

- 1 Scott Ahlersmeyer
- 2 Judy Allen
- 9 Rick Wellner
- 15 Kaylee Brown
- 18 Judy Lokke, Barb Everson
- 20 Duane McDonald
- 21 Lucas Greeley
- 24 Carolyn Shriver
- 25 Mike Anderson
- 28 Jeanne Griffith
- 30 Alexis Wallace
- 31 Conner Hintzman

July Anniversaries

- 1 Paul & Linda Widmer
- 7 T.J. & Diane Longdo
- 26 Steve & Judy Hahn
- 28 Dorothy & Rich Sisken,
Matt & Christine Buck



Living God,
 We hear the challenge —
 God's work, our hands!
 We are ready. Make clear
 the call of HTLC among
 the people of Greater Lafa-
 yette. Send your Holy Spir-
 it into our midst. Give us
 energy, ideas, cooperative
 spirit, strength, time, confi-
 dence and needed re-
 sources to be your hands
 and feet. Amen.

We pray for all camp counselors, life guards,
 coaches, cooks and leaders caring for chil-
 dren. Bless them in their important work.



JUNE 13 COUNCIL MEETING VIA ZOOM

		In attendance?
President	Nita Cunningham	yes
Vice President	Kevin Letcher	yes
Financial Secretary	Floyd Garrott	yes
Treasurer	Stan Harlow	yes
Secretary	Elizabeth White	yes
Members	Shelly Benner	yes
	David Krueger	yes
	Bob Montgomery	yes
	Jim Smith	yes
	Mike Anderson	yes
Pastor	Pastor Elizabeth Lee	yes

Council Meeting Minutes

- Draft -



Topic 1: Greetings and Devotions –

- Greetings– Hello from/to All
- Quorum

All present, quorum established.

- Devotions - Stan Harlow
- Approve agenda

Mike Anderson made the motion to approve the draft agenda as prepared. Approved via voice vote.

Topic 2: Administrative Topics

- Approve May 2022 minutes (as revision #2)

Dave Krueger made the motion to approve the draft#2 minutes for the May meeting, approved via voice vote.

Topic 3: Pastor's Report

Pastor and her family are improving from their bout with COVID

In discussion with worship and music committee, Pastor put forth a plan to have, “at the ready” some services, carols and readings, on several themes. For use when there is a last-minute absence of Pastor and a substitute is not available. There will be no communion associated with these services, but still able to provide a structure and worship opportunity. Carol has put the finishing touches on these programs and they are now available to use.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) coming on 27, 28, 29 June. The theme is Compassion Camp. To begin at 5:30 with a meal, followed by the program. Ending with worship at 8pm (communion on Wed). Five churches participating: HTLC, Our Saviour Lutheran, St. John's Episcopal, Good Shepard Episcopal and Bethany Presbyterian. HTLC will host and the other churches will provide the meal. Registration recommended to ensure enough supplies for the activities/ food. Volunteers are still needed to help. There will be two Purdue nursing students to provide child care as needed. Children will be grouped into age groups, plus an adult class.

At the recent Synod conference, Bishop Bill Gafjken was re-elected as the synod leader.

JUNE COUNCIL CONTINUED

Topic 4: Treasurer's Report/Financial Business

- General Review

See report sent, attached in 360Unite on the council webpage. Motion to approve by Dave Krueger, approved via voice vote.

- Policy for use of bequests to the church (cont. from May meeting).
 - Reply from Attny. Schrier was sent to all, and is available in 360Unite on the Council webpage.

Finance will put together a draft of suggestions and council will discuss further.

Topic 5: Use of the Church

- Lifeline screening, use of church July 6.

Lifeline Screening has requested to use HTLC to host an event on July 6.

Council approved this request with the following questions to be answered/ recommendations

- We think they will setup in the fellowship hall, with tables and chairs.
- We will verify w/ Church Mutual that our insurance will cover this use of the building
- Council recommended not to charge (rent).

Consensus to go ahead. Marianne will contact the organization to let them know.

After meeting note: Change of plans, this group will not be using the church.

- Youth group from Holy Cross church in Glenwood City, WI; July 9, 2022
 - Information for both groups is attached in 360Unite on the Council webpage

A youth group from Holy Cross in Glenwood City, MI has confirmed their request for an overnight stay at HTLC (mentioned previously as a tentative request at the April meeting). They have completed the forms, including their insurance coverage. Request for someone available to open the church when they arrive, Nita volunteered (and review the alarm system). Property can assist w/ info on the alarm if needed.

Forms are attached in 360Unite on the council webpage.

General consensus to approve.

Topic 6: New Business

- Food Finders donation

There is a particularly acute need for food donation at the moment. Council will provide a donation of \$3000, ask the congregation for their contribution as well. Kevin Letcher volunteered to prepare a proposal to the HTLC Foundation for \$1000. Hoping to provide the funds in early July. Consensus approval.

After meeting note – the HTLC Foundation request has been completed/submitted and is attached in 360Unite on the council webpage.

- LUM summer camp scholarship

HTLC will offer one camp scholarship, \$250, from benevolence funds. Consensus approval.

FEBRUARY COUNCIL CONTINUED**Topic 7: Council members' term of service**

- Discussion on council members terms of service, needs for positions to be filled in the fall.

		Current Term on council	Term of Office
Nita Cunningham	President	2017- End their second term on council in Oct 2023	Voted to office by council for Nov2021-Oct2022
Kevin Letcher	Vice President	2017- End their second term in Oct 2023	Voted to office by council for Nov2021-Oct2022
Floyd Garrott	Financial Secretary	Not included, voted by congregation for one year term.	Nov2021-Oct2022
Stan Harlow	Treasurer	Not included, appointed by council for one year term	Nov2021-Oct2022
Elizabeth White	Secretary	Not included, voted by congregation for one year term.	Nov2021-Oct2022
Shelly Benner	Member	Appointed by council in March 2022; to Oct 2022	n/a
Dave Krueger	Member	Nov 2021 to Oct 2024	n/a
Bob Montgomery	Member	Nov 2021 to Oct 2024	n/a
Jim Smith	Member	Nov 2021 to Oct 2022	n/a
Mike Anderson	Member	Appointed by council in Dec 2021; to Oct2022	n/a

The service term for Shelly, Jim and Mike end Oct 2022. These individuals will consider whether to serve for another 3-year term.

The financial secretary (Floyd) and secretary (Elizabeth) are both one year terms that end Oct 2022. These individuals will consider whether to serve in an additional one-year term.

The treasurer is appointed by council, for an one year term, the current tenure ends Oct 2022. Stan will consider whether to accept an additional one-year appointment.

Request for the decision for all persons whether to accept continuing service on council by August 2022, to allow the nominating committee time to recruit new members, as needed.

Topic 8: Committee Reports

- Written report received from Worship and Music, 6Jun2022 and Property, 8Jun2022. Available in 360Unite on the Council webpage.
- No other written committee reports received.

Oral reports supplementing written submission

None

Walk-in topics

Topics from congregation members attending as visitors

None

Topic 9: Closing

- Prayers
- Next meeting:

July 11 is next scheduled meeting. Nita and Pastor will schedule the meeting only if needed.

Otherwise, Monday August 8, 7pm.

Motion to adjourn by Dave Krueger. Approved via voice vote. 8:40pm

HTLC Celebrates Graduates

Sunday, June 19th Holy Trinity wrapped Conner and Alex Brown in quilts. Conner finished Benton Central High School and Alex graduated from Indiana State. We prayed that they remember the love of Jesus (and our congregation) as they begin new chapters in their life.

Other 2022 graduates were:

Hayden Ritchie– Jefferson High School

Emma Slavens– US Naval Academy



Three years ago I restarted a discipline of morning Bible and daily devotion reading, along with journaling. It was my first activity of the day; my goal to five days each week.

For two and a half years, my wife sat adjacent reading the J&C. Sometimes she would grab "Christ in Our Home" for a quick read.

The session for me averaged 35 minutes. I might spend another five glancing at the J&C. I marveled at her seemingly dedication to world an local news, sometimes up to an hour.

I wanted to suggest she flip her attention to

spend more time with God - BUT never mentioned it. I was intentional in my practice, setting an example. About once a week I bookmarked a piece for her. She was always open to reading it and often shared her observations.

Still I did not push.

During the last six months I noted my wife rising earlier, perhaps an hour before me. I tend to talk at her when we share space, so I learned to give her that opportunity for solitude. That has been spirited.

I noticed that she had picked up some thick

biographies like Martin Luther and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Now she's reading Walt Wangerin's "Book of God."

I silently rejoiced (and took credit) and finally shared my delight in observing her spiritual practice. Her response. "I told my women's group about you yesterday. How you set the example of consistency, and never once attempted to guilt or shame me the alter my time."

So...I am humbled, I am grateful, and I learned some obedience. God is at work.



A true story

Happening now! New international students are joining us at Purdue in the next couple of weeks and IFP needs many more volunteer host families to meet the number signing up to make an American friend. Reach out to students and help them get adjusted to life here. Joining IFP is an easy way to gain a lifelong friend and make a difference!



New to program? [Click here](#) and follow instructions. Returning hosts, please [update your host account](#) and register for "Fall Semester 2022."

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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NOTICE: Office is closed July 4th

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BIBLE PASSAGE — Luke 10:38-42

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying.

Agnus Day

I DON'T GET IT. IF MARTHA STOPS WORKING, WHO'S GOING TO MAKE LUNCH?



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

IT'S NOT ABOUT WHAT MARTHA NEEDS TO DO. IT'S ABOUT WHAT JESUS WILL DO. MARY KNOWS THAT.



HE'S GOING TO ORDER TAKEOUT!



LUKE 10:38-42

© WETZSTEIN 15.07.17

But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her." — *Proper 11, Series C*