

The Visitor

May 2019

Volume 37 Issue 5

After Easter “dot dot dot”



Easter is an adrenaline high. It’s why the church exists.

In and through Jesus’ death and resurrection, we find our hope for this earthly life and our eternities. This is what we believe. It all boils down to Easter.

Not surprisingly, there’s a big crescendo to Easter, where we follow the Holy Week story through Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. We await on Sunday morning for the lights to turn on, the altar to be reset, and the hope of the eternal paschal candle to enter the dark space. Easter breaks God’s redemption into earth’s places of crucifixion. Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Then what?

What comes after Easter? Isn’t Easter the grand finale? You mean there’s more to the story? What happens in the “dot dot dot” after Easter?

May is a month that’s jam-packed. It’s easy to think that our church commitments finished in April. We got to Easter and that’s the end, right? Jesus wins!, right? Yes. But...

In the Gospels, there are some short and sweet treasures of resurrection stories, where Jesus appears to his loved ones after Easter. For example, in the Gospel of Luke, a few disciples were walking seven miles down the road to Emmaus, and Jesus came to walk with them. Somehow they didn’t know it was Jesus until they invited him for a meal and he broke the bread. In the Gospel of John, Jesus appeared to Mary, who thought he was a gardener at first. Then Jesus went and met the disciples as they had locked themselves in a room. Again later, Jesus went to the disciples after they had gone back to work fishing.

Why does this matter?

The Bible has these short stories that come after the “dot dot dot” of Easter. I believe this tells us how God relates to us in a post-resurrection life of faith. Jesus doesn’t wait in the tomb for people to come and see for themselves. Jesus goes to them.

Jesus goes on the road with them. Into their homes. Into their locked doors. To their places of work. The empty tomb shows that Jesus wasn’t contained in death and neither is Jesus contained after being raised from the dead. Jesus is free and he is accompanying God’s people out in the world.

After the “dot dot dot of Easter,” after the chocolate bunnies and jelly beans are gone, the Bible shows us that Jesus is still with us. We may not clearly see or believe indefinitely, but neither did the disciples. And that didn’t stop Jesus from going to them! In the same way, God accompanies us on our journeys and goes with us out into the world. Christ is risen, and Jesus is with us! Hallelujah!

- Pastor Ben Hilding



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Key Dates

5/5	New Member Class
5/12	Mother’s Day Celebration
5/19	Senior Led Worship
5/19	Last Sunday School
5/22	Last Crew Time
	Last Confirmation

In Our Prayers

We ask that you keep in your prayers: Barb Loebner, Laurie Tolzmann, Pastor Diane Goulson, Ellie Grace, Jim Morris, Susie Rogers, Frances and Annie, Gary, Don Mushitz, granddaughter Vada, granddaughter Piper, Alyce Price, Don Mattson, and for family and friends grieving the loss of Kareen Jacobson. 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.

5/1	Tacos
5/8	Tater Tot Hotdish
5/15	Ham
5/22	Pizza
5/29	Summer Menu Begins

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, 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

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1300 Main Street East
New Prague, MN 56071
Phone: (952) 758-3513
Fax: (952) 758-4407

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Holy Week at Holy Trinity



Small Groups

Thanks to all the 150+ adults and all the confirmation students who jumped into the “Get Connected” small group experience! As one participant stated, “I saw God everywhere. I was truly amazed... it was So God-like and so other-wordly. The members and size and everything about it turned out to be EXACTLY what we all needed. Again, I was completely amazed– stunned even.”



3/18/19 Council Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 5:45 p.m.
Members Present: Pastor Alicia Hilding, Pastor Ben Hilding, Berger, Dittberner, Fiala, Hemann, Kienow, Jacobson, Klingfus, Schoenebeck,
Approval of Agenda: Motion by Fiala, 2nd by Kienow. Motion passed
Approval of February 2019 Minutes: Motion by Klingfus, 2nd by Schoenebeck. Motion passed
Opening Devotional: “Canoeing the Mountains” Chapter 2 & 3 discussion.
Ministry Team Reports: Communications (Jacobson) – Mobile directory is in testing phase with Jamie Bisek and Jacobson.

Pastor Alicia Report:
Lent Devotions have been going well.
CYF – Crew Time & Sunday School families will be invited to sing on Palm Sunday as there will be no Wed night service Holy Week, with egg hunt and brunch following Sunday service. Children will also receive a passport to encourage participation in Holy Week.
Synod Assembly May 3rd & 4th with three participants representing HTLC.

Pastor Ben Report:
Small Group – Over 150 participants with adults and confirmation age participating.
Holy Week – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday – First Communion, Good Friday.
Spring Clean Day – Saturday, March 30th
Missions – March is a food drive and April will have a shoe drive.
Synod Pledge – Consider increase of Synod Pledge for 2020. Kienow recommended consideration of increasing Synod giving to ½ of 10% benevolence budget as 2019 budget is developed.

Treasurer Report:
Feb actuals were -\$8,881 against a budget of -\$8,481, with YTD actuals of -\$3,003 versus a budget of -\$12,060. There was decreased attendance due to inclement weather in the month of March and team spending was a bit lower than budgeted.
Fiala made a motion to re-invest a long-term bond of \$35,000 that has matured into a short-term investment for 1-2 years, per a recommendation from the Land Sale team. Schoenebeck seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:
Audio Visual Equipment – Install planned for March 31st. Projected cost is \$8,500, with approximately \$5,900 given by the congregation via a special offering.
Child Protection Policy – Final edits are being made and implementation plan is being created.
Radio Broadcast – Weekly radio broadcasts sponsorship was committed (member funded) through March of 2019. With new audio equipment improving the quality of the broadcast and decreasing the time needed to create the broadcast, we will be seeking sponsorship of weekly radio broadcast through end of 2019.

New Business:
Endowment Application Approvals – Kienow made a motion to accept \$1,400 from Endowment for Lakeside summer services. Hemann seconded. Motion passed.
HTLC History – A team is working on the history of HTLC and will join a future council meeting to discuss.
Temporary Garage – Jon Bergquist presented a solution for lawn mower/facility storage in a two car garage that can be moved to HTLC. Kienow made a motion to spend \$4,800 from the capital fund for the garage. Jacobson seconded. Motion passed.

Closing Prayer: Lord’s Prayer
Meeting Adjourned: 7:34 p.m.; motion by Kienow, 2nd by Fiala. Motion passed.
Next Meeting: April 15, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted by Karla Klingfus

Holy Trinity Happenings



Jasperson Marriage Blessing

On Sunday, April 7th, Dennis and Dorothy Jasperson had a 50th anniversary marriage blessing in worship. The Jaspersons even had members of their bridal party present to recommit to supporting them in their marriage going forward. May God bless this next chapter of their married lives together! If you have a milestone anniversary celebration like this, and would like to consider having a blessing in worship, please contact Pastor Ben.



Shoe Away Hunger

Thank you for all the shoes brought in thus far for the Shoe Away Hunger drive! Collections will still be taken until May 8th. For more information about the Shoe Away Hunger program, please visit 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 missions@holyltrinityonline.org.



Emmaus Walk Services

On April 28th and May 1st, Holy Trinity celebrated an "Emmaus Walk" service. On the road to Emmaus, the disciples were talking about Jesus, but they didn't recognize that he was walking with them the whole time. During these services at Holy Trinity, we were blessed to hear stories from Ella Hansen, Joanna Hansen, and Pastor Jorge Espinoza on how Jesus has accompanied them on the road of life. Thank you for sharing your inspirational stories!



Triplet Baptism

During the worship service on Sunday, April 28th, Holy Trinity celebrated the baptisms of triplets Anders, Hudson, & Kinley Drazan! We welcome you to the body of Christ, and into the mission we share! Join us in giving thanks and praise to God, and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world. Congratulations to parents Brad and Makayla!

Church Council Letter

Eric's Letter to the Holy Trinitarians

As I sit here with sunburn on my neck, face and arms from a long weekend of yardwork and spending time in our beautiful weather (less than 2 weeks after a foot of snow!), it reminds me how fast summer is approaching. The first four months have gone by so fast, and we have already seen so much change at Holy Trinity in 2019. As a council, we have been busy in this New Year as well. The recent, much needed upgrades to the sound system were in place by Easter services and sounded great. We continue to work on a solution for a garage to house our yard maintenance and other equipment and discussions of the road construction project continue.

As council treasurer, I would be remiss to not spend at least a couple lines talking about financial results year to date. The good news is that our budget looks great so far and we are blessed to be able to continue our work on paying down debt, expanding ministry and deliver a balanced budget, but we have more than half the year to go. As you may remember, 10% of all giving is pledged to benevolence and it would be difficult to match those outlays correctly month-to-month with actual giving. That said, through March, Holy Trinity is tracking roughly \$10,000 above a balanced operating budget YTD, but almost half of that "overage" is designated for benevolence spending, so it can be a little misleading.

Enough about business though. I hope as the weather continues to warm up and the end of school approaches, that everyone enjoys their upcoming summer. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the three outdoor, lakeside services being held again this summer at Cedar Lake.

Blessings, Eric Fiala

Finance Update

(Finance update as of March 31, 2019)
Revenue: YTD Budget \$121,253 YTD Actual \$122,356
Expenses: YTD Budget \$125,587 YTD Actual \$111,780
Revenue-Expenses: YTD Budget \$-4,334 YTD Actual \$10,576*

*The Mission Outreach Team has spent \$4,129 less than anticipated at this point in the year, but these are already committed dollars that have simply not yet been expended.

Radio Ministry

Thank you to all those who have signed up to sponsor a week of 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. If you would like to sponsor a week of this program, the cost is \$63.75 per week. Please contact Jamie Bisek in the church office at office@holyltrinityonline.org.



GACAC

On April 27th, Pastor Alicia Hilding and Lex Lammers represented Holy Trinity at the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations Annual Meeting. Gustavus was instrumental in the origination of Holy Trinity, as the Gustavus president Arnold Carlson made a personal plea in 1949 for Holy Trinity's first pastor, Rev. Birt Harris. With an emphasis on maintaining its ELCA church-relatedness, Gustavus has been a key ministry partner ever since.



A/V Upgrade

Thanks to all those who have helped to plan, install, support, and learn the new A/V system. It has taken many hands to get to where we are today. Thanks for your patience as we continue to work out the kinks. This is a much needed upgrade, and will be instrumental in our current and future worship needs. THANK YOU!

Volunteers of the Month



The last month of weather fluctuations has made it difficult to get our "spring cleaning" completed. However, we had a great group of volunteers come the last Saturday in March to spruce up the front lawn and the church. Perhaps you've noticed the freshly painted walls or the pruned branches outside. A huge thank you to Audrey Austin, Dirk & Darbie Berger, Don & Judy Conn, Mary Hanson-Busch, Deb Miller, Jim & Joanne Reemts, Pat Remfert and George & Joan Winn! Thank you so much for your gift of time and talents to make our church sparkle inside and out. If you would like to serve our church, please contact me at volunteer@holytrinityonline.org or call the church office at 952-758-3513.

-Karen Taylor

Upcoming Events

New Member Orientation

On Sunday, May 5th from 10 am - Noon, Holy Trinity will host a New Member gathering. We will spend some time socializing, learning about Holy Trinity and sharing a meal. Childcare will be provided. New Members are invited to officially join during worship on Sunday, May 12th or Wednesday, May 15th. Please sign up on the church website via Sign up Genius tab.

Amazing Grays

Amazing Grays will be having lunch on Thursday, May 2nd at noon at Shutterfly, followed by a business presentation and tour of their building at 1pm. On Thursday, June 6th, we will be hosting Mark Zimtsch, Plant Manager of Miller Milling Company of New Prague. We will meet in the Youth Room at 11am. Mr. Zimtsch will be giving a presentation on the flour milling business. All are welcome at attend these events even if you do not attend our regular Wednesday morning coffee and visiting meetings. We have fun, you are welcome to join us for informed socializing, coffee, tea, water, and goodies every Wednesday at 9am.

All God's Creatures Family Event

Sunday, June 2 from 3 - 7 pm at the Horejsi Family Farm. 4650 Farwell Ave, Webster. This event is open to the entire family so, join us for a relaxing time on the farm. Cuddle with baby farm animals, play some yard games and go on a nature scavenger hunt! *What to bring: Camp chair, drinks, meat to grill, and a dish to share.* There will be plenty of animals for you to see and touch, so please leave your family pets at home.

Rib Fest 2019

Mark your calendar for Friday, August 2 from 5 - 8 pm. This family fun event will feature great food, great music and a great evening of fellowship. Bring your friends!



Summer Dates

- Mark your calendars for some exciting summer dates!
- 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

Mother's Day Celebration

On Sunday, May 12 from 10 - 11 am, we are 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. At the end, we will have a special blessing in the sanctuary. You won't want to miss it!

Senior Led Worship

On May 19th, current high school seniors will help lead the Sunday morning worship service. If you are a senior, please send in your preferences for how you'd like to help to the church office. As a congregation, let's be there to support these seniors on their journeys, ask for God's blessing wherever they may go, and remind them they always have a home here at Holy Trinity! A reception will take place in the fellowship hall after the worship service.

Crew Time

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

Upcoming Schedule

- 5/1: Crew Time
- 5/8: Crew Time
- 5/15: Crew Time
- 5/22: Last Crew Time Class / Celebration / Appreciation

Sunday School

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

Upcoming Schedule

- 5/5: Sunday School
- 5/12: Sunday School / Mother's Day Event *Crew Invited to join!
- 5/19: Last Sunday School Class / Celebration / Appreciation

Confirmation

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

Upcoming Schedule

- 5/1: Service
- 5/8: Vocation
- 5/15: Vocation
- 5/22: End of Year Party



First Communion

God's blessings to all of those who celebrated their First Communion on Maundy Thursday! We keep these students in our prayers, as this Holy Meal may nourish their faith throughout their lives: Rowan Anderson, Rose Bornhofen, Blake Carston, Carolyn DeLuca, Daniel Erickson, Katherine Gilles, Brielle Grack, Brecken Hanson, Kendall Hauck, Hannah Huebsch, Abby Kartak, Brianna Malecha, Olivia Lindblom, Macy Pongratz, Daniel Price, Ella Schmiesing, Benjamin Smithson, Charlie Soukup, Molly Sticha, Jack Torgerson, Brooke Wacker, Ava Wuchko, and Jack Zabka.