

# The Visitor

January 2020

Volume 37 Issue 1

## Who's Vision is This?

Christianity Today published an interesting article this past month.

The article I'm thinking of, written by Karl Vaters, is titled, "How Did Those 10-Year Vision Statements Turn Out For Everyone?" Vaters recalls the churches who produced vision statements in 2010 for the 2020 year. He continues to write about why he did not write one.

He says, "If I had decided to write a 2020 Vision statement, I have a pretty good idea where I'd be right now. In the same place I was in 2010. Wondering what had gone wrong with all my well-laid plans." Vaters encourages the reader to "let go" and "let God." Instead of setting sights on the future, he says we should take everything one day at a time. Rather than pushing for goals, he says we should take joy in the "now."

While Vaters raises good concerns, I would say that the reason his vision statement for his church wouldn't work is not because of a lack of trust in God, or because vision statements are ineffective. It's because the vision statement is *his*. Throughout the article, Vaters repeatedly uses the language of "I" when referring to the vision statement. While I'm guessing he is a faithful leader in many ways, when you're working with a community of faith, and when that community of faith is discerning how to be faithful to God, then we don't want to ask the question, "what's *my* vision statement?" We want to ask the question, "what is *God's* vision for this church?"

Pastor Alicia and I could come up with our own vision statement, and then try to convince the rest of the church (and God!) that we have the right answer. But we believe that's the wrong way to go about this. We believe the process of arriving at a vision statement needs to include the voices of the congregation. But it also doesn't stop by listening to the voices just within Holy Trinity's walls. In January and February, the third phase of the 2020 Vision process will involve "**Looking Outward.**" If we have the courage and humility to listen to what the world needs from the church, we might have a better understanding of what God's purpose is for us as well.

**Outward Huddle:** On January 5th, from 4-6pm, we are kicking off this phase with an "Outward Huddle." We are bringing in external voices to share their perspectives. Bishop Ann Svenningsen will speak about what she sees in our synod and the greater ELCA, and how Holy Trinity might respond. We'll have the Fleshpots of Egypt play, a band comprised of 3 Lutheran pastors and a Luther Seminary professor. We'll even have a friend of mine who doesn't go to church anymore. And Lakeside Supper Club is catering. You won't want to miss this!

**Road Trips:** Through January and February, we'll also be taking a series of "Road Trips." Dennis Jasperson of the Vision Team is coordinating these trips to other local churches, other ELCA churches, as well as destination churches. While we will still have worship at Holy Trinity every week, you are invited to join a road trip to worship elsewhere, where we will take a look at best practices of other churches, but also reflect on what we notice about HTLC when we are on the outside, looking in.

**Mission Moments:** What does New Prague need from Holy Trinity? During January and February, George Winn from the Vision Team is bringing in a series of community leaders to share "Mission Moments" on what our community needs from Holy Trinity. Our mayor is coming. Representatives from senior care, education, Peace Center, Beacon Interfaith Housing Network, etc are coming. What are the needs people see? How can the people of God at Holy Trinity respond?

At the end, this Vision isn't mine. It's not Pastor Alicia's. If we take the time to listen to the voices not only from the inside of the church, but also from the outside, we just might have a clearer sense of what God is calling us to do and to be "now" in 2020 and for years to come. Here we go!

-Pastor Ben Hilding



### In This Issue:

Christmas at Holy Trinity	pg. 2
Volunteer of the Year	pg. 3
Vision 2020 Updates	pg. 4
Outward Huddle	pg. 5
Holy Trinity Happenings	pg. 6
Council Meeting Minutes	pg. 7

### Key Dates

1/1	Worship Resumes
1/1	No Confirmation or Crew Time
1/5	Sunday School Resumes
1/5	Outward Vision Huddle
1/8	Confirmation and Crew Time Resume
1/19	Pre-Annual Summit Meeting
1/26	Annual Summit Meeting

### In Our Prayers

We ask that you keep in your prayers: *Laurie Tolzmann, Susie Rogers, Claire Warner, Elaine Jacobson, Elaine Blomquist, Susan Wyatt, Mary Eagen, Pearl Shirley, Ann Gengel, Lucas, Joey, Barb Warner, Marcia Jarrett, Mark Jackson, and the Schoenebeck family as they recover from a house fire.* Please inform the church office of any illness, hospitalizations, or prayer requests as desired.

### Wednesday Meals

Served from 5:00-5:50pm.

1/1	Chef's Choice
1/8	Pizza
1/15	Soup
1/22	Shepherds Pie
1/29	Breakfast

### 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:** Mike Ryan  
**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 [hollytrinityonline.org](http://hollytrinityonline.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 Fiala  
Jay Schoenebeck  
Dan Jacobson  
Tim Ditberner  
Tyler Kienow  
Jesse Hemann

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**1300 Main Street East**  
**New Prague, MN 56071**  
**Phone: (952) 758-3513**  
**Fax: (952) 758-4407**

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**NEW PRAGUE, MN 56071**  
**PERMIT #51**



# Christmas at Holy Trinity



# 11/18/19 Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Council November 18, 2019  
Called to Order 633 Berger  
Present: Hemann, Pastor Ben, Klingfus, Schoenebeck, Kienow, Fiala, Dittberner, Hanson-Busch, Pastor Alicia  
Guest: Jamie Bisek  
Motion: Approve agenda, Schoenebeck, second Kiewow: passed  
Motion: Approve October 21 minutes. Hemann, second Dittberner: passed.  
Children Youth and Family Report: Task force represented by Jay Schoenebeck(council) and Jamie Bisek(staff) other members include Alice Price(CYF), Nikki Hauck (Vision 2020) brought recommendation to council for consideration of youth ministry director position fulltime to start in 2020. Budget considerations and council discussion followed.  
Motion: To hire Fulltime Youth Ministry Director by mid 2020. Kienow, second Dittberner: passed.  
Treasurers report: Reviewed schedule of revenue, strong giving in October and November so far, with no unexpected expenses. Current budget tracking at 12.2% growth over year actual. Combining balance sheet reviewed.  
Mission Outreach team benevolence donation requests reviewed;\$1250 for Cuddle and Kind dolls to be given out at baptisms, and \$2500 for a water well from ELCA Good Gifts. Motion: Approve total \$3750 donations as requested: Hemann, second Klingfus  
Pastor Alicia report: Trunk or Treat successful, Adult Educational offerings this month continue, Stewardship team reports total pledge cards turned in to date for 2020 at 115. Stewardship team to send follow up letters to families that haven't pledged including those who have pledged in the past, and reach out to those who are behind on 2019 pledges in case they are in need of pastoral support. Thanksgiving meal scheduled for November 28. Early Christmas service with children's program preparation has started, is scheduled for December 18<sup>th</sup> with plans to stream video to other rooms in church. New members recently received, next class February 8,2020.  
Pastor Ben report: Dialogue sermon ongoing through the Looking Inward Phase with staff members participating, Confirmation reviewed: 19 students over 2 services. Looking Inward interviews continue, next huddle for Looking Outward Phase is January 5- council asked to be meal servers. Room 206 converted to a mission storage area. Hope House starts December 15. Planned reception for John Bergquist December 22. Christmas Eve services at 1, 3,5,10pm. Annual reviews of employees completed. Pastors both completed self assessments for their reviews with executive pending scheduling.  
Council retreat set for February 8, 2020 site to be determined  
Closed with The Lord's Prayer  
Motion to adjourn 744: Dittberner, second Kienow, passed  
Next meeting December 16 6:30

## Mission/Outreach Distributions

Holy Trinity designates 10% of all offerings as a congregational tithe, given away outside our congregation. The following are year end distributions:  
50% to the Minneapolis Area Synod  
25% to Bega Kwa Bega, our sister synod in Tanzania  
25% to Beacon Interfaith Housing Network

## Finance Update

(Finance update as of November 30,2019)  
Revenue: YTD Budget \$449,018, YTD Actual \$459,945  
Expenses: YTD Budget \$460,778, YTD Actual \$455,066  
Revenue-Expenses: YTD Budget \$-11,760, YTD Actual \$4,879

## Radio Ministry

Thank you to all those who have sponsored a week of Holy Trinity's radio broadcast for 2019. As we begin a new year, we are in need of sponsors. If you would like to sponsor a week, please contact the church office. A one week sponsorship is \$63.75.

## New Member Class

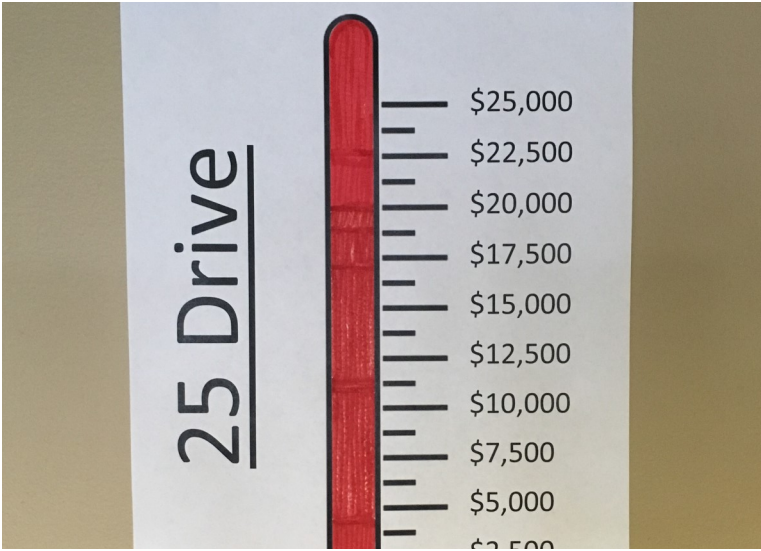
Are you looking to jump into the mission and ministry of Holy Trinity? Do you know someone who is looking for a faith community? On Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, from 9-11am, we will have a "New Member class", where we take time to learn about you, have an introduction to Holy Trinity's ministries, and get acclimated to what can sometimes be a confusing building. We'd love to welcome you to this community of faith! You can sign up at [www.holytrinityonline.org](http://www.holytrinityonline.org).

## Year End Plan

Holy Trinity is a generous congregation, and is doing great at keeping up with our hopes for a balanced budget in 2019. If there happens to be a surplus at year end, the church council voted to have 50% go toward debt relief, 25% toward our capital emergency fund, while keeping 25% in the bank for cash flow purposes.



# Holy Trinity Happenings



## 25 Drive

We did it! Congratulations Holy Trinity! Thanks to your generosity, we exceeded our \$25,000 goal for the month of December to invest in Children, Youth and Family (CYF) ministries! Called the “25 Drive,” we had a goal of selling Christmas tree ornaments in an effort to reach \$25,000 in 25 days to support the 250 youth of Holy Trinity. Coupled with a matching gift, we now have over \$50,000 to help kickstart our investment in taking our CYF ministries to the next level. PRAISE THE LORD!!!



## Eyes Open Worship Series

In January and February, we will kick off a new sermon series titled, “Eyes Open.” After Christmas we celebrate the liturgical season of Epiphany, which looks to Biblical stories of when people’s eyes were opened to the divinity of Christ. In the same way, there are times in our lives when we can have eye opening experiences of faith that help us recognize God’s presence in our midst. Tune into this new sermon series as we seek to have our “eyes open” not just in our own faith life, but also how we can see the needs of the neighbor.



## Mike Ryan– Facilities Manager

Let us welcome Mike Ryan to the Holy Trinity staff! Mike takes over the reigns as Facility Manager, in a 6 month interim position. Mike brings with him experience working in the HVAC/plumbing world as well as insights from serving faithfully on the Property Team. Mike’s background includes serving in the military, working in computer programming, working on car engines, and serving as a loving grandfather. Mike and his wife, Lois, have been selfless volunteers in many ways, and we are grateful to welcome Mike to the staff!



## “Good Book Club”

There's a group of women who have formed the “Good Book Club,” with a goal of reading the Bible together in one year! They would love to invite you to jump into this developing Holy Trinity Women’s Group. In addition to this Bible study, they are also planning events throughout the year hoping to grow in faith and friendships. If you would like to participate in this adult ministry opportunity, please contact Nikki Hauck at [hauckclan@gmail.com](mailto:hauckclan@gmail.com), or Gina Fadden at [ginafadden33@gmail.com](mailto:ginafadden33@gmail.com) or 612-860-1241.

# Volunteer of the Year

This month I'd like to highlight the volunteers that serve the Children, Youth & Family (CYF) program. For those of you who witnessed the Early Family Christmas service, you understand the CFY program of Holy Trinity is STRONG! There are 100+ volunteers who serve countless hours planning and preparing to create CYF programs that are meaningful for our youth. The immense growth in the number of children and youth attending our programming is proof of the dedication of our volunteers.

One of our CYF volunteers has gone up and beyond the call of "volunteer service" to our church. Bailey Hinricher has served as key volunteer for VBS, Crew Time, the Christmas Program and dedicated so much time to Holy Trinity, one might think she is an employee. She helps lead large groups, she sings, she dances, she organizes materials for Crew Time leaders and preps other materials without hesitation. She is a shining example of what it means to selflessly dedicate your time to God's work. Please join me in congratulating **Bailey Hinricher, our 2019 Holy Trinity Volunteer of the Year!**

Blessings,  
Karen Taylor, Ministry Coordinator



# Missions/ Outreach Updates



## Little Free Food Pantry

Are you looking for a way to serve the community? Want to find a way to help out those in need but can't find a service opportunity that fits in your schedule? Here's a great way to serve. While you are out, consider buying a few extra cans or non-perishable items for our Little Free Pantry by the south entrance, free to anyone in need of food. You can put them directly in the Pantry or in the box marked Little Free Pantry inside the south entrance by Door #2. Thank you!



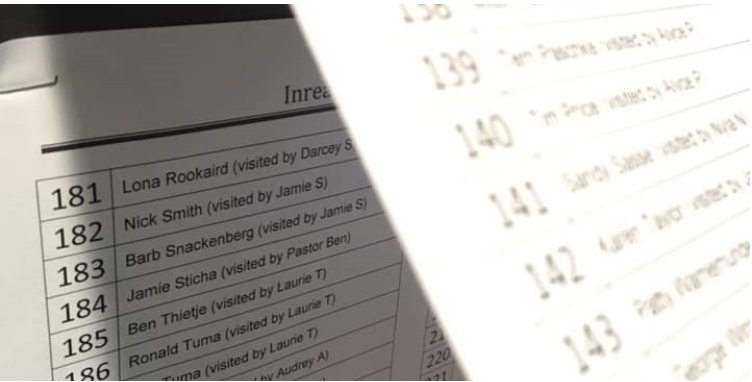
## Hope House

Thank you to all those who helped host Hope House here at Holy Trinity. Because of your hospitality, we could provide temporary relief for four families experiencing homelessness. Hope House is a local non-profit of four churches that is guided by the organization called Beacon Interfaith Housing Network. It seems faithful for us Christians to do this, especially at a time when we hear of our own Savior having no crib for a bed. Holy Trinity has agreed to host Hope House four more times in the 2020 year.



20 VISION 20

LOOKING INWARD



Inreach Process

Thank you Jackie Lee of the Vision Team for leading the one-on-one Inreach process! We hope these 200 conversations build relationships, help us identify the gifts of this congregation as we “look inward,” and guide us as we discern our mission/vision going forward.



“Conversations” Sermon Series

Thanks to Karen Taylor, Rose Fife, Rita Sapp, Toby Thietje, Lex Lamers, and Jon Bergquist for jumping into the “Conversations” Sermon series! As we “look inward” at the many gifts of this church, it only made sense to have conversations for sermons as well.



Visit with the Bishop

In preparation for the January 5th “Outward Huddle,” a few Vision Team members visited the Synod office to do some planning with our keynote speaker, Bishop Ann Svennungsen.

20 VISION 20

LOOKING OUTWARD



Outward Huddle

The “Looking Outward” phase of the Vision process kicks off with our “Outward Huddle” on January 5th, from 4-6pm. Pictured here is the entertainment– the “Fleishpots of Egypt.” More details on pg. 1 and 3!



Road Trips

During the “Looking Outward” phase of our 2020 Vision process during January and February, Dennis Jaspersen will be leading “Road Trips” to local churches, ELCA churches, and destination churches. Sign-ups will be out soon.



Mission Moments

Through January and February, we’ll “listen outward” through a series of Mission Moments articulating needs of the community. Thanks to George Winn for coordinating these guest speakers!

SUNDAY

@ Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, January 5th ~ 4 to 6 PM ~  
RSVP by December 29th at HTLCvision2020@gmail.com, 952.758.3513

FREE • DINNER • DESSERT • ENTERTAINMENT  
KIDS MEAL • CHILDCARE  
GUEST SPEAKER: Bishop Ann Svennungsen  
~ WEAR YOUR BEST BUFFALO PLAID ~



Holy Trinity  
Lutheran Church

OUTWARD Huddle