

ISSUE 9 - APRIL 2025

TRINITY TRUMPET

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Life, New Beginnings

When I was in seminary I was required to take a course titled, "Systematic Theology." The course was about God and all the ins and outs of how God relates to the people he created.

The final exam in this course contained one question: "Who is God?" I myself and many of my classmates filled blue exam books after blue exam book

attempting to answer this question.

When I got my exam books back they were filled with red marks with

words like "no" and "not right" or "you didn't listen." Many of my classmates had the same remarks in their exam books as well.

When we confronted the professor asking what the answer to the question was, he said the answer was one sentence: "God is whoever raised Jesus from the dead."

Easter is about not just the resurrection but about God. Easter is about what God did for the people he created. It is not about colored eggs, chocolate rabbits, or marshmallow peeps—it is

about what God did to secure our salvation.

At Easter, God has secured our place in his heavenly kingdom through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God has made it possible for us to live in his presence, not because we made the right choices or have done the right things or have chosen to live in a certain way but simply because God chose to act for us when he raised Jesus from the sleep of death.

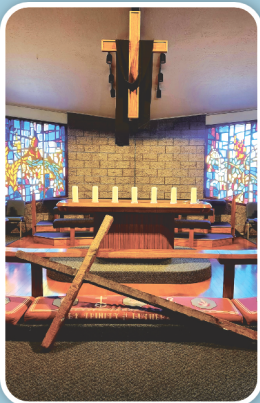
Easter is God's act.

God raised Jesus from the dead; Jesus did not raise himself, nor did we do anything to earn this gift of new life. It was all God's doing.

God has acted for us on Easter. God has given us new life. God has destroyed death. God has opened wide the doors to heaven and welcomed all his people with open arms to the place in which you are loved and never alone!

-Pastor Bernie

**"[We didn't] do anything to earn this gift of new life. It was all God's doing."
-Pastor Bernie**



Holy Week Service Times

April 17 • Maundy Thursday
5pm*

April 18 • Good Friday
2pm & 7pm*

April 20 • Easter Sunday
6am, 8:30am & 10am*

*service will be live-streamed.

Welcome to Mitzie!

Born and raised in Phoenix, Mitzie has always had a special place in her heart for writing and community. Her love for writing led to a broadcast journalism degree from the ASU Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Applying her creative skillset, she's worn a ton of hats throughout the years jumping from journalism to retail marketing, public relations and the non-profit sector. She's heavily involved with HonorHealth Foundation, Foothills Food Bank and Knots

for NICU, a local non-profit which creates hats for NICU babies nationwide.

Aware of the amazing work and community created by Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Mitzie is excited to assist on the social media side to generate awareness so others can see the incredible impact.

Mitzie spent four years serving on the First Things First East Maricopa Regional Partnership Council. The organization funds early childhood education, early literacy and resources to strengthen families.



► Mitzie Warner.

Mitzie resides in the East Valley with a household of boys, including her husband, eight-year-old son and two crazy rescue dogs. If you happen to see her around campus filming with her iPhone, make sure to say hi!



► Mark Engel.

Jumping in headfirst, Mark Engel discovered Holy Trinity the same year that Pastor Chris was called to the church, in 2017. "Yeah, I probably jumped in pretty quickly," he says.

"I really felt that there was an emphasis on serving others," Mark recounts, when asked why he chose to stick with HTLC. "That made a big impression on me. I ultimately decided to join because of the commitment that I saw from other people."

HT Hero: Mark Engel

His areas of focus have included singing in the choir and ringing handbells, as well as advocating for vulnerable communities in Arizona through his work with Lutheran Social Services (LSS).

Mark made a career as an attorney after graduating from Capital University, which is a Lutheran college in Columbus, Ohio.

"I thought it would be an opportunity to bring my faith into my profession," he says. "To use it as an opportunity to live my faith."

Among his top three goals upon retiring was to mirror his abilities as a lawyer with his faith.

Mark saw an opening to become a volunteer advocate with LSS, which gradually turned into discussions with Bishop Deborah Hutterer, Con-

nie Phillips, and Sarah Naylor.

The four of them worked to form Lutheran Advocacy Ministry Arizona (LAMA), whose mission includes joining with the "most vulnerable of our society to voice our common needs in the public square, activating our faith in love."

"I really felt there was an emphasis on serving others."
-Mark Engel

Lutheran Day at the Legislature, LAMA's most recent project, mustered dozens of Lutherans to the Arizona

State Capitol to meet with representatives and senators and discuss the issues that matter most.

Asked what gets him motivated to serve at HTLC and the greater AZ area, Mark says, "I'm inspired by Pastor Chris' leadership and her passion and commitment."

"She gives me a great model to look up to."
-Charles