

# Tidings

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Volume 45 Issue 1

*We care as friends, we love as family, and we serve as Christ*

February 2024

### Special Points of Interest:

- Congregational Meeting February 4
- Shrove Tuesday Dinner returns this year
- Pastor Kristin to lead new Lenten study series
- Youth again offering childcare for Parents' Night Out
- Another Classics event February 22
- Confirmation Retreat - March 1-2



## LEAP YEAR

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## Message from Our Pastor

It seems like we were just gathered together singing all our favorite Christmas carols and hearing the most beloved story of Jesus' birth, but this year Lent is almost here. Ash Wednesday is on February 14. Easter is March 31.

Join us for the very solemn day which signifies the beginning of Lent – Ash Wednesday, as we gather together for worship at 12noon and 6:30pm. Worship will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. You will hear these words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." A reminder of our humanity.

Throughout the season of Lent many people choose to "give up" something or "take on" something. The purpose of giving up or taking something on is to help us be mindful of making God a priority in our lives. So if giving up chocolate or sugar helps you, then go for it, but if taking on a spiritual discipline – of prayer, worship, scripture reading, fasting, or giving generously helps you, then perhaps do that.

One way Holy Trinity will accompany

you on your lent journey is through our "Wednesdays in Lent." Throughout the season we will join together around tables in the Commons at 12:00 noon for lunch and conversation or at 6:10 pm for Conversation (dinner is available at 5:30

pm) using Kate Bowler's Lent program "Have a Beautiful, Terrible Lent." It uses her new book "Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day" (which you can choose to purchase but do not need to) and the Sunday readings to lead us through the season.

You can also sign up for her daily email inbox Lent devotions at [katebowler.com](http://katebowler.com). I invite and encourage you to do so whether or not you are able to join us on Wednesdays.

God's Peace –

*Pastor Kristin Hoyer*



## Holy Trinity Lutheran Church



# Pre-Lenten Fair



## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

### 8:45-9:45 am

Adults, Children and Youth are invited to attend our Pre-Lenten Fair! There will be age appropriate activities for all. It is a great way to prepare for this meaningful season where we are invited to “return to the Lord who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast LOVE!”

*Psalm 145:8*

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#### *Holy Trinity Staff*

Kristin Hoyer,  
Pastor

Andrea Barron,  
Office Administrator

Marcia Merry,  
Organist Emerita

Nursery Attendant (Vacant)

Nancy Fox,  
Director of Music  
& Family Ministries

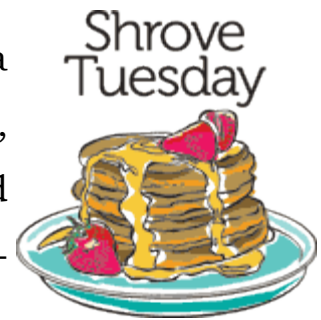
Terry Sisk,  
Organist/Choir Director

Debbie Harned, Interim  
Preschool Director

Rita Sims,  
Congregation President

## Save the Date:

The Fellowship Committee invites you to attend a Pancake Dinner on Shrove Tuesday, **February 13, beginning at 5:30pm.** Join us for this meal and time together as we prepare for Lent. We will celebrate together with a Pancake, Sausage, Egg Bites, and Fruit Dinner on Tuesday, February 13, 5:30-7:00pm in the Commons Area. Please consider joining in this renewed tradition at HTLC.



*Debbie Harned*



# February 14

## Two Worship Opportunities

Noon: A traditional Ash Wednesday service with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. A light lunch will follow the service.

5:30 pm: Baked Potato and Salad Bar Supper  
All are invited! (freewill donation)

6:30 pm: A traditional Ash Wednesday service with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

## Wednesdays in Lent 2024

“Have a Beautiful, Terrible Lent!”

**Wednesdays at Noon – Lunch and Discussion**

**Wednesdays at 6:10pm – 6:50pm – Discussion (you can join us at 5:30pm for dinner)**



LENTEN  
*Bible Study*

Wednesdays in Lent will use Kate Bowler’s Lent discussion guide called *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Lent!*”

Kate Bowler is a Duke University professor, podcaster, and author with a single mission: giving you permission to feel human. After years of being told she was incurable, she was declared cancer-free. But there’s no going back. She is forever changed by what she discovered: *Life is so beautiful and life is so hard. For everyone.*

This study will use excerpts from her new book “Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day!” You may buy the book, but you do not need to buy the book in order to participate in the discussion.

You may go to her website [katebowler.com](http://katebowler.com) to sign up for daily email devotions that will come to your inbox throughout Lent to be part of your Lenten discipline.

- Wednesday, February 21: “Entering The Wilderness” Mark 1:9-15
- Wednesday, February 28: “The Limitless Love of God” Mark 9:2-9
- Wednesday, March 6: “Transformation (Not Perfection)” John 2:13-22
- Wednesday, March 13: “The Depths of Renewal” John 3:14-21
- Wednesday March 20: “The Compassion of God” John 12:20-33

No meeting on Wednesday, March 27

Holy Week Worship and Easter Worship Schedule coming soon.

*Pastor Kristin*

## Youth Singers (grades 6-12)

### February 4

10:00 am Sing for Worship

9:30 report time

No Rehearsal after worship/

Congregational Meeting

### February 25

5:00-6:00 pm Rehearsal

6:00 pm optional dinner

6:30 pm Youth Group



# Parent's Night Out

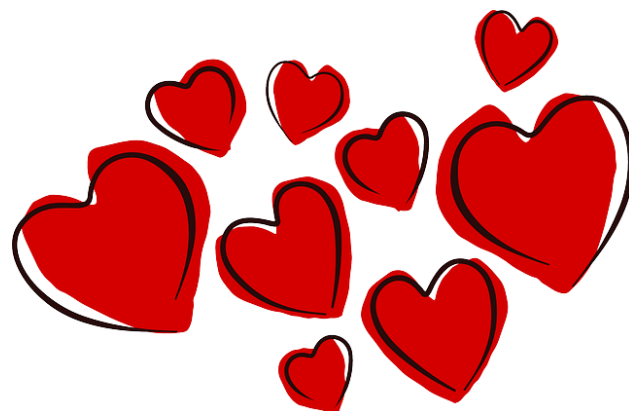
**When:** Saturday, February 10

**Time:** 4:00 – 7:30pm

**Sponsored by:** Little Blessings  
Preschool and HTLC Youth

**Who:** Children up to age 10

**Cost:** Free Will Donation



We will have our own Valentine celebration while you have yours!

Dinner - Pizza, fruit, cookie and snacks provided. It should be great!

Please **RSVP by Friday, February 9** to Debbie Harned  
(daharn512@gmail.com) or Nancy Fox (nanc\_fox@yahoo.com)

**Tell your friends, too!**

**We would love to have them join in the fun!**

## Youth Group (grades 6-12)

**Saturday, February 10**

**PARENT'S NIGHT OUT**

4:00-7:30 PM (Please arrive by 3:45 pm for orientation)

**Sunday, February 25**

5:00-6:00 pm Youth Singers Rehearsal

6:00 pm optional dinner

6:30 pm Youth Group



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - FEB 4

Our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, February 4, 2024 following the worship service and coffee.

The agenda will include:

- Presentation and vote of the 2024 budget
- Reports from several of our teams and committees
- Vote on synod assembly members
- Questions and Answers



Please make every effort to attend to stay informed and so that we can be assured of a quorum. Thank you!

## From Our President

### A look back at 2023

As we reflect on the year 2023, it proves to be an exhilarating period for HTLC. The arrival of our new Pastor, Pastor Kristin, brought renewed energy to our community. Committees regained vitality, and the atmosphere resonated with incredible music. However, the highlight remains the collective worship experience and the enlightening sermons conveying the message of the gospel.

Navigating through the year, we encountered memorable events, such as the successful Chili Fest. This fest, marked by a multitude of delectable chilis, became even more special with Pastor Kristin's inaugural week at HTLC. It's astonishing how time flies, as we find ourselves completing another Chili Fest last week. Following this savory celebration, Easter brought us together for a delightful breakfast.

In June, Debbie and Jerry Harned attended the Synod Assembly meeting, providing us with valuable updates. The celebration of HTLC's anniversary in June was particularly significant, anticipating our 60th year together on June 13, 2025. July saw an engaging VBS with enthusiastic participation from young adults and youth.

Pastor's backpack blessing in August preceded the introduction of a new event, Food Truck Night, initiated by Pastor Kristin. This well-attended gathering in August, September, and October promises to be a recurring success. September witnessed the impactful "God's Work Our Hands" initiative, contributing to various church projects.



November was dedicated to Thanksgiving celebrations with families and friends, marked by HTLC's generous food box deliveries to Frederick Douglass Elementary School. December not only brought Christmas festivities but also introduced four heartwarming worship services. The Sanctuary overflowed with attendees, and the inaugural S'mores and Hot Chocolate service with carols added a delightful touch. Numerous Christmas presents and bicycles found their way to bring joy to families at the Frederick Douglass school, and we delivered four (4 very large boxes) new and used coat donations to LAWS (Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter).

The Classics group has been exceptionally active this year, organizing numerous enjoyable events. Although most of their activities take place in Loudoun County, they have ventured to the Gardens in Maryland, explored various remarkable restaurants, attended a play in Pennsylvania, and visited museums in the Shenandoah Valley. True to Lutheran tradition, food consistently plays a role in their diverse range of activities.

### A look ahead to 2024

Looking ahead to 2024, we anticipate the continuation of familiar activities and the emergence of new initiatives from committees and teams. Personally, I cherish these events and the chance to foster fellowship.

As we embark on the new year, I extend my heartfelt wishes for a safe and peaceful journey. Let's grow together and further strengthen our family here at HTLC.

*Rita Sims, President*



# JOYFUL NOISE SING AND RING

**Grades K-5**

**Rehearsals Wednesdays**

**6:00-6:50 pm**

(Rehearsal for singing and ringing!)

**Wednesday, February 14**

**Ash Wednesday Worship**

**6:30 pm**

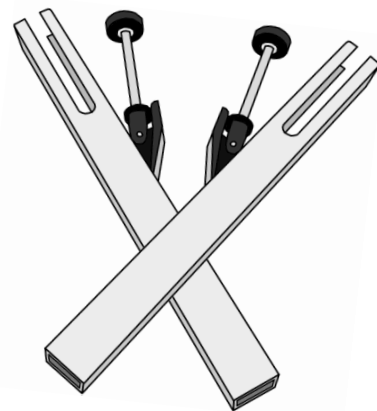
(Report time 6:00 pm)

**Sunday, February 25**

**Sing for worship**

**10:00 am**

(Report time 9:30 am)



The **Classics** will meet for lunch on **Thursday, February 22nd at 11:30 AM** at the Leesburg Blue Ridge Grill.



Please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, February 21st as we will have to do a call ahead on the morning of the 22nd. If you need a ride, please indicate this when you RSVP.

*Judy, Kim and Peggy*

# Communion Instruction



*Mark your calendar:*

## Sunday, March 10

### 11:15 AM-1:00 PM

This class is geared for children in Grade 2 (Older children who have not received this instruction are welcome!). It is appropriate for children who are currently receiving Holy Communion, as well as those who are just preparing to receive the sacrament. As part of the class we will share lunch. More information will be available in early March!

## *December 20, 2023 Council Meeting Highlights*

**Meeting held in the HTLC Commons with Christmas Dinner**

*Ann Keigher, Sandy Phillips*

**NOTE:** This was a shortened meeting so that Council members and their families could socialize for the holidays. The January Council Highlights will be included in next month's Tidings.

### **PASTOR'S REPORT**

- Pastor Kristin participated in 22 meetings and four events since the last Council meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- The Council reviewed the budget that the Finance Committee presented. Some changes including a few line items, have increased and others have decreased. After the review, a motion was made, seconded, and approved the 2024 Budget which will then be presented to the congregation for approval at the Congregational Meeting after the worship service on February 4, 2024.

- A free event on February 17, 2024 Synod Educational Meeting for Council Members in Bethesda, Maryland led by Bishop Ortiz and John Van De Weert. Pastor Kristin is encouraging council members to attend.
- React/DC: Pastor has reached out to this organization whose work is to help settle Afghan refugees in Loudoun County. React/DC is interested in renting space at HTLC. More information is being gathered and will be reported at a later date.



**Next Executive Committee Meeting:** January 10, 2024

**Next Council Meeting:** January 24, 2024





The Fellowship/Coffee Hour is the 'Hello' after sharing the sign of peace in worship with your church family. Whether you host or join for a snack, it provides you with a great start to your week. Neither is difficult, they just require some of the time that you set aside to do God's work. Hosting can be provided by a family, a group of friends, a committee, or even just one person. It requires making coffee (instructions provided!), snacks (1-2 is recommended, but feel free to provide more), set up, and clean up. Joining for a snack just requires a smile, a hello, and if you are inclined, a hug.

We have approximately four regular hosts, and are always looking to add more! Think about it, and let anyone on the Fellowship Team know if you are interested or if you have questions about hosting.

Thank you to all who sign up and prepare for Coffee Hour. Your time and efforts are very much appreciated. We always need volunteers for this time of fellowship. Perhaps you can team with a friend, or someone you are on a committee with. Think about it, and sign up on On Your Door!

*Debbie Harned*

## Altar Care

Thank you to Becky and Margaret Seymour and Sam Waters for providing communion bread. We very much appreciate you and its great taste! If there are any others who would like to make bread, we will provide a recipe and guidance. Just let me know.



*Peggy Everhart*

## Confirmation Retreat



**Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp in Jefferson, MD is hosting a confirmation retreat Friday, March 1 - Saturday, March 2, 2024.** Mar-Lu-Ridge is only a 30 minute drive from Leesburg and is a beautiful place to experience and enjoy God's creation. (Pastor Kristin has spent lots and lots of time at Mar-Lu-Ridge.)

**We will leave Holy Trinity at 6pm on Friday and return by 5pm on Saturday.**

(If you are only available for Saturday - let Pastor Kristin know.)

Theme: Faith in Action: Living our Confirmation Promises

There will be confirmation students and leaders from both the Delaware-Maryland and Metro D.C. Synods. We will participate in team building, campfire, high ropes and fun!

**Cost is \$60 (includes overnight, breakfast, lunch on Saturday.)**

**Deadline to let Pastor Kristin know if you can attend is Wednesday, February 14 (Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday).** Please email Pastor Kristin and turn in \$60 to her with memo: Confirmation Retreat to confirm your attendance. Permission forms and health forms will be coming soon.

If you have questions, please ask Pastor Kristin.

*Pastor Kristin*

## *Preschool Begins Second Semester*



Registration is upon us and we look forward to increasing our numbers next year. We had a great first half of the year; Music with Nancy Fox has been such a welcomed and fabulous addition; Chapel with Pastor Kristin is a highlight, we are told that our events go above and beyond expectation; we have eager learners, and all in all it shows God is working in this preschool! The addition of Parent's Night Out and Enrichment Friday is another way in which we are shining. We are busy, but is a great busy!

*Debbie Harned*



*If we had no winter,  
the spring would not be so  
pleasant.*

*~ Little Church Mouse*

## **The Tale of Three Trees**

*Music by Allen Pote*

*Lyrics and Narration by Tom S. Long*

*Presented by Joyful Noise*

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17**

**10:00 am**

“Once upon a mountaintop three little trees stood and dreamed of what they wanted to become when they grew up.” This is how this timeless American folk tale begins. This simple, but deep story reminds us that God is there to help our dreams come true, but sometimes in unexpected ways. It also reminds us to look for God in unexpected places in our world – even between two prisoners on a hill!



*Nancy Fox*

Mark Your Calendars Now:

# Vacation Bible School

## July 8-12, 2024

Look for more information and registration opportunities for children and volunteers by late February!

### *Start Thinking Spring!*

HTLC will start its 15th mowing season on March 24 ending on Oct 5. Last year we had four teams rotating on two-week cycles with some teams consisting of families as well as individuals. Each team was scheduled three times throughout the season. More volunteers will add additional teams or increase the numbers on the present teams.

Two riding mowers with fuel are provided as well as push mowers and trimming equipment. Mowing can be done anytime during your two week cycle.

Please contact Jim Truxel - 540-338-4669, [jimtruxel@comcast.net](mailto:jimtruxel@comcast.net) or the Church office and I will be in touch. Standby volunteers are also accepted.

Thanks for considering this important project.

*Jim Truxel*



## *From our Christmas Eve Services*



### Women of the ELCA

WOMEN of the ELCA: Holy Trinity's WELCA group met on Tuesday, January 9th for our first meeting of 2024. Eight members plus Pastor Kristin worked together to pack 16 lunches/waters for our continued support of Loudoun's homeless shelter. Kim

Mill kindly delivered these to Shelter House on a very rainy morning. Deb Wenk led the group through "Holy Losses and Holy Invitations" (chapter 4) for our book study of Alice Fryling's *Aging Faithfully*. An open and frank discussion followed. As treasurer, Margaret Seymour, brought us up to date on our financial/offering status and the members present agreed to donate \$255 for items chosen from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. In the past WELCA has chosen to donate livestock to the overseas mission, but discussion this year focused on choices that directly benefited women and children. We were pleased to authorize Margaret to purchase the following as gifts from HTLC's Women of the ELCA:

- \*clinic visit for a child
- \*vaccinations for a child
- \*stocking of a health clinic for a month

*(Continued on page 13)*

## *More from our Christmas Eve Services*



*(WELCA, Continued from page 12)*

- \*nutrition for a child for a month
- \*school fees and uniforms for a girl
- \*attendance for a woman to farmer's field school

As we have done each Fall with school kits, our group discussed another overseas mission project through the ELCA or Lutheran World Relief programs. As an Easter congregational outreach, WELCA is considering sponsoring "Ten chicks for \$10". From the ELCA catalog - "Ten little chicks can make a big difference. Eggs from chickens not only provide an ongoing supply of protein-rich meals for a family, they can also launch a small business that provides a steady source of income." Keep your eyes and ears open!

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 13 and all are welcome. (We will be continuing with our bag lunch ministry, book study, and likely helping to set-up for the Shrove Tuesday dinner that evening.)

*Pat Bailey*

## *Financial Update*

First and foremost, we express our gratitude for contributing to the success of our operating expenses last year. As you are aware, we are facing urgent needs for a new air conditioner and a new roof. The estimated cost of the new roof is \$150,000, and our reserve fund currently stands at \$6,950. The air conditioner for the Pastor's office and surrounding areas requires replacement by April, with a cost of \$15,000, and we presently have \$8,989 in the reserve fund.



While we actively explore solutions for these crucial needs, we seek your support without compromising our ongoing operating expenses.

Following the congregational meeting, you will find thermometers placed inside the church, indicating the progress of the air conditioner fund, the roof fund, General Operating Expenses and weekly updates on each.

If you are interested in becoming part of the Finance Team, we welcome your involvement. Please reach out to Karla McGovern.

Once again, thank you, and let's not only sustain our efforts but strive to make them even more substantial and impactful than before.

*Karla McGovern and Rita Sims*

**Celebrating**   
*An Anniversary This Month*

2/15/2014 Randy & Jennifer Steeprow

2/18/1995 Mike & Sandy Phillips

2/20/1982 Steve & Marsha Little

2/21/2005 John & Carol Sapienza

## Worship Volunteers - February 2024

	Feb 4	Feb 11	Feb 18	Feb 25
<b>Asst Min / Prayers</b>	Laurie Dieffenbach	Laurie Dieffenbach	Laurie Dieffenbach	Tammy Brende
<b>Lector</b>	Tammy Brende	Samantha Waters	TBD	Lynnette Mergler
<b>Acolyte / Crucifer</b>	Juliette Richards	Chloe & James Landas	TBD	TBD
<b>Ushers</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Altar Care</b>	Debbie Wenk Debbie Harned	Sharon Williams Effie DeGroot	Peggy Everhart Karen Blodgett	Judy Willeke Tammy Brende
<b>Coffee Host</b>	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Tellers</b>	Laurie Dieffenbach Gretchen Luebbe	Laurie Dieffenbach Kristina Landas	Laurie Dieffenbach Kristina Landas	TBD

*Please find a substitute if you are not able to serve on an assigned day. Thank you.*

# Happy February Birthday to . . .

- |                   |                    |                     |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Michelle Auten  | 6 Brandon Hare     | 15 Helen Santos     |
| Reed Bollinger    | 9 William Just     | 16 Amber Szebalskie |
| Lucy Genidy       | Sue Lamb           | 18 Rita Sims        |
| Norma Nohre       | Mallory Little     | 19 Carter Brobst    |
| 2 Matt Bland      | 10 Josie Steeprow  | 23 Mary Marcheschi  |
| 3 Bev Jenkinson   | John Gibbs         | 24 Grant Gustafson  |
| 4 Michael Gray    | 14 Katie Valentine | 26 Eric Bohnenblust |
| 5 Timothy Whitney |                    | Debra Hare          |

Happy Birthday!



29 Joey Burke

## FEBRUARY Baptisms

- |                    |                   |                  |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 3 Karen Blodgett   | 12 Brian Lo       | Tyler Lamb       | 26 Brian Knapp    |
| 4 William Just     | Ian Miller        | 22 Karen Ilge    | 27 Andrew Nau     |
| 10 Eric Grimm      | 15 Samantha Adair | 23 Anna Jacobson | 28 Michelle Auten |
| 11 Carly Balderson | Malcolm Miller    | 24 Lucas Allen   | 29 Laurie Willeke |
|                    | 20 Caleb Graham   | 25 Bonni Krytusa |                   |

## Stewardship February 2024

Hello Holy Trinity Members!

Did you feel like your mailbox was missing something this fall? You may have noticed that we did not conduct our traditional Stewardship drive this past October. Don't worry, that was a strategic decision, not an oversight!



First, thank you to the many of you who have continued your giving, whether by automatic contribution or otherwise, and continued to fill the offering plate on Sundays. We truly appreciate your ongoing gifts!

Next, your Stewardship committee, led by Pastor Kristin, has been re-thinking our approach to Stewardship. Rather than simply looking at the numbers and how much has to be spent to keep things running, we would like to turn toward a more intentional relationship between members and their giving. We have been studying a book called "Ask, Thank, Tell" by Charles R. Lane, which encourages the Stewardship leaders, and in turn the congregation, to focus first on our relationship with God, and then to focus on how stewardship can reflect our values, whether as individuals, small groups and committees, or the congregation and community as a whole.

We are excited about this new direction, and we hope to put together more comprehensive information for all of you soon.

Thank you!

*Alison Waters, Stewardship Committee*

**HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
(ELCA)**

605 West Market Street  
Leesburg, VA 20176-2506

Sunday School: 8:45 AM  
Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM  
Coffee Hour: Following worship

Open Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM  
Emailing or calling ahead is recommended to  
make sure someone is available to help you.

Phone: (703) 777-4912

Email: [office@HolyTrinityLeesburg.org](mailto:office@HolyTrinityLeesburg.org)



[www.HolyTrinityLeesburg.org](http://www.HolyTrinityLeesburg.org)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Volume 45 Issue 1

## *Christmas Eve - Carols by the Fire Pit*

