

# The Visitor

July 2019 Volume 37 Issue 7



## Baptism Service



I had never done this before.

Several people were there, relying on me, ready to be baptized, and I was supposed to know how to do this. But I didn't. So I asked a Baptist pastor friend for help, and he gave me some good advice. This ended up being one of the most moving worship services of my life.

At the Holy Trinity Lakeside service in August 2018, we had 7 baptisms (pictured below). These were not baby baptisms. And they were baptized in the lake!

You see, Lutherans are good at infant baptisms. Our theology confirms that God's grace comes to us before we deserve it. Baptism is a gift from God, a promise that nothing can separate us from the love of God through Christ Jesus our Lord. We baptize babies because baptism is God's act, not ours.

What happens if you were not baptized as an infant? Does that make you less of a Christian? If you want a baptism, should you go to a non-denominational church with a pool? Or can Lutherans do this, too?

As I prepared for this service, I came to a deeper understanding of the history of Christian baptisms. I realized that while our Lutheran theology allows for infant baptism, our Biblical tradition speaks of primarily adult baptisms. In the history of the early church, families were sometimes baptized together because they knew that identifying as a Christian could be a life or death matter. As the church grew, Christianity left the margins and entered the mainstream. During this period of time, baptism as infants became normalized and remains so today. But that doesn't mean that a non-infant baptism is in any way a backup plan.

Maybe you weren't brought up in the church. Maybe your family didn't like or trust the pastor who would baptize you. Maybe your church at that time practiced believer's baptisms. Maybe you were waiting to schedule a time when the godparents could come into town, and now it's five years later.

I believe that each of us have a faith story that is unique. While Lutherans encourage infant baptisms, that in no way makes non-infant baptisms inferior. Baptism is a gift from God, whether you're 7 days, 7 months, 7 years, or 70 years old.

So we're going to do it again. This year, it will be August 28th, once again at the Holy Trinity Lakeside service. If you've already been baptized already, then you're good to go. But if you haven't, if you have any interest, or if you know someone who might be interested, please don't hesitate to connect with Pastor Alicia or myself. We'd love to welcome you to this special baptism opportunity!

-Pastor Ben Hilding



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**Key Dates**

7/7	Vacation Bible School Volunteer Training
7/8-11	Vacation Bible School
7/10	VBS Worship
7/24	Holy Trinity Lakeside
7/31	Blessing of the Pets

**In Our Prayers**

We ask that you keep in your prayers: Barb Loebner, Laurie Tolzmann, Pastor Diane Goulson, Ellie Grace, Jim Morris, Susie Rogers, Frances and Annie, Gary, Don Mushitz, granddaughter Vada, granddaughter Piper, Alyce Price, Nancy, Vi Patterson, Darbie Berger, Elaine Jacobson, Clint Evans, and Elaine Kumpf. Please inform the church office of any illness, hospitalizations, or prayer requests as desired.

**Wednesday Meals**

Served weekly from 5:00-5:50pm.

7/3	Summer Menu
7/10	Summer Menu
7/17	Summer Menu
7/24	Summer Menu
7/31	Summer Menu

**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, & Lex 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](http://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 Fiala  
 Jay Schoenebeck  
 Dan Jacobson  
 Tim Ditberner  
 Tyler Klenow  
 Jesse Hemann

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# Summer @ HTLC



## Worship Series: "Early Years: Acts"

This summer, our worship series is "The Early Years," as we look into the stories of the early church and the first apostles like Peter and Paul. Each week we are diving into these stories and seeing what they can teach us about the foundations of the Christian church, and what it means for us today.

## 7/8—7/11: Vacation Bible School

HTLC's Vacation Bible School "Who Is My Neighbor" is coming for you! Invite your friends! We welcome you to sign up to be a part of this great week (either as a student or as a volunteer)!

## 7/24: Holy Trinity Lakeside

On the 4th Wednesday of each month, Holy Trinity will meet at Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park for an outdoor service. A picnic dinner is served at 5 pm and worship at 6pm.

## 7/31: Blessings of the Pets

God created the heavens and the earth, and God created all creatures, like blue whales, porcupines, penguins, and salamanders! If you have a beloved animal as a pet, we invite you to bring them to Wednesday night worship for a prayer and a blessing! Don't worry, it'll be outdoors:)

## 8/2: Rib Fest

Come on out to the front lawn of Holy Trinity for a great night of food, family fun, fellowship, kids' activities, music, a beer garden, and of course, ribs! Come for the food, stay for the fun!

## 8/4: Polka Service

Back by popular demand, on August 4th at 9am we will have another Polka Service!



Come for the Food! Stay for the Fun!

# RIB FEST!

2019

<b>Friday, August 2</b>	<b>5 - 8 pm</b>	
FOOD	FAMILY FUN	FELLOWSHIP
KIDS' ACTIVITIES	MUSIC	BEER GARDEN

**\$15 Rib/Pulled Pork Meal      \$5 Hot Dog Meal**

*Pork provided by Lakeside Supper Club!*

# 5/20/19 Council Meeting Minutes

**Minutes:** Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Council May 20, 2019 (Revised)

**Call to order:** 6:33pm Klingfus

**Quorum established:** Klingfus, Schoenebeck, Pastor Alicia, Pastor Ben, Kienow, Hanson-Busch, Dittberner, Hemann

**Approval Agenda:** Motion Kienow, second Schoenebeck

**Approve minutes from April 2019 meeting:** Motion Kienow, second Hanson-Busch

**Guests:** Pat and Mary O'Malley discussed their project on the history and time line of Holy Trinity. Plans for the future distribution and promotion within the church will follow this fall. Michael Busch presented on his time as a delegate to the Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly, detailing the resolutions presented and passed.

**Devotions:** Canoeing the Mountains Chapter 6

**Pastor Alicia Report:** Attended Gustavus Adolphus College Gathering of congregations, and Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly, new member class completed, Sunday School and Crew Time wrap up this week, focus turns to VBS week of July 8-11.

Finance committee met, finalizing new cash handling policy working with Risk Management. Building of emergency fund priority for next budget cycle.

New copy of final constitution provided to council, old copies in binders should be removed and recycled

**Pastor Ben Report:** Attendance for Holy Week reviewed, special services throughout May highlighted, flier with planned services for summer discussed, Lakeside services last Wednesday in June, July and August, council members encourage to attend and act as greeters, hosts as they are able.

Wednesday summer services, acoustic guitar duo this year, meal before services also.

Mission report, great participation with Shoe Away Hunger, over 500 pairs of shoes.

Pastor Ben continues his Capstone project this Summer for Augsburg.

HVAC system identified as beginning to fail, bids for replacement/repair being gathered. Property to meet with building manager this week. Council to review once costs and plan final. Will require approval at congregational meeting. Current plan for garage purchase will not occur at this time to allow focus on HVAC.

### Treasurer Report:

General giving for April slightly lower than budget, but on track for year to date. April expenses higher than anticipated: Sum paid for work compensation insurance being reviewed, had been budgeted in December, Chris Clausen to follow up. Quarterly office maintenance for printer service missed in budget for April, will be adjusted for 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Quarter. Radio Broadcast payment also done in April, all combined to total Revenue to Expense to be \$-4995, compared to budget \$ -108 for April.

Year to date, revenues exceed expenses by \$5622 compared to budget shortfall of \$4442. Over \$6000 of the \$9000 difference can be attributed to benevolence spending below budget.

**Old Business:** Child Protection policy final, copy provided can replace current copies in binder. Fall roll out scheduled, key people in place for implementation.

Closing Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Motion to adjourn: 7:59pm Dittberner, Second Kienow

## Finance Update

(Finance update as of May 31, 2019)  
 Revenue: YTD Budget \$202,284 YTD Actual \$199,323  
 Expenses: YTD Budget \$208,554 YTD Actual \$200,187  
 Revenue-Expenses: YTD Budget \$-6,270 YTD Actual \$-863

## Radio Ministry

Thank you to all those who have signed up to sponsor a week of Holy Trinity's radio ministry with KCHK radio, broadcasted Sunday mornings from 9-9:30am. This is a neat opportunity to honor a friend/family/birthday/ anniversary or in memory of a loved on a key date. We have 14 weeks that are in need of a sponsor. If you would like to sponsor a week, please contact the church office. A one week sponsorship is \$63.75.

# Holy Trinity Happenings



## Father's Day Sermon

On Father's Day, Christie Will preached an unforgettable sermon about the unconditional love of our Heavenly Father, as she shared her personal story of discovering and connecting with her own biological father just this past year. Her father surprised her by actually being present in worship. For a full transcript of Christie's sermon, please visit our facebook page.



## Holy Trinity Lakeside

Thank you for all who came out to the first Holy Trinity Lakeside of the season! Thanks to the Holy Trinity worship team for leading the service, as we reflected on being a church that is "takin' it to the streets." Our next Holy Trinity Lakeside service will be July 24th, with a 5pm dinner and a 6pm service. Feel free to invite friends to come with you!



## Blessing of the Bikes

On June 5th, Holy Trinity hosted a Blessing of the Bikes service. At the end of the worship service, a whole crew of folks brought in their bikes for a test run and a blessing. A special thank you to the New Prague Police Department for being a part of it, and for giving some great tips on bicycle safety!



## All God's Creatures Family Event

Thanks to all who came out to the Horejsi family farm on June 2nd! We had a chance to play some yard games, enjoy company and food together, and cuddle with baby sheep, goats, cows, and rabbits! Special thanks to Craig, Melissa, and Ella Horejsi for hosting this event.

# Church Council Letter

## Eric's Letter to the Holy Trinitarians

Happy summertime! It has already been a fun and very busy summer for many of us. I didn't realize how many graduating seniors our family knew until the numerous open house invitations started flowing in last month. By my 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> one, I came to really enjoy the taco in a bag, and more importantly, the sense of community that occurs in an open house atmosphere. People from all different parts of life coming together to celebrate the achievement of one common person is a real neat thing to witness. And when you are married to a social butterfly like my wife, Jen, you also end up with a busier calendar moving forward as we meet new friends.

Hopefully everyone has had the chance to attend a lakeside service at Cedar Lake either last year or the one in June. The atmosphere can be best compared to an open house. Perhaps no taco in a bag, but the grill is always going and this year there will be lawn games for the kids and the beauty of the park and lake to enjoy. It is also a great opportunity to meet new people and perhaps invite new people to a service. With the low key atmosphere and contemporary music, lakeside services are a great way to introduce a neighbor, friend or recent graduate you just met to the Holy Trinity community. Or if you are more like me, perhaps buying a new 21+ guest a beer at Rib Fest on August 2<sup>nd</sup> is more your speed.

Have a great summer and hope to see you all at the lake!

-Eric Fiala (Council Treasurer)

# Missions/Outreach Updates

## Food For the Poor

Thank you to everyone who donated to Food For the Poor in June! It was great to welcome Pastor Darrell Golnitz to preach on June 2nd (pictured right with Missions/Outreach Coordinator Rose Fife). After collecting for 3 weeks, we were able to send \$3800, enough to build a safe home for a family who desperately needs it! For more information about this charitable organization with less than a 5% overhead, visit [foodforthe poor.org](http://foodforthe poor.org).

## Lutheran Disaster Response Gift

Due to the recent flooding throughout the Midwest, the Missions/Outreach team has decided to donate \$1000 to Lutheran Disaster Relief to help alleviate the suffering of our neighbors. This donation comes out of our commitment as a congregation to tithe 10% of all gifts to Holy Trinity.

## July Missions Drive

The July Missions Drive will be shampoos, conditioners, and body wash to donate to our local food pantry. Peace Center Volunteers consistently notice certain items are low or unavailable. We will address this need in the coming months. Look for the shopping cart in the Narthex to leave your items. Thank you for your continued giving!

## Future Drives:

- July: shampoo/conditioner/body wash for Peace Center
- August: school supplies for local students
- September: Kleenex, napkins, plastic wrap, aluminum foil, sandwich bags for Peace Center
- October: Winter outerwear for NPAS schools and school in North Mpls
- November: Giving Tree



# Volunteers of the Month



Volunteer opportunities come in all sorts of packages...some commitments are weekly, some are monthly, some are seasonally and some are annually. In fact, we are approaching Rib Fest, one of the best annual summer events in New Prague! If you've never volunteered for anything, Rib Fest just might be your thing.

Rib Fest is a part of a group of annual events hosted by Holy Trinity that includes Trunk or Treat in October and the Christmas Tea in December. These events are geared towards sharing a little bit of Holy Trinity with the community. All of these events are run by volunteers, so this month, I'd like to highlight those volunteers. There are too many volunteers to name and some of those people are Anonymous Angels who don't want any public recognition. Regardless, THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who have made Rib Fest, Trunk or Treat and the Christmas Tea a positive and meaningful experience for everyone that attends!

If you are looking to volunteer for this year's events, visit [www.holytrinityonline.org](http://www.holytrinityonline.org) to find the Sign up Genius link. You can also connect with Karen Taylor before or after worship services or email [volunteer@holytrinityonline.org](mailto:volunteer@holytrinityonline.org) or call Jamie Bisek, Office Manager at 952-758-3513 and they will assist you in signing up.  
-Karen Taylor

# This and That

## Sneak Peak

What would the community miss if Holy Trinity decided to close it's doors? What difference does it make that Holy Trinity is here? What's our purpose as a congregation? And what is our vision for the future? These are some big and exciting questions that we hope to ask this next year. After a successful Strategic Plan, it's time to cast a vision for the next chapter of Holy Trinity. Rather than having a couple people make these decisions behind closed doors, we're inviting the whole congregation into the visioning process, starting in September. Stay tuned for more information coming your way soon!

## Amazing Grays

Amazing Grays will be touring the Mayowood Mansion in Rochester on Wednesday, July 17. The tour begins at 11:00 a.m. The price of admission is \$17. A sign-up sheet is located at the Welcome Center for those who want to join us. Lunch at The Canadian Honker will follow the tour. We are still meeting every Wednesday morning in the Youth Room at 9am. All young at heart are welcome to join us!

## Czech Out New Prague

On August 1st, the New Prague Chamber of Commerce is hosting a "Czech Out New Prague" event at Memorial Park featuring various exhibitors, local eateries, a junior fire fighter challenge presented by the New Prague Fire Department, dance performances, entertainment, and more! This year, Holy Trinity will have a tent. Please come on by and say "hi"!

## Dozinky Parade

During the Dozinky Days here in New Prague, there will be a "Parade of Farm Pride" on September 21st at noon. This year, Holy Trinity will have a float! We'd love to have your help walking in the parade, representing Holy Trinity, and handing out candy! If you are interested, please contact the church office.

## Property Plug

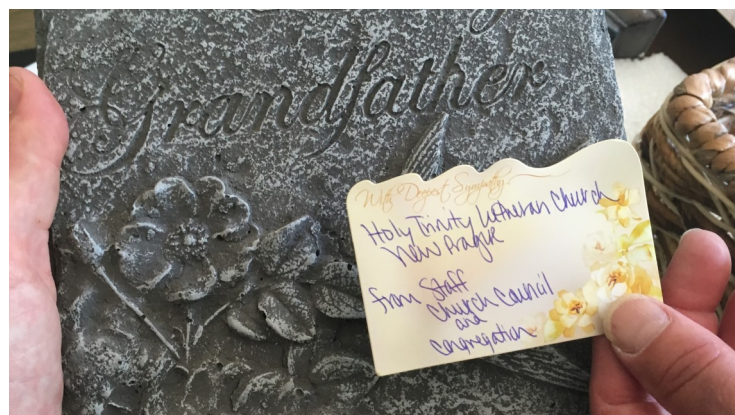
In the June newsletter, Facilities Manager Jon Bergquist indicated he's looking for anyone who wants to participate in the maintaining of the church property. If you have interest to help with various projects, or tools that can be used for special projects, please leave a message in the church office. Your help is appreciated!

## Videos of Worship

Due to some technological challenges, we will no longer be broadcasting our worship services on local television. However, the Sunday services can be found on our Youtube channel (a link is available on our website) or they can be heard on KCHK radio Sundays at 9am.

## Thank You

"As I recently said goodbye to my grandfather, I want to say thank you to this congregation for all of your support. So many people reached out to me to express their care and condolences. At the funeral, people commented to me that we had an overwhelming amount of our support from our home church here at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. For that, I must say from the bottom of my heart, "THANK YOU!" -Pastor Ben Hilding



# Children, Youth and Family



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

HTLC's Vacation Bible School "Who Is my Neighbor" will be from 9-noon on Monday, July 8th-Thursday, July 11th for 3 year olds-those entering 4th grade in the 2019-2020 year. Invite a friend to come to VBS with you! **This year, those entering 5th Grade (and up) are invited to be Assistant Leaders** (look for a role that has "Asst."). We need a lot of volunteers to make this happen and it is a blast! \*4:00-6:00 p.m., Sunday, July 7th will be VBS Volunteer Training. Sign up for the role that fits your gifts today! Invite a friend to volunteer with you! To sign-up, follow the link on our website. \$17 per child / \$34 maximum per family. Scholarships available by emailing Pastor Alicia ([alicia@holytrinityonline.org](mailto:alicia@holytrinityonline.org)).

## Future Dates

- August 21st @ 6pm: Blessing of the Backpacks Service
- August 28th @ 6pm: Holy Trinity Lakeside (baptism service)
- September 8th & 11th: Kickoff Worship
- September 8th @ 10am: Required CYF Volunteer Training
- September 11th @ 5pm: Required CYF Volunteer Training
- September 15th: First day of Sunday School
- September 18th: First day of Crew Time/ Confirmation



## Confirmation Gift

During this past year, the confirmation students participated in a "Confirmation Giving Challenge," as they helped the Mission/Outreach team decide where to give our congregational tithes to. At the June 26th Holy Trinity Lakeside service, the winning groups were able to present the Ronald McDonald House with \$2400!



## Guest Visitor

Last year, a group of Holy Trinity folks attended the National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX. As part of the trip, we got to know Pastor Will Starkweather, one of the keynote speakers at the gathering. Pastor Will was in Minnesota this June, and stopped by Holy Trinity to say hi to some of these Holy Trinity friends!