

The Visitor

February 2019 Volume 37 Issue 2

Get Connected

As a pastor, I often meet with individuals who are going through difficult times- whether it be due to health, relationships, work, faith...and it saddens me how often I hear, "I feel like I don't have any friends. I feel alone." Whether it is due to caregiving, working, parenting, or sporting events- whether young and old, single and married, retired and working, those with children and those without- loneliness is a silent common struggle. While I listen, it is not usually the struggle they come in to talk about that is the biggest burden, it is that they feel they are facing it alone. I am no stranger to this myself and neither are most pastors.

This February, Holy Trinity is jumping into a worship series titled, "Get Connected." In preparation, I have been reading a book titled, "Creating Community" by Andy Stanley and Bill Willits. They begin by explaining how we are a culture craving relationship. They use the transition in home architecture as a model to explain how our culture has changed. One of their wives who is an interior decorator explains that our American world has changed from a front porch culture to a back deck culture- meaning that instead of visiting with neighbors on our porch as they walk by, we are instead hiding on our back deck (or in our living room with tv). The book is based on the idea that from the very beginning of creation, when God made the first human being, God created them with a need to be connected to others as it is not good to be alone (Genesis 2:18).

While it appears we are all connected, in reality most of us are not. Barna, a leading research organization when it comes to faith and culture, published an article in October 2018 titled, "US Adults Have Few Friends- and They're Mostly Alike." Research showed that, "The majority of adults have anywhere between two and five close friends (62%), but one in five regularly or often feels lonely."

In February, our worship series is titled, "Get Connected" and we are going to look at what God has to say about the way we are connected to others. In response to what the Bible says, we are going to invite people of HTLC into small groups for four weeks (only four weeks!) during Lent. It is our hope that all adults will jump into one of these groups. A sign up will be next to the church office with a variety of options to fit your schedule. One way or another, we look forward to how God may be calling us to "Get Connected!"

-Pastor Alicia Hilding



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Key Dates

2/3	Faith Milestone Class (3rd Grade Bibles)
2/10	3rd Gr. Bible Milestone
2/10	Council Installation
2/13	3rd Gr. Bible Milestone
2/13	Council Installation
2/22	Family Fun Night

In Our Prayers

We ask that you keep in your prayers: Barb Loebner, Laurie Tolzmann, Bonnie Tupy, Pastor Diane Goulson, Barb Warner, Kareen Jacobson, Jim Morris, granddaughter Vada, and the families of Tom Hansen as they mourn their losses and hope in the resurrection to eternal life .

Please inform the church office of any illness, hospitalizations, or prayer requests as desired.

Wednesday Meals

Served weekly from 5:00-5:50pm. All menus subject to change.

2/6	Chef's Choice
2/13	Lasagna
2/20	Hot Dogs
2/27	Chef's Choice

Holy Trinity's Staff

Co – Pastors: Pastor Alicia Hilding & Pastor Ben Hilding
Office Manager: Jamie Bisek
Custodian: Jim Cody
Ministry Coordinator: Karen Taylor
Facility Manager: Jon Bergquist
Worship Team: Rita Sapp, Rose Fife, Tim Price, Toby Thietje, & Lexie Lammers
Special Music / Mission Outreach Coordinator: Rose Fife
Adult Choir Director: Toby Thietje
Hospitality Coordinator: Donna Galvin

Holy Trinity's Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

Coffee and Fellowship follow Sunday's worship service.

Wednesday Worship 6:00 p.m.

A meal precedes Wednesday's Worship Service.

Distribution of the Lord's Supper is celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and following Wednesdays of each month. All are welcome to the Lord's Table.

Learn more about us at www.holytrinityonline.org, or check us out on our facebook page!

Holy Trinity's Church Council

President: Dirk Berger
Vice President: Karla Klingfus
Secretary: Mary Hanson-Busch
Treasurer: Eric Flala
Jay Schoenebeck
Dan Jacobson
Tim Ditberner
Tyler Kienow
Jesse Hemann

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Annual Summit Celebration



Thanks to all who helped make this year’s Annual Summit Celebration a success! The meeting was informative and efficient. Kids had a chance not only to make a neat craft (thanks to Christie Will and Nikki Hauck), but they also helped pack 120 kits for Lutheran World Relief! In the end, all had a chance to enjoy the chili, cornbread, and sweets. We thank God for the many reasons to celebrate at HTLC!

Staffing Updates

Karen Taylor, Ministry Coordinator: Karen Taylor's role at HTLC entails helping members identify and employ their gifts and passion for ministry and ensures that ministry opportunities are led appropriately to enable success. In 2019, in addition to worship support team leadership, Karen is stepping back into the shared ministry realm at HTLC. Shared Ministry includes HTLC's Signature Events (Rib Fest, Trunk or Treat, Christmas Tea, and the Annual Summit Celebration) as well as New Member Gatherings. Karen is a high achieving ministry leader who is exceptionally gifted at matching people's gifts with the ways needed to serve. If you are looking for ways to serve and connect with others at HTLC, email Karen today (volunteer@holytrinityonline.org).



Rose Fife, Mission/Outreach Coordinator: You may recognize Rose Fife as HTLC’s flutist, keyboardist, or Special Music Coordinator. In addition to her gifts of music, Rose has a heart for living out her faith in service to others. In the fall, the Mission/Outreach team recommended to the church council to hire Rose as HTLC’s Mission/Outreach Coordinator for a few hours a week. In this position, Rose will coordinate the Mission/Outreach team, help oversee the disbursements of HTLC’s congregational tithe, build relationships with partner organizations, and seek to increase service opportunities for the congregation. HTLC is blessed to have Rose serve in this role, as she combines her compassion for others with her commitment to making a difference in the world. If you are looking to help with various service opportunities outside the church, please connect with Rose (missions@holytrinityonline.org).



Pastors Alicia and Ben Hilding: Up until this point, co-pastors Alicia and Ben Hilding have each served in a 3/4 time capacity here at Holy Trinity. At the turn of the year, they will maintain a total of 1.5 time service, yet Pastor Ben will move to full time and Alicia will move to .5 time. While they will have a difference in hours worked, they will remain as co-pastors, as equals. Pastor Ben will assume some of Pastor Alicia’s responsibilities, including serving as the pastoral point person for faith formation, communications, and caring ministries.

12/16/18 Council Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 6:33 pm called to order by Kienow.

Present: Pastor Ben, Pastor Alicia, Berger, Fiala, Gassner, Kienow, Klingfus, Schoenbeck, Winn

Approval of Agenda: Kienow added three items to the agenda – Old Business: Radio Broadcast and Mission Outreach and New Business: Hopes & Dreams of Outgoing Council Members. Motion made by Gassner, 2nd by Winn. Motion passed.

Approval of November Minutes: Motion by Berger, 2nd by Gassner. Motion passed.

Opening Devotions: Pastor Ben

Ministry Team Reports: Risk Management (Gassner) – The Child Protection Policy was reviewed by legal counsel and Schoenbeck will be meeting with CYF in January and final draft will then be reviewed with Council. Shared Ministry (Gassner) – Christmas tea was well attended with 13 tables filled.

Pastor Alicia Report: Family Christmas Service will be held on Wednesday, December 19th with great volunteer leadership that includes a dinner, program, photo booth, treats, and Christmas carols in the community. New Member Gathering will be January 6th. Annual Meeting Pre-Meeting will be January 20th in Paul’s Place – for discussion and communication purposes. Annual Summit Celebration will be January 27th following services with a Children’s Ministry offering so that parents can attend the Annual Summit. Stewardship pledging has increased: history for three years is as follows: 2017 = 87, 2018 = 96, 2019 = 102 pledges to date. 2017 = \$298, 064, 2018 = \$294,340, 2019 = \$323,024 to date.

Pastor Ben Report: Music Celebration Services were held on December 9th and 12th. Three Christmas Services “I Wonder” at 3pm, 5pm, and 10pm. Baptism stats for last three years is as follows: 2016 = 8, 2017 = 13, and 2018 = 27. Decorating day for Christmas went smoothly. Proposal for Christmas Eve Services children sermon’s to include a gift – farm through Mission Outreach ELCA Good Gifts for \$715. Motion by Fiala, 2nd by Winn. Motion passed. With the remaining monies in the Mission Outreach budget that are not spent, the recommendation is that the remaining dollars be split in the following way: 50% to Bega Kwe Bega, 25% to local food shelves in honor of Pastor Diane Goulson, and 25% towards Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative. If there is a surplus at the end of the year, the 1/3 of the surplus that would go towards Mission Outreach can be split equally (1/3) between each of the organizations. Motion by Klingfus, 2nd by Winn. Motion passed. Nominating committee continues to work on nominations for council. 2019 Council Retreat – Pastor Ben will send out communication to team – hope to hold 1st or 2nd Saturday in February.

Treasurers Report: In November, revenues were light about \$10K against budget. \$7K was Sonshine revenues that were budgeted. YTD actual vs budget YTD - \$3,200 negative. Healthy on cash flow.

Old Business:

Road Bids/Financing - We are waiting for a third bid to compare and contrast.

Radio Broadcast – At November council meeting a motion was made and passed to suspend radio broadcast services for 2019 and review the mission of radio broadcasts. Since then, Berger and Pastor Ben met with KCHK and also engaged Jed Becher for support in discovering solution for service recording. Recommendation to continue broadcasts for first three months in 2019 and research potential of continued, streamlined broadcasts. Motion made by Shoenbeck, 2nd by Klingfus. Motion passed.

New Business:

Cash Handling Policy – Finance committee revised the Cash Handling Policy and Procedures. It was shared with Council, and will be sent to the Risk Management committee for review with the hope to implement in January 2019.

Budget 2019 – Budget preparation was very detailed and it was determined that we would adhere to a non-deficit budget. Anticipated growth of 7.2%. Motion by Berger, 2nd by Gassner. Motion passed.

Departing Council Members – Thank you to Gassner, Thorp, and Winn for their service on Council.

Closing Prayer: Lord’s Prayer

Meeting Adjourned: 8:03 pm - Gassner moved; Fiala 2nd. Motion passed.

Next Meeting: January 28th at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Karla Klingfus

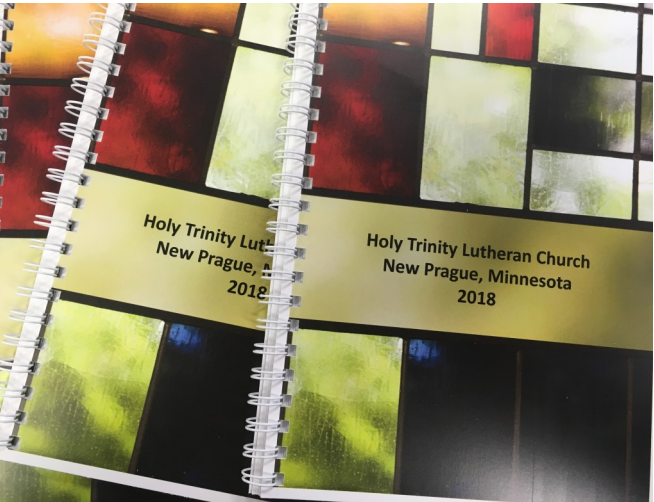
Holy Trinity Happenings



New Members

In January, Holy Trinity welcomed a wonderful group of new members to the mission and ministry here. Please take some time to get to know these great people:

- Mike & Delores Benzie
- Michelle Hubert
- Katie, Hannah, & Emily Huebsch
- Dustin, Jackie, Max, Jacob, & Adam Lee
- Theresa Marsyla, Tracey Orwig, Hayden, & Harper
- Bruce, Wendy, James, Simon, & Nina Mathiowetz
- Jim & Janet Morris
- Andy, Heather, Abby, & Aiden Nybo
- Corey, Ericka, Payton, & Park Peterson
- John, Jennifer, Ella, Lily, & Adam Schmiesing



Continuing Education

HTLC staff members Karen Taylor, Rita Sapp, and Pastor Ben Hilding joined council members Dirk Berger, Karla Klingfus, and George Winn (not pictured) for a continuing education day with Tod Bolsinger, author of “Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory.” This event was held at St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie, MN, and focused on the kind of leadership needed to navigate the kinds of challenges the church faces in the 21st century. We are excited for how this conference will give us tools to discern how God con-



New Church Directories are in!

If you missed the annual summit celebration, you can receive your annual reports and church directories from Jamie Bisek in the church office.

Amazing Grays

The Amazing Grays coffee group toured Lorentz Meat Processing Plant in Cannon Falls on Thursday, January 17th. We learned that they are one of the major Bison processors in the country. We had a very good presentation by Mike Lorentz, one of the owners of the business. He shared with us about the history, business operation, concerning beef and bison processing and sales. We also were able to observe the processing of beef cattle. Following the tour, we traveled to Miesville and had lunch at Kings—great burgers there! Our group is growing, we are up to 31 now! Following our regular coffee on February 6th we will tour Praha Village, anyone is welcome to join us!

Church Council Letter

Dan’s Letter to the Holy Trinitarians

Hi, my name is Dan Jacobson. I have had the pleasure of serving our congregation on church council for 2 years now. I am excited to announce, our new Church directories have arrived! If you had your pictures taken, please stop in the church office to pick yours up. Even if you didn’t have your pictures taken and would like a directory, you are welcome to stop in and pick one up as well.

I wanted to take this opportunity to inform and update everyone on our new church directories. First of all, you may notice the new directory is smaller than our previous directories. This is because we decided to go with an updateable format. What this means for our congregation is that once our congregation has 15 status changes, we can have a new directories made to include the new members of our family. The status changes include new families as well as changes in family status like marriages and births, for example.

In addition, Jamie and I will soon begin getting our mobile directory up and running. The mobile directory will be a convenient communication tool with quick-links to phone and email, and even mapping to the address. It will enable anytime, anywhere access to whomever we allow to join. We will also be able to continually add our new members to make them feel even more at home in our congregation. You will be able to access the mobile directory from a pc or smartphone. And don’t worry, I will be conducting some training sessions during a mission moment in the next few months when we have the mobile directory up and running.

Blessings to all, Dan Jacobson

Finance Update

Revenue & Expenses

Revenue & Expense -
(Finance update as of December 31, 2018)
Revenue: YTD Budget \$511,206 YTD Actual \$508,639*
Expenses: YTD Budget \$511,206 YTD Actual \$508,639*
Revenue-Expenses: YTD Budget \$0 YTD Actual \$0*
*Due to the generosity of the people of Holy Trinity and the diligence of the leadership, 2018 revenue exceeded the end-of-year expenses by \$10,538. Based on a Church Council promise made at the beginning of the 2018 year, we were able to split this surplus 3 ways: 1) additional payment towards debt, 2) future capital improvement projects, and 3) Benevolence. Great job everyone!

** The 2019 Offering Envelopes have arrived! Please pick yours up in the church office!

Council Transitions

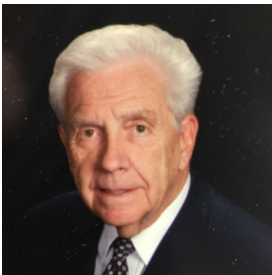
THANK YOU FOR SERVING!



Kim Gassner



Laurie Thorp



George Winn

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!



Tim Dittberner



Mary Hanson-Busch



Jesse Hemann



Volunteers of the Month



In the Holy Trinity family, we have volunteers who get attention and accolades because they are visible or serving in a fun way. We also have volunteers who aren’t visible and serve our church in a way most people would consider mundane....unless you enjoy counting. These dedicated people serve on a monthly basis however there is very little turnover in this tightknit group. They literally protect our most valuable assets and take pride in their preciseness. This month, I would like to recognize the **Offering Counters** as our Volunteers of the Month! Please help me give a HUGE thank you to:

Dan & Julie Popple, Paul Rasmusson, Sande Schoenecker, Jason Fife, Renee Dietrich, Dennis Jaspersen, Tammy Kajer, Carrie Kitner.

There are several ways to get involved in Holy Trinity! If you’d like to help, please contact Ministry Coordinator, Karen Taylor at volunteer@holyltrinityonline.org . Blessings, Karen Taylor (Ministry Coordinator)

Looking Ahead

Family Fun Night

When: Friday, February 22, 2019
Time: 7 - 9 pm
Where: Fellowship Hall & South Wing

Join us for a family friendly fun night at Holy Trinity. All ages invited! Invite your non-Holy Trinity friends and family and meet some new people. Snacks provided. Watch the bulletin and Facebook for more details.



Worship Guests

When: Sunday, February 24 and Wednesday February 27

On February 24th, we welcome back to the Holy Trinity family Jordan Leggett as a guest musician. On that Sunday, as well as Wednesday, February 27th, Assistant to the Bishop Deb Stehlin will also be with us to preach and lead worship. Mark your calendars and be prepared to welcome Jordan and Pastor Deb with open arms!

Lent

During the season of Lent, Holy Trinity will be focused on the theme of “Tests.” Have you ever felt like God has tested you? When you’ve had a difficult time in life, have you ever asked, “God, why are you doing this to me? Is this some sort of test?” This theme As we embark on this Lenten theme, we will look at some Old Testament stories of tests: Adam and Eve, Abraham and Isaac, Job, Ruth, and the Daniel in the Lion’s Den. This year there will also be Lenten devotionals written by the HTLC community. During the season of Lent, the worship services on Wednesdays at 6pm will be Holden Evening Prayer, and the worship services on Sunday will move to Morning Praise from the Gather Hymnal.

Children, Youth and Family

Crew Time

(Pre-K through 5th Grade)
Meets Wednesdays during 6pm worship

Upcoming Schedule

- 2/6: Crew Time
- 2/13: Crew Time
- 2/20: Crew Time
- 2/27: Crew Time

Sunday School

(Pre-K through 5th Grade)
Meets Sundays after 9am worship

Upcoming Schedule

- 2/3: Sunday School
- 2/10: Sunday School
- 2/17: Sunday School
- 2/24: Sunday School

Confirmation

(6th through 8th Grade)
Meets Wednesdays after 6pm worship

Upcoming Schedule

- 2/6: Psalm 23 Challenge
- 2/13: Psalm 23 Challenge
- 2/20: Psalm 23 Challenge
- 2/27: Lent Stations

Confirmation Special Guests



Through the month of January, confirmation students have dived deep into sensitive subjects. Special thanks to Becky Valek and Kevin Amundson for talking about depression and suicide awareness, Jeff Jacobson and Tim Price for talking about addiction, and Gospel Kordah for speaking about building bridges with people who are different than you. May HTLC be a place where we can talk about these things.

Upcoming dates to mark down

3rd Grade Bibles
2/3: 3rd Grade Bible Milestone Class (3rd Graders & Family)
2/10 & 2/13: 3rd Graders Receive Bibles in Church

First Communion
4/7: First Communion Class for 4th Graders
4/18: 1st Communion Celebration for 4th Graders

Palm Sunday Egg Hunt
4/14: Palm Sunday Brunch & Egg Hunt for Pre-K– 5th graders

Senior Led Worship
5/19: High School Seniors lead 9am worship

Vacation Bible School
7/8-7/11: “Roar” themed for children of all ages

