

CLARION

MAY 2024

FROM PASTOR'S DESK



Just a Minute with...

Pastor Mike

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful" NLT

It was Monday night, August 3, at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. At the track and field stadium the gun sounded for the 400-meter semifinals. About 100 meters into the race Britain's Derek Redmond collapsed on the track with a torn right hamstring. Medical attendants rushed out to assist him but as they approached he waved them aside, struggled to his feet, and hopped in a desperate effort to reach his goal and finish the race.

Four years earlier he qualified for the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, Korea. Just seconds before his heat, he had to pull out of the race because of an Achilles tendon problem. Five surgeries followed. His goal of finishing an Olympic race drove him on and he qualified again for the 1992 Olympics. Now he was grimacing in pain again, this time holding his right hamstring. But he said to himself, "I'm not quitting. I'm going to finish this race." He worked his way, hopping and crawling at times down the lane. His sights were set; the goal was still ahead of him.

Up in the stands a big guy wearing a T-shirt, sneakers, and a baseball cap jumped out of the stands. He hurled aside a security guard and ran to Derek's side. They embraced. He was Jim Redmond, Derek's father. Jim was a sports dad who changed his whole life for the sake of his son. He changed jobs. He moved cities to find the best training and dedicated his life to helping his son complete an Olympics race.

(continued...)



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Now with Jim's arm around his son's waist and Derek's arm around his dad's shoulders and neck they hobbled down the Olympic track nursing a hamstring. Arm in arm. Derek's Mom and sister were watching the race back home on television. His sister was pregnant and went into false labor. Mom was weeping for her son and husband as they took each painful step on the track. In the stadium the crowd was standing and cheering. Derek and his dad worked their way around the track until they finally crossed the finish line arm in arm. Together they remained faithful to the goal.

If that's the way an earthly father responds to his son who is determined to finish the race, no matter what the price, how much more will your Heavenly Father run to you side, when by the power of the Holy Spirit, with a determined and confident faith you say, "I'm finishing. I don't care how much it hurts. I don't care what the cost. I'm finishing." We can and will finish through faith in the Resurrected Jesus! As the old hymn proclaims, "Because He lives, I can face tomorrow, because He lives all fear is gone, because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living just because He lives!"

CHRIST IS RISEN!!! ALLELUIA!!!

Forever family in Jesus,
Pastor Mike



S&G/PA Images via Getty Images

Jim Redmond, who helped his son Derek to finish line at 1992 Olympics, has died : NPR

FROM THE OFFICE



The office will be **closed**,
Monday, May 27th
in observance of Memorial Day.



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.



Holy Trinity Office

(479) 636-1135
office @holytrin.org

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PASTOR LONGMAN & PASTOR MEYER WILL BE **OUT OF OFFICE** FOR THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT CONFERENCE **MAY 13-15**



FOOD PANTRY

Tuesday-Friday
2 pm- 4 pm

PASTOR'S CARE FUND

Thursday & Friday
2 pm- 4 pm

GENERAL OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
9 am - 4 pm

Registration information and much more available at midsouthlwml.org/district-convention

Save the Date!
LWML Mid-South
District
Convention
June 7-9, 2024
Memphis, TN



2024 PRINTED CHURCH DIRECTORY

A new Church directory will be published in July. The **FINAL DATE** to submit an updated photo and/or information is **June 21st**. Please forward your updates to Toni Shane at directory@holyltrin.org.



HTY HANGOUTS - MAY

Calling all youth, mark those calendars! Join Pastor Mike and Pastor Longman for coffee on **Tuesday, May 7th** from **4:30-5:30 pm** at *Starbucks-2605 W. Pleasant Grove Road in Rogers* and on **Tuesday, May 21st** from **4:30-5:30 pm** at *Kennedy Coffee in Bentonville!*



CHURCH BUS - UPDATE!

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. Ted & Erin Reinker have moved out of state, so if you are interested in getting a ride to Church on Sunday, contact Paul Belviy at (501) 412-1482!



VBS 2024 - UPDATED!

Mark your calendars for **July 21-25!** We are already working on Vacation Bible School! Please be praying about how God can use YOU to help with this important outreach!



NURSERY ROLL

Attention all parents of 'littles' under age 3, we have restarted 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 10th 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!



ENDOWMENT FUND

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has an *Endowment Fund* which receives gifts and bequests that are invested in long-term high-quality stocks, bonds, and CD's. Interest, dividends, and unrealized long-term gains from these investments may be used to support Christian Education, Outreach Programs, Scholarships (seminarians), capital Building and Ground improvements, Youth programs, Church Music, Technology and Building Fund(s). The income from these investments can also be used, with Voter approval, to support ministry projects such as Grants for world mission projects, Mid-South District projects, Disaster Relief projects and grants to LMCS colleges and affiliated ministries' principle or the original gifts are not used to support the aforementioned activities but only the capital gains and interest, the principle remains to continue producing additional monies to support Holy Trinity Lutheran Church growth and teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



CRAFT ALL DAY

Saturday, **May 4th** from **10am - 10 pm**, we will meet in the Life Center. Each person will get a 6 foot table to work on, so you can stretch out and get organized. Bring any craft you want to work on, come and go through the day as you please, and enjoy some crafting fun! There will be a table available for those who want to sell some of their crafting supplies and another table for those who have crafting goodies to give away. We ask that you bring some snacks to share. You can also make a \$10 donation to the Pastor's Care Fund, if you want. Join us for this fun day of crafting! Please RSVP to Lana Moeller by May 1st to reserve your spot at (479) 787-5406.



NEW MEMBER CLASS

Are you considering making Holy Trinity your church home? If so, join our new member class that begins on Sunday, May 12th. Contact Tabby at tabby@holytrin.org to sign up, or let Pastor Longman or Pastor Meyer know!



RITE OF CONFIRMATION

MAY 19, 2024

Congratulations to our 2024 Confirmands who will be confirmed on May 19th this year!

Matilynne Grace Bolte - Joshua 1:9
Evelyn Rose Victoria - Psalm 23:11
Addison Marianne Haubner Psalm 9:1
Makaela Christianna Mayer - Psalm 91:11
Emma L'Hommedieu - Psalm 18:32
Mason McCarty - Psalm 119:105

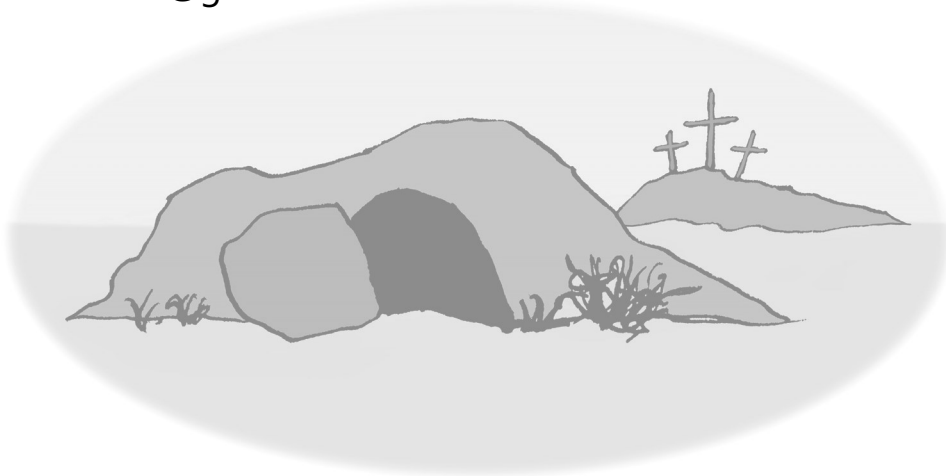
Growing in Grace

Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the Chapel

Thank you to all those that joined us Easter morning! We had a beautiful celebration with over 30 kids! Glory to God!

This month we will be doing a service project for our shut-ins. We are so excited to have the kids make May baskets! If you would like to help deliver the baskets, please let me know! We hope to see you Sunday mornings!

Blessings,
Kati Evans
kati.evans46@gmail.com





Parents' Day Out



The children have been welcoming Spring with celebrations at Holy Trinity PDO. We began April with an Easter celebration on April 2, having special treats and crafts at school. We discussed the joy of knowing Jesus is risen and how much He loves us. The children performed in the sanctuary on April 4, singing and dancing and praising God. The children did a wonderful job!

In gratitude to how supportive a congregation you are, Ms. Holly crafted two bulletin boards using art from the PDO children. If you haven't seen them, go take a look!

We still have room in our summer program for school-aged children, so if you are interested in signing your child up please let us know by emailing pdo@holytrin.org.

Thank you so much for your continued support!
God Bless,
Leah



kids summer camp

FAITH BASED SUMMER CARE

- ✓ Grades K-4
- ✓ Tuesdays & Thursdays 9 am - 2pm
- ✓ Tuition \$30/Day
- ✓ Crafts, activities, games, stories all while learning about God's love for them!

June 4 - August 22, 2024

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
1101 W. Hudson Road
Rogers, AR 72756**



Register at
<https://holytrin.link/2024KidsCamp>

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



Parents' Day Out



Not in Vain

Paul knew that, without resurrection, the Christian life was a *"Smells Like Teen Spirit"* video.

Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit" is one of the greatest music videos ever. I have a strong 90s bias, but I believe it. Permit me to play the old man. Back in the day, we didn't have music videos on command. There was no YouTube. We had to watch them on MTV or VH1 at designated times, and we had to have cable to get them. I didn't have cable. I had network television (which thankfully included the Canadian channels). So I wasn't completely bored, but watching music videos was a big deal when I was with friends.

Grunge was a big deal. Alternative music was all about disillusionment. No one can say "whatever" like Gen X could say "whatever." I did a lot of the stupidest things in my life, some of them my fondest memories, to disillusionment anthems. Nirvana was peak grunge. In the video for "Smells Like Teen Spirit," Kurt Cobain and the guys are playing in a high school gym. It's a pep rally. Everyone is half-heartedly, ironically, going through the motions. The cheerleaders are trying, but to little effect. The janitor is into it, but few others. And then the song picks up and the disillusionment takes over. Everyone rocks out in "whatever" fashion. What did the lyrics mean? We didn't know. We liked that, too. It was perfect.

One of my favorite books of the Bible is Ecclesiastes. I'm sure part of the reason is the "whatever" vibes. Solomon knew what it was to be disillusioned. He'd tried everything, studied everything, experienced everything, at least he thought, and he found it all wanting. He began his book, "Vanity of vanities.... All is vanity" (Eccl. 1:2). Cue the power chords.

Gen X loved itself some disillusionment. We were ahead of our time. We couldn't have imagined, though, how quickly that music video would seem like hopeful nostalgia. Our western culture is one that's tried it all, studied it all, experienced it all, at least we think, and found it all wanting. Our cultures are tired, ironic, and disillusioned. If you didn't tell people it was from the Bible and cut it into short clips for social media, Ecclesiastes would be a huge hit.

(continued...)

A fulfilling life requires at least three things: source, meaning, and purpose. Without these three the only paths forward are living on borrowed philosophical and theological capital, not thinking about stuff too much (limiting ourselves to the material stuff of life), or admitting our dilemma and creating meaning and purpose on our own. The first approach doesn't last and the last two turn me in on myself and cut me off from my neighbor. People need source, meaning, and purpose.

Paul knew this. Paul knew that, without the resurrection, the Christian life was a "Smells Like Teen Spirit" video. He knew the temptation to disillusionment, and he thought such disillusionment was rational apart from Christ and Holy Week. He wrote to the Corinthians earlier in this chapter: "But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain" (1 Cor. 15:13-19).

Paul knew our need for God. He knew our need for God in Christ, crucified and risen, served in the person of our neighbor. He knew we needed something more than merely the present, the penultimate.

There are lots of beautiful assertions in the Bible, but today we have one of the most beautiful. Did you notice it? Here it is: "Your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (1 Cor. 15:58) Why is that? God has come in Christ. He's come to make the perishable imperishable. He's put death to death. He's taken away the sting of sin, silencing the accusations of the law. He's made all things new. He's made you new. And he's given us hope—sure and certain hope.

Your life isn't in vain. Your service isn't in vain. You're not in vain. Why? Because you're in Christ, your source, your meaning, and your purpose.

"Smells Like Teen Spirit" is a great song. I still rock out when it comes on. Make no mistake about it, however, disillusionment will never inspire as many great songs as hope, and there's no greater hope than what we have in the resurrected Christ. Kurt Cobain can't compete with Paul Gerhardt and the great lyricists of our Paschal Lamb. Whatever can't beat Alleluia:

**My heart for joy is springing and can no more be sad;
My soul is filled with singing, sees only sunshine glad.
The sun that cheers my spirit is Jesus Christ, my King;
The heav'n I shall inherit makes me rejoice and sing**
(Christian Worship Hymnal 819).

About the Contributor | Wade Johnston

Wade Johnston has degrees from Martin Luther College, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Central Michigan University, and Erasmus University Rotterdam. He serves as Assistant Professor of Theology at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and served for ten years in parish ministry in Saginaw, Michigan. He one of the hosts of the 1517 Podcast, "Let the Bird Fly," and has authored several books including, "A Path Strewn with Sinners" and "An Uncompromising Gospel."

Not in Vain. (n.d.). Www.1517.org. Retrieved April 8, 2024, from <https://www.1517.org/articles/not-in-vain>

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



What is the “altar”?

When you walk into the sanctuary, what is the first thing you notice? Maybe you see the beautiful stained glass windows. Maybe you noticed the candles. Of all the wonderful sights in our sanctuary, one thing probably comes to your attention first: the altar. The altar is the large, table-like object located directly in the center at the front of the building. The word “altar” comes from the Latin word “altare,” which means “a place for offering sacrifices.”

Why do we have an altar when we don’t sacrifice anything on it?

It’s kind of scary to think that we might use an altar for sacrifice. We look at the altar through the eyes of the Gospel. On the top of the altar are often carved five crosses — one for each of the five wounds of Christ. They mark this altar as a place where no more blood sacrifices will occur. The only sacrifice needed was made on the cross. The altar is a place where Christ gives out the forgiveness He earned for us through His death and resurrection. Wow, the altar sure is an important place!



Parents: During the service, direct your children’s attention to the altar. Point out that during the Divine Service this is where God has promised to come to be with us. After the service, take your children up to the altar to observe. Remind them to be reverent in God’s holy place.

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



Why is there a rail in the front of the church?

That railing you see up near the altar is the altar rail. Some churches might even have a chancel rail a few steps away from the altar rail nearer to the congregation. **Does your church have both of these rails?**

What are these rails used for?

The chancel rail divides the church into two important parts: the “nave,” which is the largest part of the church where the congregation sits; and the “chancel,” which is the part of the church where the altar is located. The altar rail separates the altar from the rest of the chancel. It used to be, back in the Middle Ages, these rails were important for separating the congregation from the pastor or priest. As our understanding of the Lord’s Supper changed, the rails began to be used for more practical purposes. They became helpful places for God’s people to kneel and receive His wonderful gifts. They are also used for confirmation, marriages, and other events in the church.



Parents: Before or after the service, direct your children’s attention to the chancel and altar rails. Allow them to walk up to the rails in order to get a better look. Encourage them to make the sign of the cross, kneel and pray. Remind them to be reverent in God’s holy place.

Confirmation

May 19th



WE REJOICE WITH THANKFUL HEARTS THAT YOU HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED AND HAVE RECEIVED THE TEACHING OF THE LORD. YOU HAVE CONFESSED THE FAITH AND BEEN ABSOLVED OF YOUR SINS. AS YOU CONTINUE TO HEAR THE LORD'S WORD AND RECEIVE HIS BLESSED SACRAMENT, HE WHO HAS BEGUN A GOOD WORK IN YOU WILL BRING IT TO COMPLETION AT THE DAY OF JESUS CHRIST.

Color mom a card for Mother's Day on May 12th!



FEED MY SHEEP

March 2024

Food Pantry Statistics

Total Households = 45

Adults (18-60) = 89

Children (0-17) = 48

Senior Citizens (61+) = 19

Other (*Unknown*) = 4



PASTORS' CARE FUND

March 2024

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



Total Households = 15

Utility Help = 5

Rent/Mortgage = 1

Motel = 5

Transportation = 4

Other = 0

May

Birthdays

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 3 Nancy Eisma
Christa Jones
John Thomas Sanders | 14 Kyler Nelson
15 Jennifer Lehenbauer
Whitney McClellan | 25 Arabella Adams
Alvin Brewer
25 Leslie Mayer |
| 4 Bowen McCarver | 16 Ashlynn Conner
Sam McClellan | 26 Macy Kirby
Pat Pickett |
| 5 Makaela Mayer
Drew Mayer | 17 Evelyn Augustine | Evelyn Water |
| 7 Tabby Michaelson
Jen Reimers | 19 Bruce Hubrig
Mitchell Michaelson | 27 Walter Heyne |
| 8 Brett Scheel | Stephanie Wahl Buckley | 28 Jalynn Nelson |
| 9 Amber Burr
Millie Holtz
Christian Lehenbauer | 20 Thomas Bridges
Daniel Cearley
Dave Raffel | 29 Lorraine Bach
30 Loretta Wunschel
31 Melissa Black
Rebecca Kvamso
Scotty Mommsen |
| 10 Jack Griffith
HT Means | 21 Mary Girshner
Katelyn Kvamso | |
| 12 Adaline Evans | 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 2024



	May 5 <i>(EASTER 6)</i>	May 12 <i>(EASTER 7)</i>	May 19 <i>(PENTECOST) CONFIRMATION</i>	May 26 <i>(HOLY TRINITY)</i>
READERS				
8:00 AM	SABRINA ISBELL	JOHN AUGUSTINE	MARY FREVERT	LAURIE RAFFEL
10:45 AM	PEGGY JONES	SHARON DAVIS	BRENT GARNER	AMY WRIGHT
GREETERS				
8:00 AM	DEAN & NANCY EISMA	RAY ESCHENBURG & KAREN LAUNDERVILLE	VERN SCHMEIGELOW & ELAINE LAUNDERVILLE	SAM & KATHY WELBORN
10:45 AM	BRENT & LIBBY GARNER	BILL & JEAN GREGESICH	SHARON DAVIS & CLARYCE THOMAS	PEGGY JONES & MAXINE REIHMAN
MEDIA				
8:00 AM	DAVID HEINTZ	JOHN JENKINS	BETH KIKOEN	DAVID HEINTZ
10:45 AM	COOPER MEYER	ZACHARY GUST	COOPER MEYER	ZACHARY GUST
STREAMING	MAC MACGOWAN	NATHAN DUNCAN	MAC MACGOWAN	NMAC MACGOWAN
LEAD COUNTERS	BILL & JEAN GREGESICH	BILL & JEAN GREGESICH	BILL & JEAN GREGESICH	FRED & SHIRLEY LEWIS
LAWN CARE	TEAM 5 (EDGING)	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	TEAM 3 (GAS)
ALTAR GUILD ELDERS	MARY FREVERT & MARY MAYER 8:00 AM – CLAYTON STUDYVIN 10:45 AM – BEN MILLER			
USHERS	8:00 AM – TEAM E (DAVE FREVERT, ZACH SANDERS, KEN RADER, TOMMY BYRD, TODD KRUEMPEL) 10:45 AM – TEAM F (GENE KIESEL, DAVE LEHENBAUER, ROBERT CARTER, LEROY MEYER, JEAN GREGESICH)			

MAY 2024

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church | Rogers, Arkansas

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