

CLARION

MAY 2023

FROM PASTOR'S DESK



Seasons

***"[God] changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding."* (Daniel 2:21)**

Spring has sprung! Or at least it seems to have done so.

I saw a funny chart on social media a while ago listing "The Eleven Seasons Of Wisconsin," although I think this actually applies in a lot of states, Arkansas included.

Last week, I thought we had reached "Actual Spring," but then we had a cold snap and I realized that we were actually in "Spring of Deception." But I am hopeful that "Third Winter" will be short lived, and we can get on to the beauty of spring with new growth, moderate temperatures, and the promise of a relaxing summer.

The seasons of the year offer us comfort, variety, and a routine. The changes from season to season mark our journey through the world and remind us that God is always in control, providing for our needs and preserving the world with His mighty hand.

We're about to enter a new season at Holy Trinity, too. In some ways, our journey through the Call Process may have felt like the false starts into spring depicted on the season chart above: "Waiting for Candidates, Call (Returned), Second Pause, Call of Excitement (Returned), Pause, Call of Joy (Returned), Exhausted Pause, Call of Anticipation (ACCEPTED!!)" To be fair, though, let's admit that all of the Calls were to wonderful pastors, each of whom would have been an excellent fit at HTLC; it's just that they weren't the right person at the right time).

Now that Pr. Meyer has accepted the Call to serve as our new Associate Pastor of Youth and Families, we are moving into a new season in the history of our congregation. Never before has Holy Trinity had two pastors. And while we have always valued and emphasized youth and families, his addition to the staff will put an even greater focus on this important area of ministry. As we grow, having two pastors will also allow us to better respond to that growth, and to answer the needs of the people who join with us to worship and serve in Northwest Arkansas.

Please continue to pray for Pr. Meyer and his family! As he winds down his pastorate at The ROCK in Seward and prepares to transition to Holy Trinity, there will be many emotional activities, many "last times," and many sad goodbyes. But there is also excitement for what lies ahead, and joy in the certainty that their gifts will be put to work in a whole new setting.

His last day in Nebraska will be May 21, and we are tentatively planning an Installation Service at Holy Trinity on June 11, dependent on the availability of various people who must participate. We will let you know as the plans solidify. For now, rejoice in this new season, and praise God for his provision and protection in all things.

Happy Actual Spring!

In HIS Service,
Pr. Longman



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear members of the congregation of HTLC, it is with great honor and humility that I write to you today as the President of our congregation. I am excited to be given the opportunity to serve alongside each and every one of you as we work together to Spread God's Grace, Grow In Christ & Care For Others.

I would like to take a moment to say thank you to previous President Dave Lehenbauer and all he has done for our congregation to build a strong foundation that we stand on as a church today. I hope to continue his legacy of service and commitment to our congregation.

I am committed to listening to your concerns and ideas and working together with you so our Church will continue to thrive and grow through our Church mission. Never hesitate to contact me if you have a concern or need. You may contact me through my email 5knelson@att.net or by phone (479) 903-5662.

Now for the really good news! We are thrilled to welcome our new Associate Pastor of Youth and Families, Pastor Michael Meyer and his wife Stacey and their sons Clayton and Cooper to our congregation. Pastor Meyer comes to us with a deep commitment to serving the Lord. I am very confident that he will be a wonderful addition to our church to help us strengthen and grow in God's word.

As we welcome Pastor Meyer and his family into our church family, let us take a moment to thank God for bringing him to us. Please also keep The ROCK of Seward, Nebraska congregation in your prayers as they start the process of calling a new pastor to their church. I invite each of you to take some to get to know Pastor Meyer, to hear his story and to share with him your own journey of faith.

Together, let us support and encourage our new Associate Pastor, as he begins his ministry among us. May God bless us all as we work to together to Spread God's Grace.

In Christ,
Mike Nelson

FROM THE OFFICE



Any information you need put into our weekly **NEWS & NOTES** needs to be submitted to the office by **NOON** on **WEDNESDAY** of each week.

Any information you'd like put into the **CLARION** is due to the office by **NOON** on the **15th** of every month.



FOOD PANTRY

Tuesday-Friday
2 pm-4 pm

PASTOR'S CARE FUND

Thursday & Friday
2 pm-4 pm



HOLY TRINITY NEWS 2023



CHURCH LIBRARY

Our library has fiction and nonfiction books that are Christian based for ALL ages! DVDs, CDs, puzzles, and Bible study materials for groups or individuals are also available. No due dates or late fees! Please come enjoy our library!

NURSERY ROLL

Attention all parents of 'littles' under age 3, we are re-starting our Nursery Roll ministry. We would like to share booklets, Bibles, and small children's books for parents to read with their child. The Enduring Faith Beginnings booklets and materials are designed to help our new parents share the love of Jesus from birth through the first three years of life. This will primarily be a "mailing ministry" and is funded by the church's education ministry. If you would like to add your child to the Nursery Roll, please contact the church office or Melinda Miller at themillers2@cox.net or 479-295-2978.



PINOCHLE

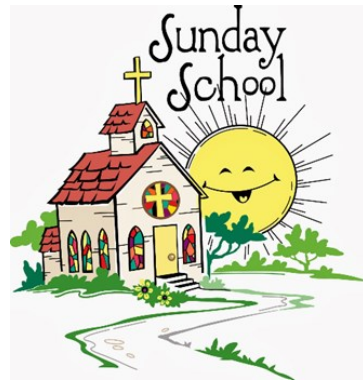
Friday, May 12th will be our next date for playing cards. Hopefully you have your calendar marked and will be ready to help set up at 6:00 pm and get cards in your hand for play at 6:30. Don't forget to bring a little something to share for a snack. Looking forward to seeing everyone and perhaps a few new faces!



CRAFTY CREW

Enjoy some relaxing fellowship time **the last Thursday** of each month from **4-8 pm**. We have people who scrapbook, crochet, embroider, make ornaments, and other various crafty goodness. Come check us out!





SUNDAY SCHOOL

*"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old,
he will not depart from it."
Proverbs 22:6*

Calling all children and teens! Sunday school begins at 9:30 with donuts and an opening message from one of our members. New this month, we will begin talking about tithes and take an offering during the opening section. We are excited to be working with our music ministry team to help get our children involved in the service.

Here is a list of our small groups and wonderful teachers!

Kindergarten to 4th: Leah O’Ryan & Karen Kvamso

5th to 8th: Amy Wright & Heather Stottlemyer

9th to 12th: Dean Eisma & Casey Bolte

If you have a pre-k child they are welcome to join our elementary class! Parents can stay with the child to help them feel more comfortable if needed.

Thank you all!

Kati Evans

kati.evans46@gmail.com

479-685-6768



CHURCH BUS

We offer rides to our Sunday services in the church van. The van does **NOT** have wheelchair access so riders will need to be able to get in and out with a hand from the driver. We are looking for drivers to help with this ministry as well. If you could help even one or two Sundays a year it would be greatly appreciated!

If you are interested call or text Ted Reinker at (409) 750-9633.



CRAFT & SCRAPBOOKING DAY

Join us in the chapel on **May 13th** from **10 am - 10 pm** for a day of craft and scrapbooking! Bring your crafts or scrapbooking and enjoy fellowship and fun, or just drop in to see what others are doing. Bring a snack to share. Everyone is invited. Contact Lana Moeller for more information.



SMALL GROUP STUDIES

Did you know that we have six Connection Groups available here at Holy Trinity? Six groups of 10-14 people are meeting regularly for a deeper dip into God's Word. Several of the groups are already at capacity, but three of the groups have openings and will be starting new studies soon. If you are interested in getting to know your fellow parishioners better, consider joining a group! You're always welcome!

Paul and Roberta Belviy

*meets at the Tontitown Winery every other Thursday evening.
They can accommodate up to 14 members there.*

Matt and Casey Bolte

*meets at their home on 2nd and 4th Friday evenings.
This is a great group for people with school age children.*

Dave and Christy Lehenbauer

meets in their home 2nd and 4th Friday evenings.

These groups are open to any age, single or married. Sign up sheets with additional information, dates, and times are available in the narthex. These groups are limited in size, so add your name ASAP.



BAPTISM

We welcomed Rosalie, daughter of Joseph & Amber Burr, to God's holy family through baptism on **Sunday, April 16, 2023!**



HELPING HANDS VOLUNTEER DAY

Our next Volunteer Saturday at Helping Hands is scheduled for Saturday, May 27th. Please consider signing up to work a shift for this outreach day! Sign up sheet is in the Narthex.



HTLC NIGHT AT ARVEST PARK

We will be hosting a night of Arkansas Naturals baseball for our members who are interested in going! Join us Thursday, June 15th at Arvest Park as the Naturals take on the Frisco Rough Riders. The church will be paying for the tickets, so we will need those who are interested to sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. If you have any questions, contact Lee Landauer!

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Parents' Day Out

We had both a busy and prayerful start to Spring in our PDO. Busy because we have been making art, planting seeds and forming friendships. Prayerful because we have been talking about Christ's love for us, about His death and resurrection.

We're looking forward to warmer days and an updated playground! Thank you so much to the volunteers who helped on Saturday the 22nd to remove pea gravel, spread mulch and make a bike track!

As we move towards May, we will notice the growth that comes with warmer days. We will bring our art outside, drawing attention to God's beauty as we create. Maybe May will bring us days warm enough for outdoor water play!



Thank you for your warmth and support. We feel it!





Do You Struggle Like I Do?

It's scary to share my struggle and to show that I have cracks because once I've shown my cards, I open myself up for judgement.

I sat on the floor, baby in my lap, as he drooled all over his toy. On the other side of the room, my toddler ran around playing with the other toddlers, kids busy shrieking with joy and frustration. Clustered together, the moms chatted, getting some much-needed time with other adults. At this particular play date, I was new to the area and just getting to know these women. We discussed normal things like, "Where are you from, and what do you do for work?"

Occasionally in situations like this, I'll throw out a specific question or statement to see what kind of parenting style or personalities the people I'm getting to know might have; something simple like, "I don't know about you, but I'm not a huge fan of bath time...". If, after I state my feelings about bath time, a mom declares how she loves giving her kids baths and how it's a part of their nightly bedtime routine, then my response is usually, "That's awesome! I'm so glad that works for you and the kids!" But if the mom's response is more like, "Yeah! Bath time is not my favorite, either. I'm so tired at the end of the day; we probably don't do it as much as we should..." Then I grab on! Aha!!

"Oh, me too!" I respond. "Honestly...unless they really need it, baths are more weekly in our house than nightly!"

"Really?" She says, "I sometimes feel like I'm the only one who struggles with it!"

We have found something we can relate to, and an opportunity to bond over a shared struggle is born.

(continued on page 9)

When I put statements out there like that, sure, I want to get to know the other women better. But honestly, I'm also fishing to see if they are like me. The question behind the question is, "Do you have struggles like mine?"

Sharing our struggles is hard, especially if I want to have a perfect mom façade. Ok, maybe not perfect. But how about at least "put together"? It's scary to share my struggle and to show that I have cracks because once I've shown my cards, I open myself up for judgement.

However, there is something in us that longs to put down the façade and ask, "Do you struggle like I do? Please tell me I'm not the only one?" And when one person is willing to go first and show some of their own cracks, you might find the next person's wall starts to come down and be vulnerable about their own cracks.

There have been times when I've felt like the only one with problems and when I've felt isolated in my issues. But in truth, we all have issues, and our issues can lead to thinking things like, "I must keep my problems hidden. No one needs to know my pain or how hard and ugly my struggle is! It's selfish and embarrassing to burden others with this!"

Left to ourselves, we search for solutions, a program, a cure. We ask, "How can I figure this out? Do I need a better routine, more patience, and a better night's sleep?" or "Maybe if I lose the weight, or get that raise, then I can be the person I "know" I can be..." These are both the types of thoughts that my sinful heart feeds on, as well as the lies the enemy shouts at us. The enemy wants to keep us feeling isolated with our thoughts faced inward, searching for our own solutions.

We all have cracks or even gaping holes. We all have a sin condition that leaves us broken and imperfect. The struggles look different for each of us, but each one of us has them. It feels good when we can be honest with certain people about those deep inner issues. It feels good to hear that we are not "the only one."

However, even in identifying with each other and being honest with our problems, we have a tendency to twist the use of sharing our struggles to lessen the weight of our own broken state. We start to twist it when we use others' struggles to justify our actions or sin problems. Our related struggles shouldn't be an excuse to justify our actions. Instead, God's law proclaims to us our related struggles and points us to our related need, and then God's gospel points us to Christ.

Christ proclaims we can rest in our forgiveness on his behalf. And on account of him, we can let others know that forgiveness and peace at the cross are for them, too. Christ turns us from facing inward for solutions to facing the finished work of the cross that states, "It is finished."

Of course, skipping bath time is not a sin struggle. But it does serve as a mostly safe "open door" to admitting deeper struggles. The first cracks we show are often the small "acceptable" ones, but over time they give way to the big ones we know we shouldn't have – the issues we hold close to the chest are embarrassed to admit to just anyone. When the door opens to those conversations, the message of the cross is close at hand.

The Cross is close when you both find yourselves sharing your heart and admitting your weakness and your need. This is when we can point and be pointed to the cross where Jesus meets us with outstretched hands, taking our burdens and proclaiming forgiveness. Only Christ on the cross can take away the hold and the isolation the enemy makes us feel trapped in. There is no sin, problem, or weakness that is too big for our Lord the Savior. There is nothing that was not defeated through Jesus' death and resurrection. Christ takes our problems, our struggles, and our sin and tells us we are forgiven. He tells us we are never alone, and in Him, we are always enough.



Contributor | Karen Stenberg

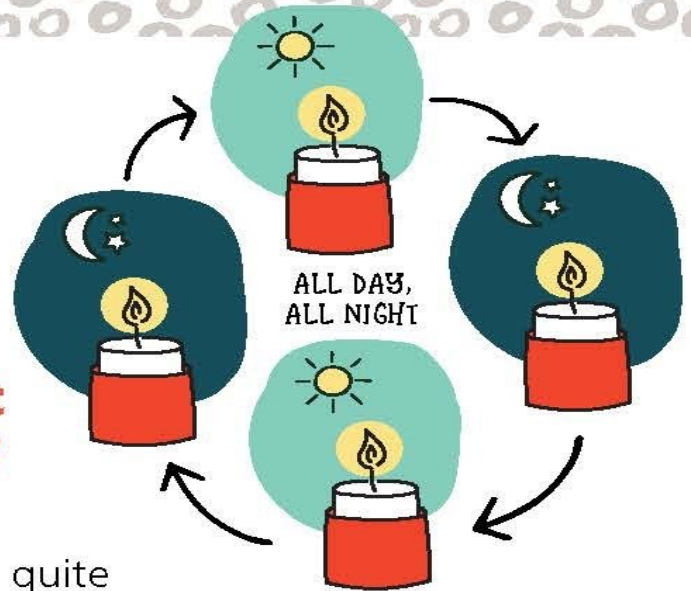
Karen Stenberg has a passion for encouraging women in Christ, and being honest about life and how God is at work in hard places. She is C—Director of Women's Ministries for the Lutheran Brethren. Mom to seven boys and one baby girl in heaven, she's married to Daniel Stenberg who pastors a church in Bergenfield, NJ. Karen is originally from PNW, and true to those roots, she loves rain, coffee, laughter, and a good book.

Stenberg, Karen. "Do You Struggle like I Do?" 1517, 1517.Org, 22 Mar. 2023, <https://www.1517.org/articles/do-you-struggle-like-i-do>.

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

What is the candle in the sanctuary that stays lit all the time?

I'll bet you can count all of the candles in the church. There are quite a few. If you decide to try, don't forget to count the one that stays lit all the time. That's right, that little light in there is a candle! This particular candle is called an "eternal flame." This candle burns all the time. **Look close from where you are sitting. When you find it, maybe you can see it glowing.**



Why do we have a candle that stays lit all the time?

When we see the eternal flame we are reminded that God is always present in our lives, and He promises to never leave us. God is especially present in His sanctuary where we hear His living Word and receive his wonderful Sacraments. If the candle burns out, we re-light it or put another one in its place. In other words, we do our best to keep it lit 24 hours-a-day.



Parents: Before or after the service, direct your child's attention to the eternal flame hanging above the altar. Remind them that this candle stays lit all year. Allow them to walk up to the altar in order to get a better look. Remind them to be reverent in God's holy place.



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The Ascension of Our Lord
Celebrated May 18th



The Day of Pentecost
Celebrated May 28th

FEED MY SHEEP

March 2023

Total Households = 46 (149 people total)

Food Pantry Statistics

Adults (18-60) = 84
Children (0-17) = 42
Senior Citizens (61+) = 22
Other (*Unknown*) = 1



PASTOR'S CARE FUND

March 2023

These disbursements are from money designated for the Pastor's Care Fund. Your contributions bring a tremendous relief to your neighbors who are in difficult circumstances.



Total Households = 12 (20 people total)

Utility Help = 0
Rent/Mortgage = 2
Motel = 10
Transportation = 0

May Birthdays

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 3 Nancy Eisma
Christa Jones
John Thomas Sanders | 12 Adaline Evans
14 Kyler Nelson
15 Jennifer Lehenbauer
Whitney McClellan | 25 Arabella Adams
Alvin Brewer
Leslie Mayer |
| 4 Bowen McCarver | 16 Ashlynn Conner
Sam McClellan | 26 Macy Kirby
Pat Pickett
Evelyn Waters |
| 5 Makaela Mayer
Drew Mayer | 17 Ron Wunschel | 27 Walter Heyne |
| 7 Tabby Michaelson
Jen Reimers | 19 Bruce Hubrig
Mitchell Michaelson | 28 Jaylynn Nelson |
| 8 Cameron Pullmann
Brett Scheel | Stephanie Wahl Buckley | 29 Lorraine Bach |
| 9 Amber Burr
Millie Holtz
Christian Lehenbauer | 20 Thomas Bridges
Daniel Cearley | 30 Loretta Wunschel |
| 10 Jack Griffith
HT Means | 21 Mary Girshner
Katelyn Kvamso | 31 Melissa Black
Rebecca Kvamso
Scotty Mommsen |
| | 24 Rachel Fredrick | |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 2 Bob & Sharon Frye | 24 Taylor & Alyson Lyles |
| 3 Michael & Natalie Wahl | Paul & Kristin Mayer |
| 9 Steve & Cathy Dodge | 27 Jake & Maria Jones |
| 15 John & Jan Wildenborg
Allen & Nicci Winters | 28 Eric & Adrienne Kerr |
| 16 Joe & Sara Bublitz | 30 Peter & Maggie Tang |



SERVING IN MAY 2023



	MAY 7 (EASTER 5)	MAY 14 (EASTER 6)	MAY 21 (EASTER 7)	MAY 28 (PENTECOST)
READERS				
8:00 AM	MARY FREVERT	LAURIE RAFFEL	KAREN LAUNDERVERILLE	JOHN JENKINS
10:45 AM	SHARON DAVIS	PEGGY JONES	BRENT GARNER	AMY WRIGHT
GREETERS				
8:00 AM	DAVE & WENDIE FERGUSON	RICH RUMPF & MARIAN VENENGA	DEAN & NANCY EISMA	RAY ESCHENBURG & KAREN LAUNDERVERILLE
10:45 AM	BILL & JEAN GREGESICH	SHARON DAVIS &	PEGGY JONES & MAXINE REIHMAN	BRENT & LIBBY GARNER
MEDIA				
8:00 AM	JOHN JENKINS	DONNA WINTERS	BETH KIKOEN	DAVID HEINTZ
10:45 AM	LEVI WRIGHT	ZACHARY GUST	LEVI WRIGHT	ZACHARY GUST
STREAMING	MAC MACGOWAN	OWEN WINTERS	MAC MACGOWAN	OWEN WINTERS
LEAD COUNTERS	FRED & SHIRLEY LEWIS	FRED & SHIRLEY LEWIS	BILL & JEAN GREGESICH	BILL & JEAN GREGESICH
LAWN CARE	TEAM 5 (GAS)	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	TEAM 3 (EDGING)

**ALTAR GUILD
ELDERS**

BETH KIKOEN & KRISTA MALONE
8:00 AM – CLAYTON STUDYVIN
10:45 AM – TED REINKER

USHERS

8:00 AM – TEAM E
(DAVE FREVERT, DEAN EISMA, KEN RADER, TOMMY BYRD, TODD KRUEMPEL)
10:45 AM – TEAM F
(DAVE LEHENBAUER, ROBERT CARTER, LEROY MEYER, BEN MILLER, JEAN GREGESICH)



May 2023

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church | Rogers, Arkansas



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	2 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 6:30 PM ELDERS	3	4	5	6
7 EASTER 5 (FEED MY SHEEP) 8 AM COMMUNION 9:30 AM EDUCATION/BELLS 10:45 AM COMMUNION	8 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	9 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 6:30 PM COUNCIL	10 12 PM NEWS & NOTES DUE 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 5:30 PM CONFIRMATION	11 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	12 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	13
14 EASTER 6 7 AM SUNRISE SERVICE 9:30 AM EDUCATION/BELLS 10:45 AM WORSHIP 	15 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	16 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	17 12 PM NEWS & NOTES DUE 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 5:30 PM CONFIRMATION	18 ASCENSION 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 	19 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 6 PM CARDS	20
21 EASTER 7 8 AM COMMUNION 9:30 AM EDUCATION/BELLS 10 AM COMMUNION	22 PASTOR'S DAY OFF	23 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	24 12 PM NEWS & NOTES DUE 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 5:30 PM CONFIRMATION	25 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	26 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	27 HELPING HANDS DAY
28 PENTECOST 8 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM EDUCATION/BELLS 10:45 AM WORSHIP 	29 MEMORIAL DAY PASTOR'S DAY OFF OFFICE CLOSED 	30 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY	31 12 PM NEWS & NOTES DUE 2-4 PM FOOD PANTRY 5:30 PM CONFIRMATION			