

Tidings

Gretchen Luebbe, Newsletter Coordinator
gmluebbe@verizon.net



Volume 45 Issue 3

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

April 2024

Special Points of Interest:

- WELCA, Preschool raise money for 1000 chicks
- July VBS Registration links available online
- Classics group making plans for Spring
- New AC unit recently installed
- Bible Baseball scheduled for June 2
- Congregation Meeting set for June 9



Inside This Issue:

Mobile Hope Service Project	3
President's Message	4
Youth Sunday: April 21	5
HTLC Yard Sale set for June 8	7
Confirmation Retreat Pictures	10,12
Spring Workday	11

Message from Our Pastor

Psalm 118:24 *This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

Reading this verse you may start singing the song "This is the day. This is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made. We will rejoice. We will rejoice and be glad in it and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the Day. This is the day that the Lord has made."

The signs of spring are all around us. Trees budding, flowers blooming, grass growing, birds chirping and warmer temperatures. Each week during chapel with the preschool children we start by singing "This is the Day!"

Each day is a new day God has given us, a new day God is at work in our lives and in the life of the world. Each day is a day to rejoice for even in the most difficult of situations there is something to be thankful for.

Look around and enjoy the sights and sounds of spring and also enjoy the amazing people God has created that are around us. I am so thankful for the members and friends of Holy Trinity who share their gifts

and insights and faith with one another and with me. This is the day that the Lord has made!



During this Easter season and every day may we find reason to rejoice and be glad!

Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, April 14 – Pre-School Sunday! Our pre-school families are invited to join us for worship and the preschoolers will share a few songs in worship!

Sunday, April 21 – Youth Sunday! (Our middle school and high school youth will lead worship this day!) You will not want to miss this. We have some amazing and faithful youth who continue to grow in their relationship with God and are so brave to share it with us.

Sunday, May 19 – Pentecost Sunday! (Wear Red) and Confirmation Sunday for Marc Buzzell & Braden Dahlquist

God's Peace,

Pastor Kristin Hoyer

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church





Music Schedules: Children & Youth

Joyful Noise Sing & Ring 3/22/24

DATE	ACTIVITY
Wednesday, April 3	Final Rehearsal for the Year!
Sunday, April 28	Sunday Worship 10:00 am Report at 9:40 am

Youth Singers Schedule 3/22/24

DATE	ACTIVITY
Sunday, April 21	Youth Sunday 10:00 am Service Singers Report 9:00 am
Sunday, April 28	Sunday Worship 10:00 am Singers report at 9:30 am

Thank you to Debbie and Jerry Harned's daughter, Kate, for painting the palms on to the paraments that we use for Palm Sunday.



Holy Trinity Staff

Kristin Hoyer,
Pastor

Nancy Fox,
Director of Music
& Family Ministries

Terry Sisk,
Organist/Choir Director

Debbie Harned, Interim
Preschool Director

Andrea Barron,
Office Administrator

Marcia Merry,
Organist Emerita

Rita Sims,
Congregation President



MOBILE HOPE of Loudoun

April is the month that Social Ministry will work together to support the above organization, Mobile Hope.

Mobile Hope, works to change the Social Determinants of Health for children and young adults (24 years of age and younger) who are precariously housed, homeless and at risk, living in Loudoun County. They create pathways for this fragile, overlooked and often unacknowledged population to have access to daily essentials and life changing support.

This month we will concentrate on collecting the following items of need for their programs of support. We are asking your help in collecting the following items:

Canned tuna, Canned Chicken, Granola bars, Canned fruit, Cereal, Canned Veggies, Macaroni and Cheese, Hearty soups, Snacks and Peanut Butter Crackers. Please place your donations in the "Golden Cart".



From Our President

While discussing the financial aspects of HTLC isn't something I particularly enjoy, as your President, I feel it's my responsibility to keep you informed about our church's operational needs. I deeply appreciate everyone's contributions thus far, and I know each of you has already been incredibly generous. However, I believe our main challenge



lies in maintaining consistency.

First, let me share some positive news. Our congregation has once again demonstrated its generosity by funding a new air conditioner for the office area. Mat Shultz and I extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to this endeavor.

In terms of our financial performance, January and February were relatively stable, with all bills being covered. However, March presented some challenges. At one point, we only had \$1,000 in the bank, which wasn't sufficient to cover our weekly expenses. Thankfully, the following week, our funds increased to \$5,000, enabling us to pay some bills. Yet, we still faced a shortfall of

\$18,000 to cover the remaining expenses within a tight 11-day period. We prayed earnestly for Easter services to provide the necessary financial support.

To sustain our operations, we require \$40,000 monthly, while our budget indicates a need for \$30,000, leaving us to cover the majority of bills each month. This disparity is partly due to increased utility costs, as our electric and gas bills have risen significantly. Additionally, we've provided well-deserved raises to our staff, some of whom hadn't received increases in over a decade.

For instance, our electric bill now exceeds \$2,000 monthly, with further increases anticipated during the summer when giving typically decreases. Our gas bill has also surpassed \$1,000 monthly. Despite these challenges, we're actively seeking ways to reduce costs, such as changing service providers to save \$319 monthly and exploring other avenues for savings.

Moving forward, I'll regularly update you on our weekly and monthly giving through signage, the Bulletin, and the Tidings. Your contributions, both financial and through your time, are invaluable to the life of our church. Thank you for your unwavering support.

Thank you all so very much and God Bless You,

Rita Sims, President

Women of the ELCA

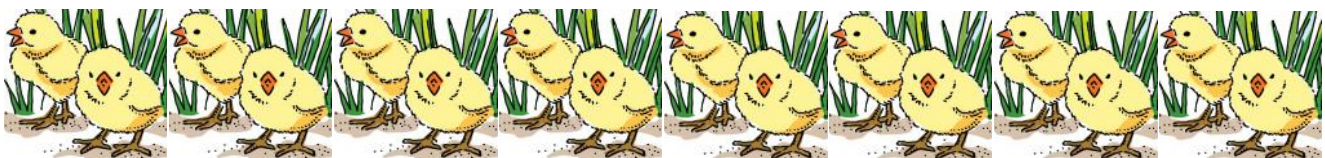
The Women of the ELCA met on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Sandwiches for the Loudoun homeless were made, lunches packed and Kim Mil once again delivered them to the shelter. We will continue to make these bag lunches through our June meeting. Cathy Root led the group through the final chapter, Fear and Peace, of our book study based on "Aging Faithfully" by Alice Fryling. Next month we will conclude with the epilogue and final thoughts on the book.

A discussion followed that included plans for our April, May, and June meetings - and into next Fall. Old and new service project ideas were discussed and evaluated with further input to be provided at our April meeting. Researching a new book study for the Fall will also be done. As our membership has grown this year, so have our imaginations and goals!

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU...for supporting our "Ten Chicks for \$10" Easter campaign. As an extension of WELCA's own support of the ELCA Good Gifts program, we joined with Little Blessings Preschool to sponsor this outreach fundraiser. To our great surprise and delight, we had 41 families or individuals donate \$1000 to provide for the purchase of a thousand chicks to be used both as meals and a source of income for families overseas.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9 at 10:00 AM. Please join us for service and fellowship!

Pat Bailey



YOUTH SUNDAY

April 21

10:00 am

Our Middle and High School Youth are excited to lead the congregation in worship!

Please plan to join us!



Bible Baseball

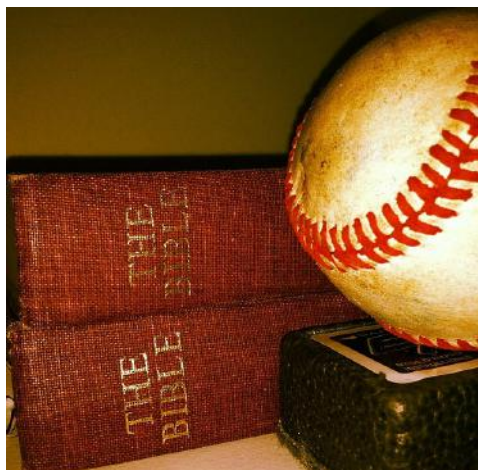
June 2

8:45 –9:45 am

Plan to join us for our annual Bible Baseball game. Our teams have been learning all year long and are ready to face off in this game of Bible learning. Of course no baseball game is complete without some hot dogs and popcorn!

Bring the entire family!!

The game will take place in the Commons field.



Vacation Bible School

River of Life!

July 8–12, 2024

9:00 am– Noon

Welcome Aboard! This year we are journeying down the river to learn about God’s gracious gift of water. From the waters of baptism to the waters that sustain gardens and farms, the water of LIFE!

Participants will learn about the importance of water and visit important “ports” along the way where they will hear Bible stories about water and hear about communities that are working to ensure safe water for all!

We can’t wait to welcome you “on board” for this week of fun, faith and learning!

(\$35/week for all campers & Junior Crew. \$45/ week after June 1)

The week includes the following opportunities:

WeeBS—Campers must turn three by September 1, 2024

VBS—Campers must turn 4 by September 30, 2024

Junior Crew—A special program for rising 6th Graders

Volunteers: Rising 7th Graders through Adult

Registration Link For Campers & Junior Crew: <https://forms.gle/6bhUEDi69oEPKneE7>

Registration Link for Volunteers: <https://forms.gle/AEVazLsKkMETnCKL6>

Save the Date

JUNE 8

RETURN OF HOLY TRINITY'S YARD SALE

Be on the lookout for more information about:

- * Types of items to Donate
- * Drop-off dates (Late May and early June)
- * Volunteer opportunities - Sign-up sheets are coming
- * Profits to support a variety of Social Ministry Programs

Confirmation Updates:

March 1-2 we were with two other congregations at Mar-Lu-Ridge Camp as we learned more about our confirmation promises and how to live them out in the world. We had fun learning and even more fun enjoying God's creation (even if it was foggy and rainy). See a few pictures on pages 10 and 12.

No Class – Wednesday April 3

We will have class Sunday, April 7, 14, 28 (No class on Youth Sunday – April 21), and Wednesday 17, 24

Confirmation Afternoon of lunch, learning and fun – Wednesday, April 10- 12pm-4pm

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

July 16-20, 2024, New Orleans, Louisiana



Every 3 years (well, except for 2021 due to COVID), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, hosts an amazing event for 8th-12th grade youth. The week includes music, speakers, worship, service projects and so much more! For many youth who attend it is a life-changing experience.

This summer **Alli Murgia, Elena & Zoe Ward, along with Jen Ward and Pastor Kristin** (this will be Pastor Kristin's 6th youth gathering) will be attending the event. We have a lot of fundraising to do and will be starting a **"Buy a Mile" fundraiser**. It is 1056 miles from Holy Trinity to the Superdome in New Orleans. Help us get to New Orleans by "buying a mile" (or more) for **\$10/mile**. You will receive a certificate and will be invited to a donor dinner after we return from New Orleans.

Follow the airplane poster to see how we are doing in our flight to New Orleans. If you want more information about the gathering you may go to www.elca.church/gathering to learn more or ask one of our attendees. We are currently behind in our fundraising, so we appreciate your help when you can. Thank you for supporting our youth!

Pastor Kristin Hoyer

Preschool Happenings

We had a great Art Show in March and raised \$533 to use for classroom and playground resources.

We also look forward to preschool Sunday on April 14. The children will sing their favorite chapel songs!

Debbie Harned



Classics Update:

Seven members of the Classics met for lunch at Spanky's Shenanigans March 19th. Watch for plans about April. Do you have a suggestion? Please feel free to contact Judy Willeke, Kim Mill or Peggy Everhart.

Join us for a great afternoon of entertainment with this classic Broadway smash hit.

The tickets will cost either \$39 or \$37 depending on how many of us there are. Tickets are non-refundable so we must have a firm commitment.

Please contact the church office if you would like to attend. We still have 10 seats available. We need to have full payment by May 22nd.

We will be sitting in the Upper Orchestra which requires a couple of stair levels, but all are easily manageable. We will work out transportation and leave from the church.

Any questions? 4peverhart@gmail.com



Children's Musical The Tale of Three Trees!



HTLC Confirmation Retreat with two Additional ELCA Congregations



Confirmation 

March 20, 2024 Council Meeting Highlights

Meeting held via Zoom

Ann Keigher, Sandy Phillips

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Pastor Kristin's activities for the month were comprised of: 5 visits to homes or hospital, 1 funeral, 14 meetings and events, including:
 - ✓ Confirmation Retreat and Youth Group events
 - ✓ First Communion Class
 - ✓ Wednesday noon Lenten series
 - ✓ Adult Sunday School
 - ✓ Wednesday Preschool Chapel
- Additional worship assistants are needed

FINANCIAL REPORT

- The actuals vs budget report was distributed to council.
- Rita Sims provided an update on the March finances which will be in Tidings and On Your Door.

NEW BUSINESS

- A motion was made and approved for Pastor's housing allowance of \$48,000 to remain as is until further notice
- Phone Update/Internet Update – This has been completed and will save \$319.00 a month.
- Spring/Summer Congregation Meeting – The meeting will be held on June 9, 2024. Committee reports for the Annual Report will be due on May 19, 2024 to the office.
- Volunteers to work on Constitution - Gretchen Luebbe and Alison Waters agreed to work with Pastor and the Synod on the Constitution changes.
- Update to Organ Fund – A motion was previously approved in the February minutes for Helen J. Tinney

(Susie) and Karla McGovern (as signatories) to close the current account and then open the new account at Truist. Rita Sims will write a letter and include council minutes from February and March for approval in order to open the account at Truist.



Council Notes

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **PROPERTY:** A motion was made and approved for the purchase of the new air conditioner unit. It has been ordered and will be installed on 3/26/2024.
- **FELLOWSHIP:** Provided an update on the Easter Breakfast and a Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Easter Sunday.
- **SOCIAL MINISTRY:** The following activities are planned through the rest of the year:
 - March** - Collecting for Loudoun Library - assists homeless women in need of personal hygiene items
 - April** - Mobile Hope drive for canned goods and snacks
 - May** - Sandwich-making activity to assist hunger shelter
 - June** - Yard Sale
 - July** – Summer Vacation
 - August** – Summer Vacation
 - September** - Coat Drive
 - October** - Shoe Drive or other collecting activity
 - November**-Thanksgiving baskets or other needs
 - December** - Christmas baskets and Angel Christmas Tree or other needs

Executive Committee Meeting: April 10, 2024

Next Council Meeting: April 17, 2024

The Spring Workday will be Saturday April 27 from 8:30 - noon. Lunch will be provided. We will focus on trimming bushes and hedges, mulching, and edging the sidewalk.



More from Confirmation Retreat



Worship Volunteers - April 2024

	Apr 7	Apr 14	Apr 21	Apr 28
Acolyte / Crucifer	Hope & Joy Mattina	TBD	TBD	TBD
Asst Min / Prayers	Tammy Brende	Laurie Dieffenbach	Youth Sunday	Karla McGovern
Lector	TBD	Tammy Brende	Youth Sunday	Lynnette Mergler
Ushers	Fritz Scholz TBD	TBD TBD	Youth Sunday	Fritz Scholz TBD
Coffee Host	Mattina Family	TBD	TBD	Laurie Dieffenbach
Altar Care	Please Check Altar Guild Schedule			
Tellers	TBD TBD	Laurie Dieffenbach TBD	Karla McGovern Gretchen Luebbe	TBD TBD
Lawn	Duellman Family		Bland / DeMark Family	

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

Happy April Birthday to . . .

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 Kori Lord | 10 Lori DeMark | Kelly Mill |
| 3 Kristin McLaughlin
Monica Morrell | Matthew McGovern | 21 Declan Bailey
Jonathan Schunk |
| 5 Oliver Isler
Colleen McGrew | 11 John Boarts | Gary Szebalskie |
| 6 Elizabeth Bland
Ross Krytusa | 13 Marya DeVault | 22 Landon Biggs |
| 8 Jessica Bender
Adric Murgia | 14 Sharon Fish | 25 Ryleigh Dooley
Natasha Gloger |
| | 16 Keslar Just
Jesse Morrell | 26 Peggy Everhart |
| | 19 Elena Ward | 27 Connor Begley
Diana Larson |
| | 20 Jackie Kramer
Hope Matina | 29 Cindy Johanneck |



April Baptism Anniversaries

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Kristine Jacobson
Timothy Whitney | 13 Gloria Borgrink
Mary Covell | 21 Sarah Muse |
| 2 Kristi Sieber | Marya DeVault | 23 Julie Graham
Bryan Mill |
| 3 Josie Steeprow
Randy Steeprow | Brian Fish | Korbin Petterson |
| 6 Gwen Scharpf | 14 Kari Jacobson | 26 Charlotte
Bohnenblust |
| 7 Alison Waters | 15 Madeleine
Blackwell | Blake Critz |
| 11 Anna DeCriscio
Erin McGovern
Marlana Wilson | 18 Sam Waters | 29 Taylor Beebe |
| | 20 Tammy Brende
Dowell Muse | 30 Lauren Emerson
Grace Mattina |



Celebrating An Anniversary This Month

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| 4/02/1999 | Stephanie Russoto & Patrick Lo | 4/09/1994 | Leesa & Jody Bell |
| 4/07/2001 | Brent & Kelly Begley | 4/20/1985 | Dan & Nancy Williams |
| | | 4/23/2011 | Kelly & Mike Frye |
| | | 4/29/1995 | Matthew & Karla McGovern |

Jan-Feb Financials 2024

	Actual	Budget
General Fund	\$26,390.04	\$30,266.67
Air Conditioner	\$15,493.00	Pd by cong.
Roof Fund	\$7,050.00	\$150,000.00



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



www.HolyTrinityLeesburg.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Volume 45 Issue 3

Children's Musical
The Tale of Three Trees!
Sunday, March 17

