

# The Visitor

April 2019

Volume 37 Issue 34

## Rescue!

It was not even a month ago that I remember wondering, “Will this weather ever change? Will the snow ever stop? Will we ever see brightly colored flowers, smell freshly cut grass, and be able to taste grilling again?” This has been a rough winter. Things like constant schedule changes, stir crazy kids, a flooded basement...etc. have tested my endurance, patience, and attitude.

I believe we have had a fitting theme this season of Lent, as we have focused on “tests.” Throughout these 40 days, we



have wondered about the tests in our lives, and read stories of Old Testament characters who faced tests of faith. I don’t know about you, but as I’ve looked at the various tests these characters have faced, I have wondered what I would have done in their shoes. Would I have avoided the fruit? Would I be willing to trust God’s provision enough to consider sacrificing my child like Abraham? Would I respond with compassion and solidarity after heartbreak like Ruth? Would I trust God after losing everything like Job? Would I?...I want to say yes, but the truth is likely not.

We have two more weeks until Palm Sunday when we will begin the journey into Jerusalem, the walk that opens the way to a big turn of events. It is during Holy Week that we acknowledge that we are among those who say, “Hosanna!” one day waving palm branches in faithfulness, and turn to yell “crucify him!” only days later. Our greatest attempts in faith will not save us. We all fall short and we all fail the test. This is where, whether you feel faithful or faith failed, there is Good News for you. As Romans 7 says, “I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do...when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand...Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!” (Romans 7:18-21,24-25)

It is the incredible story of Easter that “while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” He did not wait until we could each prove our own faithfulness, but instead took the test of faith for us all. Jesus came, died, and was raised so we could be rescued right where we are, not where we should be. I look forward to hearing the good news of Easter with you that we are rescued, not because of anything we have or can do, but completely because of what God has already done. We join on Easter Sunday saying as Paul did, “Thanks be to God through Christ Jesus our Lord!”



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### Key Dates

4/7	First Communion Class
4/14	Palm Sunday—Easter Egg Hunt, Brunch
4/18	Maundy Thursday 7pm Worship
4/19	Good Friday 3pm & 7pm Worship
4/21	Easter! 8:30am & 10:30 Services

### In Our Prayers

We ask that you keep in your prayers: Barb Loebner, Laurie Tolzmann, Pastor Diane Goulson, Kareen Jacobson, Ellie Grace, Jim Morris, granddaughter Vada, granddaughter Piper, Don Mattson, and for family and friends grieving the loss of Corporal Joey Collette. Please inform the church office of any illness, hospitalizations, or prayer requests as desired.

### Wednesday Meals

Served weekly from 5:00-5:50pm. All menus subject to change.

4/3	Lent Soup Supper
4/10	Lent Soup Supper
4/17	No dinner
4/24	Chef’s Choice

### Holy Trinity’s Staff

**Co – Pastors:** Pastor Alicia Hilding & Pastor Ben Hilding  
**Office Manager:** Jamie Bisek  
**Custodian:** Jim Cody  
**Ministry Coordinator:** Karen Taylor  
**Facility Manager:** Jon Bergquist  
**Worship Team:** Rita Sapp, Rose Fife, Tim Price, Toby Thietje, & Lexie Lammers  
**Special Music / Mission Outreach Coordinator:** Rose Fife  
**Adult Choir Director:** Toby Thietje  
**Hospitality Coordinator:** Donna Galvin

### Holy Trinity’s Worship Schedule

**Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.**  
Coffee and Fellowship follow Sunday’s worship service.  
**Wednesday Worship 6:00 p.m.**  
A meal precedes Wednesday’s Worship Service.  
Distribution of the Lord’s Supper is celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and following Wednesdays of each month. All are welcome to the Lord’s Table.  
Learn more about us at [www.holytrinityonline.org](http://www.holytrinityonline.org), or check us out on our facebook page!

### Holy Trinity’s Church Council

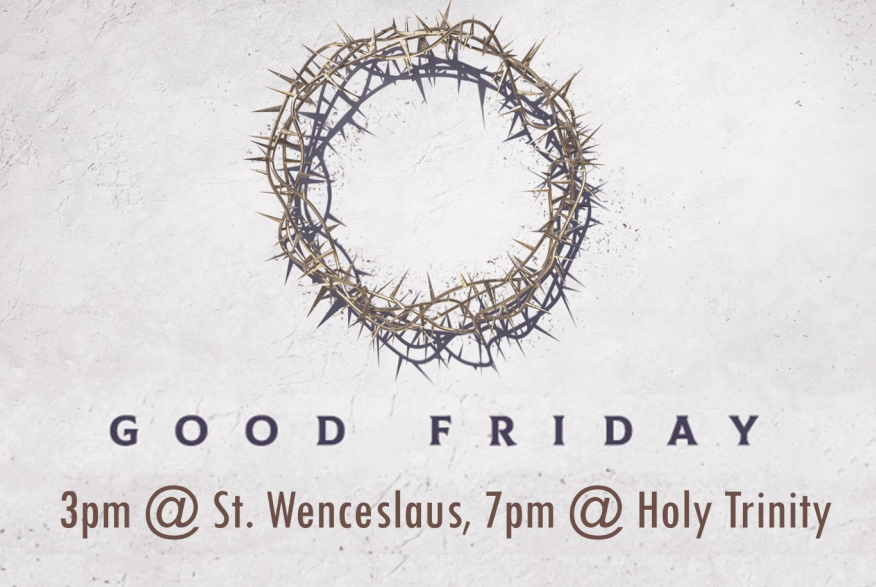
**President:** Dirk Berger  
**Vice President:** Karla Klingfus  
**Secretary:** Mary Hanson-Busch  
**Treasurer:** Eric Flala  
Jay Schoenebeck  
Dan Jacobson  
Tim Ditberner  
Tyler Klenow  
Jesse Hemann

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# Holy Week



## Palm Sunday

The church year, the Christian story, and the hope of our faith rests on the story of Holy Week. Holy Week tells one story in four parts starting with Palm Sunday and ending with Easter Sunday. Consider this week one prolonged worship service. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, where we hear the story of the people celebrating Jesus’ arrival in Jerusalem, waving their palm branches to welcome him.

**Passport:** During worship, children will receive their Holy Week passports, which they will be invited to bring with them to each Holy Week worship service.

**Brunch:** A full Palm Sunday brunch will be available after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

**Egg Hunt:** Following worship, children will be invited for a fun Egg Hunt. BYOB! (Bring your own basket) Ages 1-5 will meet in the South Wing, and K-5 will meet in Paul’s

## Maundy Thursday

On Maundy Thursday, we hear the story of Jesus sharing his Last Supper (The First Communion) with his disciples and teaching them about humble service to one another.

**Footwashing:** As Jesus gathered his disciples together, he became a servant to them and washed their feet. On Maundy Thursday, we hear that we too are called to love one another in this servant manner.

**1st Communion:** This year, Holy Trinity’s 4th graders will share their 1st Communion fittingly on the night of the Last Supper, when Jesus broke bread and blessed wine.

**Betrayal:** Maundy Thursday ends in a solemn note, just as the Last Supper did. For as they left the table from the Upper Room, Jesus knew that soon Judas would betray him, and Peter would deny him. In the same way, we leave the service in silence.

## Good Friday

On Good Friday, we hear the story of Jesus betrayed, hung on a cross, and sharing his last words. We cannot have Easter without Good Friday. We cannot celebrate the resurrection without the crucifixion. This year, Holy Trinity has two worship options:

**3pm Ecumenical Service:** Together with St. Wenceslaus Catholic Parish and FaithPoint Lutheran Church, Holy Trinity is partnering together for an ecumenical Good Friday Service. Choir members are invited to participate. A group of mimes (look for Jamie Bisek) will embody the passion narrative according to the Gospel of John.

**7pm Tenebrae Service:** At 7pm, Holy Trinity will host it’s own Tenebrae Service, a service that begins with full lights and sound, but slowly extinguishes those lights to accompany the seven last words of Jesus Christ.

# 2/18/19 Council Meeting Minutes

**Call to Order:** 6:32pm called to order by Klingfus  
**Present:** Klingfus, Schoenebeck, Dittberner, Hemann, Jacobson, Pastor Ben, Pastor Alicia, Fiala, Hanson-Busch  
**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Fiala, 2<sup>nd</sup> Schoenebeck, motion passed  
**Approval of January 28,2019 Minutes:** Motion by Dittberner, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fiala, motion passed  
**Devotions:** Canoeing the Wilderness, Chapter One  
**Special Presentation:** Karen Taylor representing A/V group presented proposal and quote for replacing/updating sound booth, equipment and Software program for sanctuary. Donors have stepped forward to fund portion ,special offering will occur March 10/13 services. Motion by Schoenebeck to approve \$8500 utilizing capital reserve funds for purchase coverage with planned repayment to fund from special offering and or donors. 2<sup>nd</sup> Dittberner. Motion passed  
**Pastor Alicia Report:**  
Toolkit seminar February 23 well represented with council attendance  
Praha Village: small gift from church offered to residents, building relationships. Will have a Get Connected small group there this Lenten season  
Will publish Lenten Devotional with 40 writings: church members, community members special friends of the church. For Lent encourage worship attendance, devotional and small groups  
New endowment team up and running- elected officers  
CYF family fun night February 22<sup>nd</sup> at church  
Semiannual check-in with Crew Time and Sunday School leaders occurring now also  
**Pastor Ben Report:**  
Encourage Get Connected theme for small groups, relationship building  
2019 Lenten Theme: TESTS  
Special Service February 24. Speaker and musical guest  
Holy Week: Maundy Thursday will be 1<sup>st</sup> Communion, will have Good Friday Tenebrae service, also invited to participate with St Wenceslaus and Faith Point: 3 pm Gospel of John mime service  
Roof leak-facilities to follow up with roofing company  
April 6<sup>th</sup> identified as clean up day planned with property committee/interior space  
Bevcomm internet WIFI mesh network upgrade installation completed, Thank you Dan Jacobson  
Hope House follow up: fire marshal indicated needed changes to smoke detectors, will be installed. No sprinklers needed. Insurance follow-up continues  
Motion by Fiala to approve use of \$1000 from Mission Outreach funds to support 120 kits made for Lutheran World Relief, 2<sup>nd</sup> Klingfus, motion passed.  
\$350 spent from discretionary giving fund (from \$3000 cap)  
Pastor Ben’s wish to coach tennis again this Spring, supported by group  
**Treasurer’s Report:**  
Review monthly actuals, one large annual contribution made reflected in member contributions-general fund, \$2300 was approved in 2018 to be moved from short term designated funds to operating fund, will be moved next month. First land sale income reflected in revenue. Review of cash flow, clarify \$15,000 in short term designated is from synod grant for garage ministry: plan pending- have two year timeline for use per synod  
**Ministry Team Reports:** Communications: directories distributed, mobile directory work to begin soon  
**Old Business:**  
Child Protection Policy, final draft presented. During the past year Jay Schoenebeck has led the process of creating a Child Protection Policy as the CYF (Children, Youth and Family) council liaison. He has partnered with the Risk management Team (Paul Newton- insurance, Kim Gassner- council rep, Pastor Alicia) inviting others to help formulate the initial draft including: John Madigan- School Officer, Karen Taylor- Ministry Coordinator, and Pastor Ben- CYF Ministry. Once formulated the CYF Team gave input for consideration and an attorney reviewed for any necessary edits. Schoenebeck proposed following final council approval, the CYF team be charged with preparing an implementation plan for the fall.  
Motion by Jacobson to approve drafted policy with following corrections: 1. Remove repeated annual background check requirement, minor spelling correction on worker application form, and include an audit process of activity. 2<sup>nd</sup> Fiala, Motion Passed.  
**New Business:**  
Approve annual review of account authorities for First Bank and Trust accounts, St Paul Foundation (Endowment fund), Shannon Brusseau- Diversified Wealth Management (land sale investments)  
Motion by Klingfus to approve signers for all accounts as accountant, president, treasurer, and to approve those with authority to discuss financial matters as accountant, pastors, president, treasurer, and committee chairs 2<sup>nd</sup> Schoenebeck. Motion passed.  
Closing Prayer: The Lords’ Prayer  
**Meeting adjourned:** 8:02 motion Fiala, 2<sup>nd</sup> Klingfus, motion passed  
Next meeting: 5:45pm March 18



# Holy Trinity Happenings

## Lent at Holy Trinity

Through this season of Lent at Holy Trinity, we’ve had a theme of “Tests.” Throughout our lives, we face many different kinds of tests. We have wondered together, “where is God in the midst of our tests?” Together, we have prioritized the following three spiritual disciplines:

- 1) **Worship:** Either on Sundays or Wednesdays, we have looked at Old Testament passages having to do with this theme of tests. We’ve studied Adam and Eve, Abraham and Isaac, Job, Ruth, and soon Daniel and the Lion’s Den.
- 2) **Daily Devotions:** Each of the 40 days of lent, there has been a daily devotional available either in printed form or on Facebook. We have been encouraged to take up the daily practice of spending time with God in these devotions. Thanks to all the authors who have contributed to such a meaningful experience!
- 3) **Small Groups:** We have all been encouraged to join a “Get Connected” small group for the season of Lent. 18 adult groups, one inter-generational Sunday School group, 1 high school group, and 8 confirmation groups have been faithfully meeting. Thanks to all the 200+ people who have made this small group experience a priority!



## Shoe Away Hunger

Reverend Jamie Morrison, director of Good In The Hood, told the following at a recent meeting: *“Our food pantry had been running successfully for a few years when I recognized a different need. A mother and her young child ran through the cold, dodging ice and snow drifts, wearing only sandals on their feet. When I asked them why, they said these were their only shoes left. The low the night before had been 20 below. I realized then how important shoes are to those already struggling.”*

From Monday, April 1-Wednesday, May 8th, HTLC will collect **new and gently used shoes** for donations to Good in the Hood’s program “Shoe Away Hunger.” These include sneakers, sports shoes, casual shoes, boots, flip flops, ice skates, etc.

All donated shoes will be sorted into two piles: “Great” and “Good.” “Great shoes” are sold at a low cost (or a small donation), from the Shoe Away Hunger Bus to those struggling. “Good shoes” are resold to thrift stores that offer Good In the Hood a donation for their food pantry. For more information on this innovative nonprofit who feed over 4,000 hungry people in Minneapolis each month, visit their website at: [goodinthehood.org](http://goodinthehood.org). For videos on how shoes help the hungry, search “Shoe Away Hunger” on Youtube.com. To help with this mission, email Rose Fife at [misions@holyltrinityonline.org](mailto:misions@holyltrinityonline.org).



## FoodShare Month

Thank you to all who brought in food for the FoodShare Month! Monetary and food donations will be accepted until Wednesday, April 3. Look for the shopping cart in the Narthex.

# Council Alumni Letter

Shortly after the Pastor announces that the Sunday morning offering will be received, two ushers bring a large old fashioned dairy farm milk can to the front of the worship area, and set it right up in front of the altar. Soon from all directions small children come racing to the front, some running, some hesitating and are soon encouraged by other children, older brothers and sisters lead their smaller siblings by the hand. Each one has a number of coins given to them by their parents or from their own piggy banks to cast into the “milk can offering plate”. Of course huge sounds emanate from the coins hitting the insides and banging on the bottom of the can. Children giggle, jump up and down with joy at the noise, some look and stare into the can, some have large noisy coins, some just a few small ones, then they race back to their seats, sometimes forgetting the direction to go. Some brothers and sisters of donors have to tell them to drop the coin from their tight clutched fist. Often other people seated near the aisles reach out to the returning children with many more coins to take up front for them. Often coins are dropped, without hesitation, the kids stoop, pickup the coins and rush to the front to the delight of the older donors. Often, some parents guide and lead tottering little ones by the hand to can. This joyful process continues as the congregation finishes placing their gifts into the offering plates.

Who came up with this crazy, noisy, fun and delightful idea for these children to participate in? What is happening, why the delight of the children in casting their coin offerings into the can? What are they learning or even know about giving that many of us older folks don’t? Some bring their own money and others deliver coins given them to throw in the milk can. Occasionally a child will throw in a crumpled paper bill, often looking into the can, because no noise is heard? Are these little ones expressing the joy of giving with unabashed delight? Could we adults feel that same joy in our giving back to the Lord, of our own gifts to him? Of course, we can’t jump up and down with joy and show emotions in front of everyone, or can we? Remember Jesus standing near the side of worship area of the Synagogue watching worshipers putting in their coins of silver and gold and how He remarked about the widow’s small offering of a couple of tiny mites being the best one. Was He listening and noticing the small volume of the noise hers made compared to the large coins of the “big donors”? Our children really have no idea what the money will be used for or even seem to care, they gave it and that’s it. No worries like us adults have about our budgets, what the money will be used for: on ministry, reaching out with the Word of God, heating and electricity, building bigger worship places? No hesitation by the children, they give it and in their minds that’s it. Another learning experience for us adults? I have observed it seems the adults, by the expressions on their faces, feel this same joy as the children. “Out of the mouths and actions of babes?” Hmmm, you might call it a big family celebration by a real “family of believers”, which we actually now are in our Holy Trinity Congregation. Another aspect of the joy we experience as we worship and honor our Lord in our church worship service? Huge blessings and joy!

Council Alum George Winn

## Finance Update

### Revenue & Expenses

(Finance update as of February 28, 2019)  
Revenue: YTD Budget \$73,224 YTD Actual \$71,834  
Expenses: YTD Budget \$85,284 YTD Actual \$74,837  
Revenue-Expenses: YTD Budget \$-12,060 YTD Actual \$-3,003

## Radio Ministry

At the March meeting, Holy Trinity’s church council decided to continue with Holy Trinity’s radio ministry with KCHK radio, broadcasted Sunday mornings from 9-9:30am. This is an important ministry for reaching people in the community who may not be able to make it to church for one reason or another. We are also the only New Prague church to have a radio ministry with KCHK. We now are seeking sponsorships of this program, which costs \$63.75 per week, beginning April 1st through the end of the year. If you would like to sponsor a particular Sunday, please contact Jamie Bisek in the church office at [office@holyltrinityonline.org](mailto:office@holyltrinityonline.org).

## A/V Upgrade

Good progress has been made with the sanctuary A/V upgrade! A faithful team of people has been busy behind the scenes installing and learning new software, purchasing new equipment, and preparing for the sanctuary installation process. Boxes have arrived, and Jon Bergquist has been hard at work making a remodeled A/V booth. So far, \$5,975 has been raised to offset the \$8,500 project cost. If you would like to help support this project, please simply indicate your desire through an offering designation. We are also looking for people who want to help learn and run the new equipment. If that’s of interest to you, please contact Karen Taylor at [volunteer@holyltrinityonline.org](mailto:volunteer@holyltrinityonline.org).





# Volunteers of the Month

Some churches are blessed financially and have a huge staff to do everything that needs to be done. *We are not one of those churches.* We are blessed with a group of people that silently works behind the scenes, quietly doing whatever is asked of them and never seeking any public acknowledgement or celebration. Very few people know about this group and because they are so humble, I'm not going to single them out. However, I am going to single out their generous acts of service. This group of volunteers seem to be genuinely happy to help. I wish I could clone them...but then their secret would be out! This month, I'd like to recognize the **AWESOME ANGELS** of HTLC.

**Newsletter Assemblers   Coffee Makers   Plant Waterers   Weed Pullers   Sewing Ladies   Jamie's Office Angels**

**Phone Answers** (during staff meetings)   **Jon's Handyman Helpers**

If you are looking for a way to give back to our church, please connect with Karen Taylor before or after worship services or email her at [volunteer@holyltrinityonline.org](mailto:volunteer@holyltrinityonline.org) or call Jamie Bisek, Office Manager at 952-758-3513.

# Looking Ahead

## Emmaus Walk Service

On Sunday, April 28th and Wednesday, May 1st, we will have a special service called, "Emmaus Walk Service." After Jesus died and rose from the grave, he appeared to his disciples on the road to Emmaus. At first, they didn't recognize him. At these special services, we will hear stories from people who have had Jesus accompany them on the road of life, whether they at first realized it or not. During this service, we will welcome back Pastor Jorge Espinoza, a mission developer for Latino ministry in the Southwest Conference of the Minneapolis Area Synod.

## Hope House

Hope House, providing local shelter for homeless families, will be opening its doors April 21-May 5. We are looking for meal hosts and overnight hosts. If you would like to donate, prepare or help serve a meal, please contact Ruth Dols at 952-758-2050. If you would like to serve as an overnight host, please contact Mary Higgins at 952-240-1604 to attend a training. For returning volunteers, please refer to the Sign Up Genius. Thank you!

## New Members Class

Our next New Member Gathering will be held from 10am-12:00 p.m., on Sunday, May 5th. We will take some time to hear stories, share about Holy Trinity, and enjoy a meal together. Childcare, if needed, will be provided. To sign up, please go to Holy Trinity's Website and click on the "Sign-up Genius" logo or call the church office. We will welcome new members in worship on Sunday, May 12th and Wednesday, May 15th.

## Mother's Day Celebration

Sunday, May 12 from 10 - 11 am. Calling all Moms, Grandmas and special female guests of Sunday School and Crew Time students! You are invited to join your child for a very special Mother's Day event. Spend the hour doing games, crafts, and treats. You won't want to miss it!

## Senior Led Worship

On May 19th, current high school seniors will help lead worship. Let's support them on their journeys, ask for God's blessing wherever they may go, and remind them they always have a home here at Holy Trinity!



## Summer Dates

Are you a planner, always looking ahead and coordinating schedules in advance? We invite you to mark your calendars for some exciting summer dates!

- May 19th: Senior Led Worship Service
- June 2nd: All God's Creatures family event at Horejsi Family Farm
- June 5th: Blessing of the Bikes Service
- June 26th: Holy Trinity Lakeside
- July 8th-11th: Vacation Bible School
- July 24th: Holy Trinity Lakeside
- July 31st: Blessing of the Pets service
- August 2nd: RibFest
- August 4th: Polka Service
- August 21st: Blessing of the Backpacks Service
- August 28th: Holy Trinity Lakeside (baptism service)

# Children, Youth and Family

## Crew Time

(Pre-K through 5th Grade)  
Meets Wednesdays during 6pm worship

### Upcoming Schedule

- 4/3: Crew Time
- 4/10: Crew Time
- 4/14: Kids sing in church
- 4/17: No Crew Time
- 4/24: Crew Time
- 5/1: Crew Time

## Sunday School

(Pre-K through 5th Grade)  
Meets Sundays after 9am worship

### Upcoming Schedule

- 3/31: Sunday School
- 4/7: Sunday School
- 4/14: No Sunday School—Palm Sunday: Sunday School and Crew Time sing together in worship
- 4/21: No Sunday School—Easter Sunday
- 4/28: Sunday School

## Confirmation

(6th through 8th Grade)  
Meets Wednesdays after 6pm worship

### Upcoming Schedule

- 4/3: Ruth
- 4/10: Daniel
- 4/17: Holy Week
- 4/24: Sin
- 5/1: Service

## Easter Egg Hunt & Brunch



Crew Time and Sunday School come together to sing on Palm Sunday, April 14th! After worship, there's an Easter Egg Hunt & Brunch for everyone!

## First Communion

- 4/7: First Communion Class (4:30-7pm)
- 4/18: 1st Communion Celebration (7pm worship service)

Calling all 4th graders! An important day is coming up for you! You get to celebrate your First Communion! On April 7th, there will be a class for 4th Graders (with parents/ guardians) to learn about this important Sacrament. We will talk about Biblical passages, the history of the Sacrament, as well as preview what will happen during the worship service. This is a special year as we get to celebrate First Communion on Maundy Thursday, when Jesus had his Last Supper.

\*If you or someone in your family has not had first communion and is older than 4th grade, please email Pastor Alicia and we will get you connected! This is a great opportunity to attend the class.

## Holy Week Passports



Holy Trinity encourages families to make all four Holy Week Services a priority. On Palm Sunday, during the children's message, children will be given a Passport to Holy Week. At each subsequent Holy Week Service (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday), there will be pieces to add to their passport putting together the 4-part story into one cohesive story. Each service is particularly experiential, and important for children to experience the life-changing story of Holy Week.

## Special Dates

- **Sunday, May 19th:** Final Sunday School; Teachers recognized in worship
- **Wednesday, May 22nd:** Final Crew Time; Leaders/Co-Hosts recognized in worship
- **Wednesday, May 22nd:** Final Confirmation class; Leaders recognized in worship