

OPENDOOR

Spring 2023



HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH



how we are going to allow God to use us to help shepherd in the Kingdom. For this to happen we begin with prayer. We need to offer prayers praising God and all that God has done in our lives and in the world. Such prayer is called Blessing and Adoration. We use the Prayer of Petition to ask God for what we need, including forgiveness. We also ask for what others need through Prayers of Intercession. Finally, we offer Prayers of Thanksgiving for what God has given and done. Each of these styles of prayer help us to recognize God's presence in our lives and God's calling us into the world.

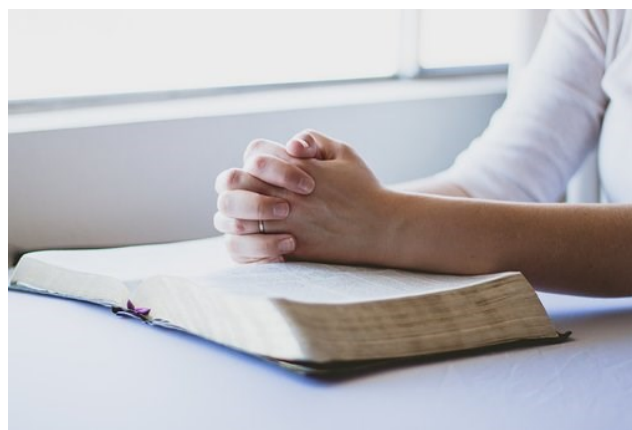
From the Pastor

Hello HTLC Disciples,

Lent commemorates the forty days Jesus spent fasting in the desert and enduring temptation by Satan. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22) and culminates in Holy Week (April 2-8) before the celebration of Easter (April 9). Lent is a time of *prayer, penance, repentance of sins, almsgiving, atonement, and self-denial*. As we think about Lent, we often think of it a solemn time when people are expected to give up bad habits and make sacrifices, just as Christ sacrificed himself for us. While there is some truth to this understanding of Lent, there is much more to it.

Prayer

Lent gives us the opportunity to look within ourselves to recognize the reality of being God's son or daughter and then determining



Repentance and Atonement

Penance is when we look honestly within ourselves to determine where we have fallen short of God's expectations. When we have behaved poorly, when we should have acted, when we have not fully used the talents and resources we have been blessed with to further God's love. This leads to repentance of sins, individually

and corporately, as we confess our sins and seek forgiveness. This forgiveness is atonement, as we are reconciled to God through Christ's death and resurrection. Atonement refers to the forgiveness of sin in general and original sin (disobeying God by eating from the tree of good and evil) in particular. Atonement is God's gift of love given to each of us.

Almsgiving

Almsgiving is when we use our talents and resources to help others. Almsgiving can include giving to the church to aid in the ministries HTLC provides, donating money to organizations that aid others, donating items that can help others, and volunteering in ministries and activities



that enhance others' lives. Almsgiving is centered on being generous with the gifts that God has generously given us. Often almsgiving is considered a sacrifice, but truly it is a joyful opportunity to respond to God's love for us through our actions, words, deeds, and giving.

Self-denial

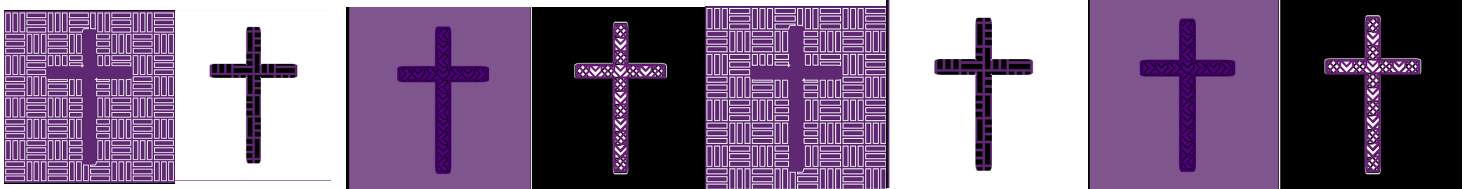
Finally, Lent includes the traditional response of self-denial. This is the area most people associate with Lent as people give up meat, sweets, coffee, etc. to focus on God. It comes from the idea that Jesus denied himself as he followed God to the cross.



Self-denial invites us into this sacrifice. It is the process of denying ourselves and taking up our cross to follow Christ (Matthew 8:34). Taking up our cross though does not necessarily mean giving up sweets or meat. It is an invitation into something bigger – being Christ's disciple.

As we journey through the season of Lent, HTLC will have opportunities for prayer, penance, repentance of sins, almsgiving, atonement, and self-denial. This will happen during Sunday morning worship, Wednesday noon services, Ash Wednesday and Holy Week worship services, adult and youth education opportunities, donations and service projects, fellowship, and at-home opportunities. I pray that you will participate in many of these opportunities and Lent helps you to draw ever closer to God as we travel together to Easter!

Shalom,
Pastor Elizabeth



Lent and Easter 2023

Worship and Activity Schedule

Wednesday, February 22nd – Ash Wednesday: noon worship at HTLC and online; 7:00pm worship at OSLC

Sunday, February 26th: 10:00am worship with communion at HTLC and online

Wednesday, March 1st: noon worship at HTLC; 7:00pm worship at OSLC

Sunday, March 5th: 10:00am worship with communion at HTLC and online; First Sunday Faith Formation following worship with meal and childcare

Wednesday, March 8th: noon worship at HTLC; 7:00pm worship at OSLC

Sunday, March 12th: 10:00am worship with communion at HTLC and online; Council Meeting following worship

Wednesday, March 15th: noon worship at HTLC lead by Rev. Kristin Rice; 7:00pm worship at OSLC

Sunday, March 19th: 10:00am worship with communion at HTLC and online lead by Rev. Kristin Rice

Wednesday, March 22nd: noon worship at HTLC; 7:00pm worship at OSLC

Sunday, March 26th: 10:00am worship with communion at HTLC and online

Wednesday, March 29th: noon worship at HTLC; 7:00pm worship at OSLC

Sunday, April 2nd – Palm Sunday: 9:00am Intergenerational Service Project (no youth or adult Sunday School) at HTLC; 10:00am worship with procession and communion at HTLC and online

Thursday, April 6th – Maundy Thursday: 7:00pm worship with communion at HTLC and online

Friday, April 7th – Good Friday: noon worship at HTLC and online; 7:00pm worship at OSLC

Sunday, April 9th – Easter: 10:00am Easter Celebration Worship at HTLC and online; Easter Egg Hunt and treats following worship



Midweek Lenten Series:

“God's Own People”

During the **Wednesdays of Lent at the noon worship services**, we will be contemplating the epistle of **1 Peter**.

This epistle reminds those who would follow Jesus that they are born anew into a wonderful inheritance as God's own people: tested, trusted, called, made holy, and proclaiming.

This doesn't guarantee that their faith won't be tested or that they won't experience suffering, but 1 Peter assures its readers that their relationship with God is guaranteed by the death and resurrection of Jesus. In the end, we won't be put to shame. And in the meantime, we cast our burdens on Christ who loves us beyond measure!

The themes are as follows:

March 1: A Tested People
 March 8: A Trusting People
 March 15: A Called People
 March 22: A Holy People
 March 29: A Proclaiming People

+Transitions+

Judy Allen	Sept. 14, 2022
Andy Tetzloff	Sept. 23, 2022
Barbara Mussche	Oct. 7, 2022
Mary McDonald	Oct. 30, 2022
Charles McDonald	Dec. 15, 2022
John Kretzschmar	Jan. 31, 2023

*The
Season
of
Lent*



Stations of the Cross

Holy Week – First Sunday of Easter in the Sanctuary

There is an old legend that after the death and resurrection of Jesus, his mother Mary would often walk the way her son had walked on his journey to the cross, pausing here and there to recall something that had happened at that spot. From these walks grew the early Christian practice of walking the **Via Dolorosa**, the Way of the Cross, in Jerusalem, a tradition that continues to this day.



The Via Dolorosa (Way of the Cross) in Jerusalem. Traditionally, this is the route along which Jesus carried the cross on his way to his crucifixion.

Early pilgrims to Jerusalem talked about their experiences when they returned home, and soon many people began erecting “stations of the cross” on the walls and grounds of their own churches so that worshippers could make the journey whenever they wished. In early days, the number of stations ranged from as few as seven to as many as thirty.

Over time however, the number of stations became fixed at fourteen, including five stations depicting events that are not found in scripture (the three falls of Jesus, the meeting with Mary, and the legend of Veronica's veil). On Good Friday 1991, Pope John Paul II introduced the fourteen Stations of the Cross that many Christians now use.

Catholic and Orthodox Christians were the first to use the stations of the cross in their devotional life.



The sixth station of the cross (Bamberg, Germany)

In recent years however, Christians of many traditions have been re-discovering this ancient devotional practice.

The story of Jesus' final hours, traditionally called **the Passion**, is the central story in each of the four Gospels. It is a story we are all familiar with, and yet, each gospel writer tells it from a different perspective. To help us contemplate the Passion, **the confirmation students are creating the stations of the cross in our sanctuary**. They will include images, scripture, and devotional materials for adults and children. All four Gospel accounts will be used to tell the story of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection.

Everyone is invited to experience Jesus' passion in a deeper way by taking time to participate in the Stations of the Cross. Beginning on **Palm Sunday (April 2) through the First Sunday of Easter (April 19)** the stations will be available for contemplation before and after worship services and during church office hours (Monday – Friday 9:00am – 1:00pm).



*Jesus' journey to the cross did not take place on a sacred street. Rather, it was Jesus' walking along that road that made each step and each cobblestone become filled with the Divine as he passed over them. We hope that contemplating the stations of the cross can help each of us recognize that **every place is an opportunity for an encounter with Christ along our own journey of faith.***

Almsgiving Opportunity

Almsgiving is a traditional Lenten practice that is based on giving to the poor. It is an opportunity to be generous with what God has given us to help create a more just and equitable society.

This year HTLC will offer almsgiving that will have a positive impact on our local and global communities as we collect **personal care items**.

Lafayette Urban Ministry (LUM) has a high need for personal care items for its emergency shelter and youth programs. **Lutheran World Relief (LWR)** offers comfort and care to those who need it most, like when natural disasters strike or war drives families from their homes. Donations of personal care kits are tangible ways to offer comfort to those suffering and express love to our neighbors in need.



Items can be brought to church beginning **Ash Wednesday, February 22nd**, through **March 31st**.

LRW Kits will be assembled during the Intergenerational **Service Project at 9:00am on Sunday, April 2**, and LUM items will be taken the same day.

Cash donations can be made to help with the cost of shipping the LRW items. If you are shipping items to the church, please notify the office with a list of items and expected delivery date. **Thank you in advance for your generosity!**

LUM Personal Care Items:

- Deodorant
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Disposable razors and shaving cream
- Liquid hand soap
- Face towels – wash cloths (white, square)

LWR Personal Care Kits:

- Light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- Bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz in individual packaging
- Adult-size toothbrush
- Sturdy comb

EASTER SUNDAY

HE IS RISEN

Easter Celebration

April 9, 2023

Join us for the 10:00 am
**Easter Celebration
Worship Service**, in
person and online

Easter Egg Hunt and treats
following worship

Easter Egg Hunt & Fellowship

Easter Sunday – April 12

Following our Easter Celebration Worship on Sunday, April 12, the **confirmation students will have an Easter Egg Hunt for children through the 5th grade.** We also will have fellowship time for all ages as we celebrate resurrection and new life together. Weather permitting, the egg hunt and fellowship time will be outdoors.



We need donations of treats and help with fellowship set-up and clean-up. Beginning in March there will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space.

All donations are greatly appreciated as we support our confirmation youth, children, and have a fun time of fellowship together!

Easter Flowers may be purchased for \$9.00.

Lilies, purple hyacinths, or mixed tulips are available.

Orders are **due by Sunday, March 19.** Sign up sheet outside the sanctuary.





Purdue Lutheran Ministry welcomes Pastor Kristin Rice

Greetings from Purdue Lutheran Ministry! My name is Kristin Rice, and I am the new (as of January 2023) campus pastor serving the students at Purdue University. I grew up in Michigan's

Upper Peninsula, graduated from Luther College in 2005, and received my M.Div. from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in 2012. I'm a vagabond and have called many places home, and I love to travel. Most recently I lived in Madison, Wisconsin, where I spent time as a chaplain in an eldercare community. I'm excited to get to know the students and support them through PLM. I also hope to strengthen relationships with the wider community that supports this ministry, including Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. My family is my dog, Blessing, who makes me laugh every day and without whom I would probably never spend time in the sunshine (or rain, or snow). Thank you for holding PLM in your prayers and for your continued support. I look forward to meeting you!



You are invited to attend the
installation of

Pastor Kristin Rice

as pastor of

Purdue Lutheran Ministry.

Saturday February 18 at 2 pm

at Our Savior Lutheran Church

Bishop Gafkjen will preside.

Please plan to stay after the service
for refreshments

and welcome Pastor Kristin.

Purdue Lutheran Ministry (PLM) is a Lutheran campus ministry at Purdue University, located at 330 W. Fowler Ave. in West Lafayette. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has supported this ministry for many years.

PLM strives to cultivate a community by living Christ's love through fellowship, service, and discovery, working towards



providing a safe, supportive space for students of diversity to come together as one in the name of Christ Jesus.

PLM holds Sunday gatherings at 5:15 pm at the PLM house every Sunday.

Office Manager Amy Martin can be reached at plm@plm.org or 765-743-2398.

Trading Up

from “Morning Reflections” by Glenn McDonald

What could you get if you started with a bobby pin and kept “trading up” for items of greater value?

Demi Skipper, a 28-year-old store manager who was renting a house near San Francisco, dreamed that she and her husband might one day own a home of their own. In May 2020 she decided to barter a bobby pin on Craigslist. Could she keep making swaps until someone actually gave her a house?

Things began humbly. The hairpin fetched a pair of cheap pink earrings. That led to four margarita glasses, then an old vacuum cleaner.

Demi traded the vacuum cleaner for a snowboard, then made swaps for some headphones, a laptop, and a camera. After she launched a TikTok account to document what she called her Trade Me Project, the journey began to get considerably more interesting. Within a few months she had traded for an iPhone and a vintage 2008 Dodge Caravan, whose owners insisted on driving it to the Skippers’ front door all the way from Minnesota.

Why hang on to an old Caravan when you can swap it for a dark green Mini Cooper convertible? Demi made the trade.

Then she suffered a setback. She traded the car for a diamond and sapphire necklace supposedly worth \$27,000. But multiple appraisals estimated its value to be less than \$3,500.

Resilient in the face of disappointment, she slowly traded her way back up. Her swaps included a Peloton exercise bike, two more cars, and three tractors. She hit pay dirt when someone took the three tractors in exchange for a Chipotle celebrity card – a rare object that entitles its bearer to a year’s worth of free food and a party for 50 people catered by the restaurant.



It just so happened that one of the world’s greatest fans of Chipotle – a Canadian woman who planned to share the food with the needy – was willing to pass along a \$56,000 trailer in exchange for the card. The trailer was equipped with solar panels and a Tesla Powerwall, which is a battery system for storing solar energy.

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That piqued the interest of a Tennessee woman who flips properties for a living. Would the Skippers be willing to trade the trailer for one of the 15 houses in her current inventory?

That’s how Demi, on the day after Thanksgiving 2021, traveled from California to Clarksville, Tennessee, to accept the keys to a cute fixer-upper – a two-bedroom, one-bath house with a spacious yard and garden. A bobby pin had been transformed into a house with a market value of \$111,000 – and it had come with no mortgage and no fees.

Demi had made 28 transactions over a period of 18 months. Along the way she learned a great deal. “I think I’ve gotten much better at seeing the negative and flipping it to a positive,” she told an interviewer.

Not all of Demi’s trades were wise. But compared to an unfortunate character who appears in the first book of the Bible, she was brilliant.

In Genesis 25 we meet Esau, the son of Isaac and Rebekah. Because he was born just minutes before his twin brother, Jacob, he stood to inherit the two greatest gifts that parents of that age could bestow on their children. He will receive both the family birthright and his father’s blessing. The birthright means that the oldest son gets twice as much inheritance as any other male heir. Because Isaac is the father of just two boys, two-thirds of the estate will fall to Esau.

We learn soon enough, unfortunately, that he’s not the brightest light in the chandelier. One day when his stomach is bigger than the part of his brain reserved for strategic planning, Esau staggers into the house. He’s spent the day out in the open country. Jacob has just whipped up some appetizing lentil stew.

“Quick!” Esau says to his little brother, “let me have some of that red stew. I’m famished!”

Jacob, whose name means “Grabber” (so-called because he arrived in the world with his hand wrapped around Esau’s ankle), now displays what will become a well-earned devious reputation. “No problem,” he says. “Let’s make a deal. I’ll trade you a bowl of this steaming hot red stew for your birthright.”

Alarm bells should be going off in Esau’s head. This is a terrible trade. He’s about to throw away one-third of the family’s net worth, which should be coming to him *in the future*, for a single meal *today*. But he answers, “I’m starving! What good is a birthright if I’m dead?” It appears Esau was definitely in the running for high school drama king.

In the raw language of Genesis 25:34, “He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.”

Over the centuries, God’s people told and retold this story. It shows up in the New Testament: “Watch out for the Esau syndrome: trading away God’s lifelong gift in order to satisfy a short-term appetite. You well know how Esau later regretted that impulsive act and wanted God’s blessing—but by then it was too late, tears or no tears” (Hebrews 12:16-17).

Don’t trade tomorrow’s blessings for something you think you can’t live without today.

That’s the wise way to go through life – the one that allows us, at the end of all our “trades,” to be in possession of a relationship with God that no one can ever take away.

Demi Skipper’s story doesn’t end with the happy day she walked into her new house. She and her husband have decided to trade it with someone “who really needs it.”

All she asks for in exchange is a bobby pin, so she can start off on a whole new adventure.

By God’s grace, may we accept *his* offer of trading up momentary happiness for the deep and lasting joys of being in his kingdom.



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.

<https://glennsreflections.com/index.php/2023/01/26/trading-up/>

HTLC Council Members 2023

Nita Cunningham, President

Helen Hicks-Wenthold, Vice President

Rachel Gast, Secretary

Floyd Garrott, Financial Secretary

Stan Harlow, Treasurer

Jeff Greeley

Marcy Hintzman

David Krueger

Kevin Letcher

Bob Montgomery

Council minutes can be found at the HTLC website: <https://www.holytrinitylafayette.com/>



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SPRING—February

SUMMER — May

AUTUMN—August

WINTER—November

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