

# The Weekly Tidings

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Come Together, Grow in Faith, Serve the LORD

## Holy Week

Please note the upcoming schedule for Holy Week 2024. These services will be livestreamed.

**Palm Sunday, March 24** (*Worship at 9:30 AM*),

**Maundy Thursday, March 28** (*Worship at 7:00 PM*),

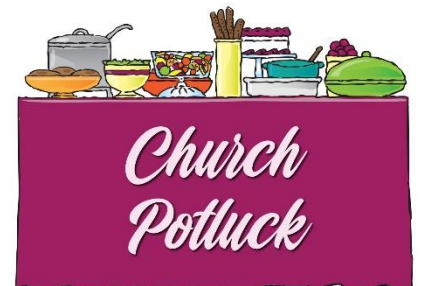
**Good Friday, March 29** (*Worship at 7:00 PM*),

**Easter Sunday, March 31** (*Worship at 9:30 AM*).



## Easter Breakfast

The council is excited to announce that our Annual Easter Breakfast will be returning on Easter March 31 after the 9:30 service. This is a "Potluck" breakfast, where you can bring a brunch side dish, such as fruit, deviled eggs, casserole, or any other light side. The church will provide baked ham & drinks for all who attend. There will be a setup for tables, chairs, accessories on Saturday March 30 at 2:00pm. We will also need volunteers to help on Easter morning during the breakfast, but not during the actual Easter service. Many hands make the work light and fast.



## Graduation Sunday

**Graduation Sunday** will be celebrated in June. If you know someone from Holy Trinity who will graduate from High School, College, Grad School, or another school this year and would like to be recognized, please speak with the Church Office or Helen Goransson.



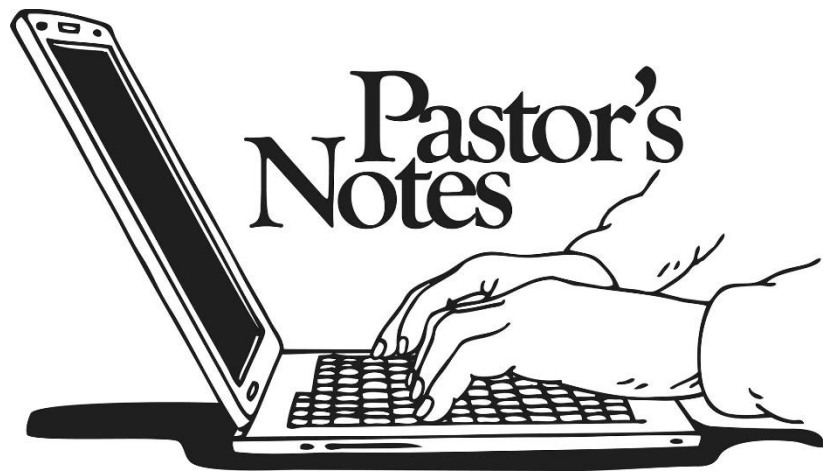
## Pastor's Article: February 29, 2024

Happy Leap Day! Yes, it is February 29 today, which only happens every four years. Why do we do this? Here is what the History Channel website teaches:

*Nearly every four years, we add an extra day to the calendar in the form of February 29, also known as Leap Day. Put simply, these additional 24 hours are built into the calendar to ensure that it stays in line with the Earth's movement around the Sun. While the modern calendar contains 365 days, the actual time it takes for Earth to orbit its star is slightly longer—roughly 365.2421 days. The difference might seem negligible, but over decades and centuries that missing quarter of a day per year can add up. To ensure consistency with the true astronomical year, it is necessary to periodically add in an extra day to make up the lost time and get the calendar back in sync with the heavens.*

I love that last phrase: to get us “back in sync with the heavens.”

You are probably growing weary of hearing me talk about “the seasons,” but this small example of “Leap Day” and its rationale is just another reminder of how our lives are not within our control, much as we wish they were, but are shaped by the rhythms of the created order and God's seasons. And, whether we like it or not, it is good for us to stay “in sync with the heavens,” rather than letting our own distorted sense of time, urgency, and what is important, derail us from where God wants us to be.



One of the ways God tries to keep us in sync with the heavens is through the commandment to keep the sabbath. “Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. . . .For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.” Exodus 20:8-11.

On this third Sunday in Lent, we will hear as our first lesson the giving of the Ten Commandments, including this crucial exhortation to set aside a holy day of rest and worship. At our bible study this week, many of us reflected on why sabbath is so important and why reclaiming it in our lives should be a priority.

This is how the great Jewish theologian Abraham Heschel once explained it: “The meaning of the Sabbath is to celebrate time rather than space. Six days a week we live under the tyranny of things of space; on the Sabbath we try to become attuned to holiness in time. It is a day on

which we are called upon to share in what is eternal in time, to turn from the results of creation to the mystery of creation; from the world of creation to the creation of the world.”

As you hear and reflect on this text this Sunday, I invite you to focus in particular on God’s desire for you to keep the sabbath holy. Think of this commandment not as a prohibition on what you cannot **do**, so much as an invitation just **to be** quietly with God, in the company of those you love and in the presence of this beautiful world. You might be surprised by what you discover!

## President’s Article

I have been at the church often in the last month for meetings and completing various tasks. Whenever I am there, I come across someone doing a task to maintain or move the church forward. Some tasks are big and some are small. I also realize many others are completing tasks from their home or by visiting members or making phone calls or writing emails. The strings of our “Christ’s web” reach out to many places. To witness this is humbling and powerful.

I have found Bonhoeffer’s book, *Life Together* to be a reality check for myself, particularly chapter one on “Community”. I appreciate when I am given “an uplifting experience of genuine Christian community” (page 39).

However, as Bonhoeffer points out we do not live in Christian community for these experiences. We live and work together by our faith that we have been given, not what we humanly experience. My reality check is to ask myself, “Who am I doing this for?” I can easily get caught up with the humanness of my role...the list of things to do and people to talk to. This reality check may not change the list BUT it does change my perspective, because I am now inviting Christ to be present in all of this.



Nineteen women participated in the Women’s Retreat this past weekend. Yes, it was an uplifting experience..... there was laughter, collegiality, the breaking of bread together, and the beauty of nature surrounded us. There were also stories shared. Stories of women walking in faith. As a wise woman once shared with me, life is like a coin. On one side, the coin tells the stories of all of our joys and on the other side, the coin tells the stories of all of our losses and sorrows. Faith allows us to hold this coin in our precious palms. Life together in Christian community strengthens us to hold each other’s palms through Christ’s presence.

## Church Office Article

Two weeks ago, we had the professionals at New England Mobile Audio in our Sanctuary to work on our Sound System and Livestream. New England Mobile Audio is the company we've hired and worked with over the last several years to install and maintain our sound system needs. They were also the ones who installed our livestream system in 2020, to give us an alternative way to watch the worship online because of the pandemic.

We called them recently to seek their advice and make several tweaks to our set-up. After a few hours of work, parts needed to be ordered before we could make the adjustments. Tomorrow morning, I am excited to have them come back to complete the following improvements for our livestream:



- The installation of two additional mics towards the back of the choir, to increase of the volume of their already powerful voices.
- Eliminate a hissing noise found exclusively on our livestream video.
- Install a program to adjust the volume levels solely on the livestream, including Pastor's Mic and all of the musicians' instruments.

I hope you take the opportunity to watch our livestream on YouTube when you can't make it in person. It's not perfect, but we've made it much more enjoyable to watch compared to what it was in 2020 when first we began this project. The sound tech from NEMA watched an example of our online Worship Service, and he told me that our livestream looks and sounds much better than his church's livestream!

If you don't have time to watch the full Sunday service, you can still enjoy parts of our service in shorter forms.

Every Monday, the Gospel Reading and Sermon is uploaded to YouTube & to our Podcast. You can find the direct link for our YouTube channel here: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzhZzW\\_Vhi\\_u-LF7SSpXxZQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzhZzW_Vhi_u-LF7SSpXxZQ)

Our Podcast is easy to find! Simply search "Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church" into your podcast app of choice, and you'll find our podcast with our famous logo on the cover.

I'm always open to suggestions about how to help you stay better connected to Holy Trinity, whether that is with our livestream, our sound system, or any other aspect of communications.

## Creation Care in our Library

**The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Remaking of the Civilized World, Jeff Goodell (Back Bay Books / Little Brown and Company, 2017)** By century's end, hundreds of millions of people will be retreating from the world's shores as our coasts become inundated and our landscapes transformed. Yet despite international efforts and tireless research, there is no permanent solution that will protect us in the end from the drowning of the world as we know it. *The Water Will Come* is the definitive account of the coming water, why and how this will happen, and what the endgame will mean for the way we live. As he travels across twelve countries, Jeff Goodell reports from the front lines of the climate change epidemic, acclaimed journalist Jeff Goodell employs fact, science, and first-person, on-the-ground journalism to reveal the water world into which our world is already transforming. Reviewers acclaim Goodell's book. "Immersive ... a powerful reminder that we can bury our heads in the sand about climate change for only so long before the sand itself disappears" [Jennifer Senior, *New York Times*]. "*The Water Will Come* is absolutely brilliant scientific journalism, and certainly is a must-read for all of the world's citizens" [Forbes Magazine].

**Ending Hunger Now: A Challenge to Persons of Faith, George McGovern, Bob Dole and Donald E. Messer (Augsburg Fortress, 2005)** "This book offers sound judgment, clear solutions, and pragmatic ways to move forward. It is essential reading for all people of faith and indeed for anyone who believes we can and should make the world a better place for all" [James Morris, Executive Director, United Nations World Food Programme].

**Food for Life: The Spirituality and Ethics of Eating, Rev. L. Shannon Jung (Augsburg Fortress, 2004)** "Food for Life draws on the resources of Christian faith to help us delight in food and share with people who struggle with hunger." [David Beckmann, *Bread for the World*] "(This volume looks) at food through a theological prism. ... Jung's many-faceted, delightful exploration of what we might have thought of as common takes us from the table to the world and the cosmos" [Carol S. Robb, *San Francisco Theological Seminary*].



**The Inner Life of Animals: Love, Grief, and Compassion - Surprising Observations of a Hidden World, Peter Wohlleben (Original German: Ludwig Verlag / Random House, 2016 | English Translation: Jane Billingham, Greystone Books, 2017)** Peter Wohlleben's first *New York Times* bestselling book was *The Hidden Life of Trees*. Now, in this book, he expands his observations of "the hidden" to the animal world. Without resorting to personifications, both volumes deal with Creation Care inasmuch as they expose the unseen depth of God's Creation.

“(This book) is an important reminder that while we (humans) are surely different from other animals, the similarities in our cognitive, emotional, and moral lives are not only surprising and daunting, but very real” [Marc Bekoff, author]. “Peter Wohlleben’s convincing, highly readable stories about free-living and domestic animals show there’s much more overlap between how humans and other animals experience bonding, loss, and the great, shared themes of life” [Carl Safina, author].

**Green Living: The E Magazine Handbook for Living Lightly on the Earth, Editors of E/The Environmental Magazine [Plume Book/Penguin Group, 2005].** This continues E/The Environmental Magazine’s great tradition of providing readers with practical tips for living healthier, more eco-friendly lives. The authors clearly lay out the steps we all can take to ensure a better world for ourselves and future generations. Experts suggest that 40 percent of American homes buy organic, yet a large majority have only a limited knowledge of how to actually make informed green choices. Green Living offers a thorough, step-by-step plan for every aspect of your life, from the kitchen to the garage to the bank. Although this book was released 16 years ago, it remains a very helpful guide today.

**50 Simple Things You Can Do to Save the Earth [Earthworks Group, 1989].** This book is a classic and among the first of its kind. The basic premise of this book is that “we can make a difference” in its information-packed 96 pages. It is a consumer guide for combating specific environmental problems and compiled from a diverse array of sources. Earthworks Group shows how to recycle effectively, use energy and water more intelligently, and make ecological buying choices with the assertion that we are the genesis of the solution.

**The Green Consumer, John Elkington, Julia Hailes and Joel Makower [Penguin Group, 1990].** “You can buy products that don’t cost the earth” is this volume’s cover tag. Every time you shop for toiletries, cars, cleaners, batteries, baby food - and most everything - you make choices that affect the environment. This brand-specific handbook, in spite of its age, delves into simple buying decisions.

**Use Less Stuff: Environmental Solutions for Who We Really Are, Robert Lilienfeld and William Rathje [The Ballantine Publishing Group / Random House, 1998].** This groundbreaking consumer guide presents smart consumer strategies to reduce consumption, conserve resources, save money and simplify your life that remain relevant. It recognizes that recycling has its limits. Among the many creative suggestions you’ll learn to reduce and reuse at home, during the holidays, at the store, at work & office, at school, and in the outdoors.



**Maundy Thursday Prayer Vigil:** Your Worship and Music Team votes to bring back a Prayer Vigil this year as we did occasionally before Covid. We'll use the chapel where pray-ers will find prayer requests and meditative reading material. The Vigil will begin immediately follow our Maundy Thursday service, continue until midnight, begin again at 6:00 a.m. on Good Friday, and continue until noon. Sessions will be scheduled for an hour each. Pray-ers can sign up individually or in pairs. Watch the bulletin and the Tidings to sign-up.

**Operation Blessing:** For the month of March we will be collecting the following items for Operation Blessing. At this time these are the items they need the most:  
Health and Beauty Items - shampoo, conditioner, tooth paste, body wash, Laundry detergent, hand soap, Pasta and tomato sauce, Juice, shelf stable milk, Condiments (ketchup, mayo, & mustard), Canned pasta (spaghetti O's), oils, salt and pepper, coffee and tea. Thank you very much. If you prefer to bring other items, fine but sometimes it is easier to buy what they suggest and need. Lois



**Graduation Sunday** will be celebrated in June. If you know someone from Holy Trinity who will graduate from High School, College, Grad School, or another school this year and would like to be recognized, please speak with the Church Office or Helen Goransson.

**The Social Ministry Committee** met on February 4, 2024. After being led in prayer by Pastor Luther, our first order of business was to collect updated contact information of the members. We voted on a for budget for spending the funds allocated for local ministries. The next topic of discussion was to discuss ideas for reinvigorating our activities in the community. The Covid pandemic effectively shut everything and activity. The consensus was to demonstrate that HTELC is back! September 8, 2024 is the day dedicated by the ELCA for "God's Work, Our Hands" activities. We will be formulating a list of 3-5 separate activities in which our members can participate, individually or in groups. Two more events were tentatively discussed to occur this spring. When these plans have been "firmed up," an announcement will be made very soon. We welcome anyone who wishes to join our committee!

## Prayer Concerns

**Health Issues:** Franklyn Vosburg, Jerry Schock, Alice Peterson, Don Gindlesperger, Dave Smith, Hazel Larson, Leo Larson, Rani Marcus, Shirley Jackson, Larry Sanders. **Homebound:** Carol Saufley, Barbara Werdelin, Dave & Joyce Rivoire, Anita Lindstrom, Judy Hollister, Jean Klein, June Slipp. **Military:** Ian Connors.

**Partners in Ministry:** ELCA, New England Synod, Ismani Congregation in Tanzania, Imanuel Indonesian Lutheran Church, Ascentria Care Alliance, Camp Calumet, Operation Blessing, Crossroads, Dover Friendly Kitchen, Good News Garage, Seacoast Family Promise, Salvation Army, & Lutheran World Relief.

**Friends:** David Roth (Bonnie Sanders' brother), Erin Goodman (Jessica Feeley's friend), Róisín Ruane (April Murphy's friend), Richard Murray (Jessica Feeley's Brother-in-law), Cinda DeWerff & Dane Wilcox (Rich Wilcox's sister & brother).

## Calendar at-a-glance

**Sun. Mar. 17 , 10:30 AM:** Bonhoeffer's Life Together, Adult Forum Session 3

**Sun. Mar. 24 , 9:30 AM:** Palm Sunday Worship

**Thur. Mar. 28 , 7:00 PM:** Maundy Thursday Worship

**Fri. Mar. 29 , 7:00 PM:** Good Friday Worship

**Sun. Mar. 31 , 9:30 AM:** Easter Sunday Worship

**Sunday Worship,** Sundays at 9:30 AM

**Wednesday Bible Study,** Wednesdays at 4:30 PM (Lenten Time Change)

**Holden Evening Prayer,** Wednesdays during Lent at 6:30 PM

**Property Team,** Thursdays at 9:00 AM until *about* noon.

## Monthly Attendance & Offering

<b>Sunday, February 11:</b>	109 ( <i>In-Person</i> ) + 26 ( <i>Online</i> ) = 135	<b>Offering:</b>	\$4,014.00
<b>Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14:</b>	50 ( <i>In-Person</i> ) + 23 ( <i>Online</i> ) = 73		
<b>Sunday, February 18:</b>	124 ( <i>In-Person</i> ) + 27 ( <i>Online</i> ) = 151	<b>Offering:</b>	\$5,158.90
<b>Sunday, February 25:</b>	82 ( <i>In-Person</i> ) + 26 ( <i>Online</i> ) = 108	<b>Offering:</b>	\$3,571.00
<b>Sunday, March 3:</b>	97 ( <i>In-Person</i> ) + 18 ( <i>Online</i> ) = 115	<b>Offering:</b>	\$18,307.35