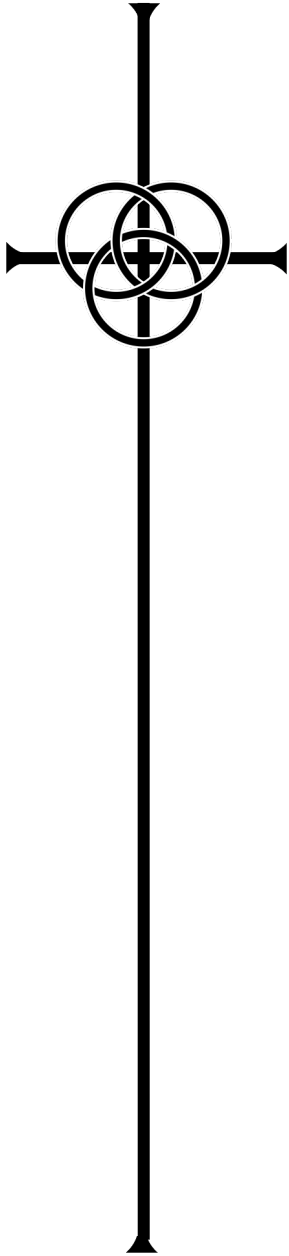


LIFE TOGETHER

RECEIVING GOD'S GIFTS ✝ SHARING GOD'S GIFTS



Dearest Saints of Holy Trinity,

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

The Great Fast is broken, and with it, death, hell, and all powers of the devil! This is truly a joyous and celebratory time for us Christians. It is our most holy day. Christmas gets twelve days of feasting, which is a solid second place. But Easter gets six weeks, because this is the Feast of Victory for our God.

It matters that God is victorious. Christmas and Easter go together, you know. Jesus takes on your flesh and is victorious in it. That means you are victorious as well. Christ's victory is man's victory because Christ is the God -Man, the Word become flesh.

So keep the fast broken for the next six weeks! This is no time for reservation. That has already come and gone. Now is the time for sumptuous feasting, and the rosy cheeks of the jolly well-drunk (or, as Chesterton would call them, the laughing peasants).

Be merry in all things, my dears. For, Christ is your champion, and he has come back victorious. Nothing can hurt you, no tears can own you, no sorrow can imprison you.

Receive Christ's peace, and live lives of joy by it always and forever.

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In Christ,

Pastor Ferguson

*“A Farmer for the Lord”:
An Ode to Holy Trinity, Mound City*

Pastor Ferguson

Call Day, 2018 was a hard day. I was heading into the unknown. I was afraid to be a pastor. I was afraid to leave academia, a familiar place wherein I had excelled and grown comfortable. I was afraid to make a permanent move. I was afraid to get married. I was afraid of change. I was afraid of Holy Trinity, Mound City and what I might find there, the challenges I would face there, the mistakes and failures I would make there, and the ruin I arrogantly believed I would wreak there. Most of all, I was afraid of the responsibility of caring for souls.

Being a pastor is an incredible responsibility. If that burden does not weigh on a man in the Office, that man does not deserve to hold it. There is a reason St. Paul tells Timothy that not many, but few, should be permitted to enter the Office. We pastors are judged much more harshly than any of the laity. With great power comes great responsibility, as Spiderman’s Uncle Ben would say. (You can, in fact, learn a thing or two from comics, even as a pastor.) I was afraid of the burden and its responsibility, and even more afraid of the judgment of my Master.

The move was easy. I had been living in dorm rooms and apartments for five years. But the drive in the moving truck was stressful. My ETA was continually pushed back while the truck had trouble with the rolling hills of northern Missouri. I was afraid of looking like a dumb kid who couldn’t tell time responsibly.

I was afraid of Holy Trinity, Mound City until the day my U-Haul pulled into the parsonage driveway and I met the saints of this congregation. I shook hands, I looked into eyes, I ate Mexican food downtown, and I was no longer afraid. I was excited.

I had, as my mentor says, “a young man’s energy.” I made a five, ten, and twenty year plan so that we would always be in motion, never static. But, I never had any goals other than being the best pastor I could be, loving my people to the highest degree I was able, and, above all, loving Jesus in a way that was not only not private, but palpable, incarnate, and contagious. Neither you nor I can say if I have done well. Only the Lord can say that when he comes again. For now, it’s not something worth thinking about, because it does not matter. It is the Lord’s Church, not mine, not yours.

One thing above all I have learned in these almost six years: it is impossible to quantify the depth to which the Lord allows a pastor to love his people. And, I suppose, the

lesson learned is mutual, because I think the laity can not truly know how much they can love a pastor until they do. I was afraid, but now I only love. I have made mistakes, but you have forgiven them and loved me in spite of them. I thought I would bring ruin here, but I was arrogant in that fear, because it is the Lord who does the work. I have done far less than I had planned, and even less than any of you think. Not for laziness, mind you, but only because Jesus is at work here. When Jesus is working, no pastor will take credit.

Call Day 2018 was a hard day, but Laetare, March 10, 2024, was the hardest day of my life. The place I feared has become the place I love more than any other. The pastorate I had dreaded has become a divine grace and an unmatched joy.

Out of the many compliments, praises, and expressions of gratitude I have received—all undeserved, certainly—one stands out among the multitude. In a handwritten note, a kind soul said, “You are a famer for the Lord.” I cried when I read that. The rural areas, and consequently the rural parishes, are often looked down upon and considered to be filled with stupid, simple hicks. I’ve not met a stupid person here, nor any hicks, and I’ve never thought anything was wrong with being simple. Perhaps the world would be a better place if more people embraced simplicity. To be called, by a farmer, a “Farmer for the Lord” is the highest praise, and the greatest treasure. It is also indicative of the charm of this place: sincere, faithful people who love Jesus and who hunger and thirst for him.

Jesus says that perfect love casts out fear. I have experienced that. I was afraid of this place, now I laugh at the silliness of that. Holy Trinity has been a great gift of God, and for all the years I have left to live, I will sing an ode to this rural parish, filled with farmers (among others), one of whom called me a farmer like them in kind, if only of the spiritual things.

Holy Trinity will thrive without me, and that will be the proof that it was never really about me. Like I said of sainted Marilyn Robbins, you don’t need to know or remember me, but only Jesus. I am a man. He is Lord. He will most certainly continue the good work he has begun here. But I will miss it. And I will miss you. Because I love you, and because I believe that you are all farmers of the Lord among whom it has been a joy and privilege to be numbered now and forever.

THIS MONTH AT HOLY TRINITY

Food Pantry Donations

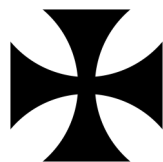
Please help to provide for our hungry neighbors in need by donating goods to the food pantry. This is an easy addition to your regular monthly alms.

Food pantry needs for the month of April include Hamburger Helper, spaghetti sauce, cream of mushroom soup, diced tomatoes, Jello and pudding.

For more information contact Debbie Ohlensehlen.

Backpack Buddies

Holy Trinity is responsible for collecting individual snack items for Backpack Buddies for May. Donations can be left in the plastic tub under the Ladies Guild table in the narthex.



Lutheran Hour Ministries

Lutheran Hour Ministries was formed in 1917 after addressing a challenge that faced the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod church body and from that initial beginning, a global ministry was launched with a mission and vision to reach the lost.

From radio in the 1930s to television in the 1950s and to digital outreach today, our ministry has leveraged the latest in communications technology to share the good news with as many people as possible.

Lutheran Hour Ministries vision is to share the love of Christ to the world. While God's work on the human heart can never be measured, Lutheran Hour Ministries will not rest until..

- Every person has the opportunity to hear the Gospel in an understandable way;
- Those seeking the Gospel are connected to a healthy Christian community where they can grow in their faith;
- Every Christian is equipped to share the Gospel in word and deed.

Lutheran Hour Ministries offers a multitude of free resources on its website LMH.ORG or through its app which can be found by typing Lutheran Hour app in google search. It contains sermons, daily devotions, the Bible, Bible studies, booklets, and more at your fingertips. Thanks to everyone who continues to support Lutheran Hour Ministries.

Anniversaries of Baptism

1	Bob Brown
1	Nathan Livengood
1	Emma Ohlensehlen
2	Doug White
2	John Heits
3	Bee Nelson
4	Linda Burnsidess
5	Jennifer Biermann
5	Nancy Peters
7	Brooke Heits
7	Tegon Thurnau
8	Hannah Nelson
8	Annabelle Ellis
8	Aubrey Bowness
8	Andrea Thurnau
12	Shane Heits
13	Jeffrey Ashworth
13	Dennis Ohlensehlen
14	Sarah Westcott
15	Samantha Grist
15	Michael Peters
18	Larry Wright
21	Kipton Waigand
24	Heidi Biermann
29	Geannene Livengood
30	David Rhoades

Birthdays

1	Connie Windhorst
2	Sandra Robbins
2	Geannene Livengood
3	Amber Robbins
5	Samantha Grist
5	Gena Livengood
6	Bryon Ohlensehlen
10	Jim Bowness
11	David Rhoades
14	Mike Wright
15	Karen Voltmer
16	Trula White
17	Craig Heits
18	Duane Biermann
20	Daryl Biermann
24	Brooke Heits
24	Matthew Heits
25	Patrick Voltmer
30	Douglas White

Anniversaries of Marriage

19	Chris & Dana Zembles
24	Brandon & Samantha Grist
24	Sam & Bee Nelson
24	Jim & Rhonda Krueger



Saints' Days and Commemorations

6	Lucas Cranach and Albrecht Durer, <i>Artists</i>
20	Johannes Burgenhagen, <i>Pastor</i>
21	Anselm of Canterbury, <i>Theologian</i>
24	Johann Walter, <i>Kantor</i>
25	St. Mark, <i>Evangelist</i>

Serving This Month

Worship Preparation: Aubre Biermann

Ushers: Liam Ellis, Memphis Mick

Acolytes:

7	Sadie Biermann
14	Kipton Waigand
21	Hattie Kent
28	Liam Ellis

Refreshments:

7	Marla Voltmer
14	Jennifer Biermann
21	Brenda Brown
28	Gail Heitman

APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
9:15 a.m.—Sunday School 10:30 a.m.—Divine Service Voter's Meeting Board of Education Meeting 1:00 p.m.—Youth Group Bowling in Rock Port	8	9	10	11	12	13
		7:30 a.m.—Matsins	7:30 a.m.—Matsins 6:00 p.m.—Midweek	7:30 a.m.—Matsins	7:30 a.m.—Matsins 2:00–6:00 p.m.—Food Pantry Open	
9:15 a.m.—Sunday School 10:30 a.m.—Divine Service Council Meeting	14	15	16	17	18	19
		7:30 a.m.—Matsins 1:00 p.m.—Ladies Guild	7:30 a.m.—Matsins Driver's License Testing	7:30 a.m.—Matsins	7:30 a.m.—Matsins Pastor Gone to Conception Abbey	1:00 p.m.—Prayer Service
9:15 a.m.—Sunday School 10:30 a.m.—Divine Service Potluck	21	22	23	24	25	26
					2:00–6:00 p.m.—Food Pantry Open	
9:15 a.m.—Sunday School 10:30 a.m.—Divine Service Board of Elders Meeting 5:30 p.m.—Youth Group	28	29	30	31		
			Driver's License Testing			