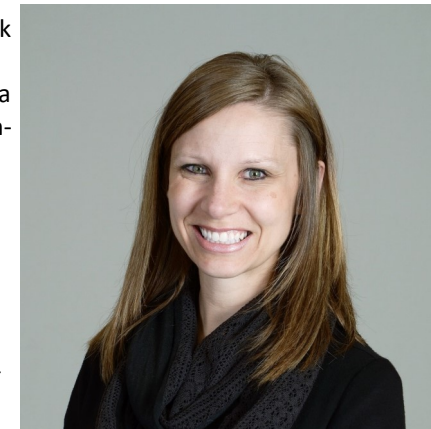


The Visitor

November 2019 Volume 37 Issue 11



Looking Inward: This is Us



It has been said that churches need to look up, look in, and look out to be balanced and healthy. You've probably heard people comment about when one or another is out of balance. When a church is unbalanced, some might say a church is: "too heavenly minded to be any earthly good" (upward), or "too insider focused" (inward), or "focused on serving but not depth and discipleship" (outward). We want to be a church that is balanced. We want to look for God's leading (upward), look inward at the gifts and deep faith of God's people, and look outward at the needs in our community and world.

As you know, this year we are embarking on a Vision 2020 process where we hope to listen to God, Holy Trinity, and the greater community/world in hopes of a crystal clear (20/20 you could say) mission and vision for Holy Trinity moving forward.

In November and December, our Vision 2020 emphasis will shift from "Looking Backward" to "Looking Inward." We will seek to discover the stories, gifts, and passions within this faith community called Holy Trinity. We are going to do this in a few ways:

Looking Inward Huddle: From 4:00-6:00 p.m., on Sunday, November 3rd, we will have our second Vision Huddle as a church. Thanks to another generous donor, we will have a free meal and childcare provided. Our personal mentor, Dr. Chris Johnson, will speak to the importance of listening to the voice of vocation. Please join us as we look inward as a congregation together!

In-Reach: Through the months of November and December, a team of 20 visitors (trained by Deb Rogers of Beacon Interfaith Housing Network) will be conducting one-on-one conversations with the congregation. Thanks to Vision Team member Jackie Lee for coordinating this important effort. We sincerely hope that you participate in this process, because we want to hear about you! We want to hear your story, your passions, and your values as we continue this visioning process as a congregation. Please look to participate in a one-on-one conversation in the next couple months.

Dialogue Sermons: As we reflect on who God has brought to Holy Trinity, we will have a different format for our sermons during this Looking Inward Phase. Through a series of "conversations", we will listen to some stories of our church leaders in worship, through a dialogue sermon format.

Adult Faith Formation: As we look inward as a congregation, we are also invited to look inward into our own lives of faith. If you are looking for an opportunity to dive deeper into your faith, we have a series of adult faith formation opportunities available in November. See page 5 for more details.

Looking inward, we hope to identify the gifts within HTLC and to support the congregation in using their gifts to serve one another so that God's grace can be abundantly experienced!



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Key Dates	
11/3	All Saints Worship
11/3	Inward Huddle
11/10	New Member Class
11/27	No Worship Service, dinner, crew time, or confirmation
11/28	Thanksgiving Dinner

In Our Prayers

We ask that you keep in your prayers: Laurie Tolzmann, Vada, Susie Rogers, Claire Warner, Don Mushitz, Nancy, Elaine Jacobson, Tanya, Susan Wyatt, Piper, Mary Eagen, Pearl Shirley, Ann Gengel, Lucas, Joey, Laura Kube and family, JoAnn Olson, Jim Reemts, Don Matson, the family and friends of Luann and Curt as they grieve their loss of their son, and Tom and Karla Klingfus as they grieve their loss of Tom's brother. Please inform the church office of any illness, hospitalizations, or prayer requests as desired.

Wednesday Meals	
Served from 5:00-5:50pm.	
11/6	Chef's Choice
11/13	Breakfast
11/20	Chef's Choice
11/27	No Wednesday Night Dinner

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
 Visitation Pastor: Pastor Diane Goulson

Connect with HTLC

Find us online at holymtrinityonline.org
 Like HTLC on facebook for latest updates
 Check out past services on our Youtube channel
 Tune in to KCHK 1350AM or 95.5FM radio Sundays @ 9am
 Follow HTLC on Instagram

Holy Trinity's Worship Schedule

Sundays @ 9am, Wednesdays @ 6pm

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.

Holy Trinity's Church Council

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

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20 VISION 20

LOOKING INWARD

SUNDAY
 NOVEMBER 3RD ~ 4 To 6 PM ~
 FREE • DINNER • DESSERT • ENTERTAINMENT • KIDS MEAL • CHILDCARE
 GUEST SPEAKER: CHRIS JOHNSON

This is us
 OUR FRIENDS ~ OUR FAITH ~ OUR CHURCH

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
 INWARD Huddle

RSVP by Oct 27th with all guest names at HTLCvision2020@gmail.com or CALL 952.758.3513

LOOKING INWARD HUDDLE

Menu
 Pulled Pork Sandwiches
 Cole Slaw
 Mac N Cheese
 Cinnamon Apples
 Pumpkin Bars

Kid activities!

- Dinner
- Decorating Pumpkins
- Saint Jar Guessing Game
- Scavenger Hunt

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 3RD
 RSVP BY OCTOBER 27TH @ HTLCVISION2020@GMAIL.COM

**Kids Get to Decorate
 Fall Cookies and Pumpkins
 This November 3rd 4-6 PM
 @ Sundays INWARD Huddle**

9/16/19 Council Meeting Minutes

Call to order: 6:36 p.m. Berger

Present: Klingfus, Pastor Alicia, Berger, Fiala, Hanson-Busch, Kienow, Schoenebeck, Hemann

Motion approve agenda with additions of Mission Outreach team report, Property Team Parking lot asphalt repair bid review: Kienow, second Klingfus, passed.

Motion approve August minutes: Hemann, second Fiala, passed.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Alicia

Benevolence/ Missions Outreach Team: Request follow up with information on school supply drive

Motion: approve Mission teams designated donations as requested for FISH Scott County and Crop Walk for Hunger: Kienow, second Schoenebeck, passed

Pastors Report: (Alicia on behalf of Ben also)

Thank you to council for being part of special services this summer and Vision 20/20 huddle. Back to church video well received.

Successful implementation of CYF training/requirements for volunteers with busy time for fall programming startups, large groups this year with CREW time, Sunday school and confirmation.

Stewardship emphasis October 6-23, letter to congregation October 1st, theme aligns with Vision 2020. Budget planning process starts October

Pastors attending Bishop's Theological conference in Brainerd Sunday after church through Tuesday

Dozinky will have float and music this year, volunteers welcome.

Vision 2020 reflection: well attended, good introduction to the yearlong Vision process and program. All invited November 3rd for next huddle.

Treasurer's Report: August close to budget with general giving down some, YTD shows positive result as we head into last quarter. Successful Ribfest this year with continued growth in proceeds with spending down and no change in ticket cost. Requested Karen Taylor to attend October meeting if possible to present the changes and updates she made to the Ribfest this year and plans for proceeds.

Property Team: Kitchen Update- work mostly finished awaiting some floor work. Space is working well.

Parking lot asphalt repair bids review: \$3750 costs expected to be expensed with in property budget.

Directory: Plan to include implementation along with Looking Inward Vision 20/20, distribution information pending from Dan Jacobson.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Alicia

Motion to adjourn: 7:34 p.m. Kienow, second Klingfus

Next Meeting October 21, 6:30 p.m.

Jon Bergquist Retirement

Facilities Manager Jon Bergquist has announced his retirement, effective December 31st, 2019. Jon has been an incredible asset to the Holy Trinity team. Please mark your calendars for a day to honor him on December 22nd during worship, with a reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Radio Ministry

Thank you to all those who have sponsored a week of Holy Trinity's radio broadcast. We have 5 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.

Employee Handbook

Recently, Holy Trinity finalized an updated Employee Handbook. With consultation from a variety of sources, including legal input, synod recommendations, and other ELCA congregations, we are pleased to finish this project! Special thanks to council member Karla Klingfus, who put in a considerable amount of time and energy into the project.

Finance Update

(Finance update as of September 30, 2019)
 Revenue: YTD Budget \$371,347 YTD Actual \$371,547
 Expenses: YTD Budget \$376,969 YTD Actual \$369,671
 Revenue-Expenses: YTD Budget \$-5,622 YTD Actual \$1,876

Holy Trinity Happenings



Trunk or Treat

Thanks to all those who came out to hand out candy or collect candy, serve food or eat food, and dress up in costumes or admire those who dressed up in costumes! It was a great event for all!



Will's Windows

Throughout this past month, Christie Will has been making beautiful artwork on the windows of the narthex, corresponding with each week's worship theme. We have an artist in our midst!



Lutefisk

This month, Office Manager Jamie Bisek took a number of Amazing Grays folks down to her home church in Blooming Prairie, MN for a lutefisk dinner. Miraculously, all survived to tell the tale!



Food for the Poor House

We received this picture from Food for the Poor, the nonprofit organization that visited us in June. Because of our gift of \$3800, we were able to build this house for this family in need. Thank you!



Pastor Appreciation

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, and our staff surprised our pastors with food, chocolates, and bags full of thank you notes. It is good to celebrate God's work through the many ministries at HTLC.



Wellness Challenge

Holy Trinity's staff has jumped into Mayo's Community Wellness Challenge this month. As part of the challenge, they have participated in regular exercise and daily challenges. Good job folks!

November Highlights



All Saints Worship Services

On November 3rd and 6th, please join us for a special All Saints service. During this service, we will honor those who have gone before us in the faith. In particular this year, we will honor Gladys Beinhorn, Bonnie Tupy, Kareen Jacobson, Jerry Most, Violet Patterson, Jim Snackenber, and Betty Swenson.



November Missions: Sharing Tree

Holy Trinity will be sponsoring families with Le Sueur County Adopt A Family. This program helps over 300 families each Christmas season. The tree will be set up in the narthex with tags for gifts of clothing, shoes and outerwear for children. Toys are also accepted and will be shared with Santa Anonymous. All items must be new and unwrapped. Thank you for helping sponsor these families!



Thanksgiving Dinner

Holy Trinity is looking forward to hosting another Thanksgiving Community Dinner! Please check our website for the list of needs. And if you are alone, celebrating with family at a later date, or all of the 'fixings' just stretch the budget too far, please join us on Thanksgiving Day for dinner, served from 11:00am-1:00pm.



Looking Inward: Worship Series

Through the Looking Inward phase of the 2020 Vision Process, we will embark on a unique sermon series titled: "Conversations." Rather than having one pastor speak to the congregation, we will hear conversations between the pastors and congregation leaders. These will be moving stories— you won't want to miss them!

Communications Central

New Member Class

Are you interested in becoming a member at Holy Trinity? Our next New Member Gathering will be held Sunday, November 10th from 10am-noon. We will learn about Holy Trinity, learn about you, and share a meal together. If you have any questions, please contact the church office. We'd love to have you there!

Stewardship

Our stewardship Team wants to say "thank you" for prayerfully committing to what God is doing through Holy Trinity by submitting an estimate of giving card for the 2020 year. If you have not had an opportunity, but would like to make a commitment, you can mail or drop off your card in the church office.

Very Merry Christmas Sale

On November 9th, from 9am-12:30pm, the Book Nook will have a Very Merry Christmas Sale. We need volunteers on Friday and Saturday beforehand, and baked goods, crafts, plants, etc. to sell. Please contact Karen Hoylo at 952-758-2720 to help.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee wants to hear from you! Be on the lookout for Leadership Nomination Forms, where you can nominate someone for a leadership position within the church for the 2020 year. This is important work, and your input matters!

Christmas Tea

Shopping, cooking, decorating, wrapping, entertaining, sending out cards.....do you feel your stress level rising just reading this? Please join us Tuesday December 3rd from 6:30-8:00 p.m. for the Holy Trinity Christmas Tea.

The Tea is a time for adult women of the community to come together in fellowship. It is a stress-free time before the joyful chaos of the Christmas season begins.

There are two ways to participate. Host a table or attend as a guest. Hostess duties include decorating and setting the table, preparing a snack or dessert, and inviting guests.

If you would like to host a table but feel a bit overwhelmed, find a partner and share in the hostess duties. Coffee, tea and water will be supplied.

Sign up by going to holytrinityonline.org. You do not need to be a member of Holy Trinity to participate. If you have questions, please call Kim Gassner at 952-758-1896 or email kimlee@bevcomm.net.

We hope to see you there.

The Christmas Tea Committee

Volunteers of the Month

This month's volunteers are a dedicated group of people that keep our property looking great all year round. I swear they have magic wands (or chainsaws and paint brushes). Thank you for your behind the scenes work to make Holy Trinity a beautiful, safe and welcoming building for all of the groups that use our facility. We may not see you at work, but we see the results of it. **Thank you to the Property Committee!**

Jed Becher, Jon Bergquist, Donn Conn, Jim Heckenlaible, Dan Jacobson, Bruce Reimers, Deb O'Malley, Joan Winn, Nancy Slechta, Paul Meuwissen, Jerry Privratsky, Larry Schoenecker, Doug Dietrich, Shirley Privratsky, Pam Edel, Darbie Berger, Jeff Tolzmann, Mike Ryan, Jim Reemts, Larry Edel, Jay Nuhring, Bennie Remfert, Andy Nybo, Derek Lamb, Al Gulbranson, Ann Gengel

Are you looking to meet new people or deepen your faith by serving our church? Join a Worship Assistant Team! Team members serve one Sunday a month (the same week every month) about 8 - 10 times a year. Connect with Karen Taylor before or after worship services, email volunteer@holytrinityonline.org or call Jamie Bisek, Office Manager at 952-758-3513 and they will assist you with finding a team.

-Karen Taylor (Ministry Coordinator)

Family Christmas Service

It is not too early to plan for the Early Family Christmas Service! Please mark your calendars and consider inviting family to join you for our Early Family Christmas Service (this is our version of a Christmas Program where students will be actively involved in leading a Christmas Worship Service by singing, reading, and telling the Christmas Story). We have a **rehearsal** for Sunday School & Crew Time together at **10:00 a.m., Sunday, December 15th**. **The Early Family Christmas Service**, again for both Sunday School & Crew Time together, will be at **6:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 18th**. More details will be shared closer to the date, but please mark your calendars for both dates!

Hope House at HTLC

Beacon Interfaith Housing Network partners with congregations to host families who are experiencing homelessness, extending hospitality and a warm, safe place to rest. In recent years, area congregations have partnered together in this effort through Hope House. Due to a change in the Hope House residence, Holy Trinity has agreed to be the temporary hosting site until a more permanent location is determined. Our first week will be December 15th-22nd.

Christmas Eve Services

Mark your calendars: Early Family Christmas Service: 12/18 @ 6pm
Christmas Eve Services: 12/24 @ 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 10pm

Confirmation Class of 2019



Congratulations to the 2019 Confirmation Class! Back Row (Harmony Realander, Kayla Thorsfeldt, Charlie DeNardo, Jacob Lee, Ryan DeNardo, Mikaila Carston, Claire Baribeau. Middle Row (Pastor Ben Hilding, Frank Deichelbohrer, Alison Jellum, Ella Horejsi, Maddy Boulanger, Mandi Becher, Vanessa Valek, Tim Roneker, Pastor Alicia Hilding). Front Row (Jack Gilles, Alexis Mattern, Derek Schaap, Taylor Lindblom, and Cody Jacobson). Special thanks to Chirlyn Thorsfeldt, Beth Baribeau, Brittany Carston, and Sue Gilles for serving as confirmation leaders. Praise God for the community who has surrounded these students along the way, and who will continue to support them going forward!

Adult Ministry Opportunities

Are you ready to take the next step in your faith development? We have three great faith formation opportunities for adults to grow deeper in faith and with each other in November. There is a 1-time commitment, a 2-time commitment, and a 4-time commitment (all held in the Fireside Room). Check out these great options below!

1 Time Commitment

Brave Moms: Brave Kids: On Saturday, November 2nd at 7pm, join Nikki Hauck and a group of Holy Trinity moms and grandmas (and anyone else interested) who will be getting together at church to discuss the book, *Brave Moms Brave Kids* by Lee Neinhuis.

2 Time Commitment

Nooma: Jump in with Craig and Kathleen Schafer for a first Nooma video, "Rhythm" on either November 13th, from 6:50-7:30 or on November 17th, from 5:30-6:45, and then a second video called, "Dust" on either November 20th or November 24th. Please bring a journal and something to drink if you'd like!

4 Time Commitment

Loving the Bible Again: Each Sunday in November from 10:10-11:00, all are welcome to join Laurie Thorp for a lively discussion of the book, *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans.