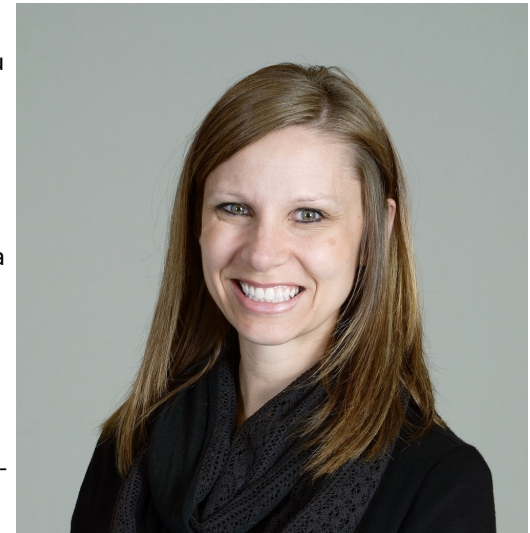


# The Visitor

February 2020 Volume 37 Issue 2



## Time for Lent

**What is Lent?** Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday (Wednesday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>). Lent means “lengthen.” If you are like me, when you hear of the season when days are lengthening and we are nearing spring, you say, “thank goodness!” Lent is the season that leads up to spring. Lent is a sacred season of the church when people of faith make a commitment to faith practices as a way of preparing for Holy Week and Easter. It is a time of training, of creating healthy faith habits. Training, however, is rarely successfully done alone. We are much more successful in creating new habits and routines when we do them with others.

**What practices do we encourage during Lent?** As a church, we encourage you to take up three faith practices during Lent:

- 1) We always say “worship needs to be the first faith priority” but during Lent, we invite you to prioritize weekly worship
- 2) We will be having a congregation-wide small group experience when you are invited to jump into a small group for four weeks to share life and faith together for an hour
- 3) We will be handing out a Lenten Daily Devotional including writings by the people of HTLC and various ministry partners

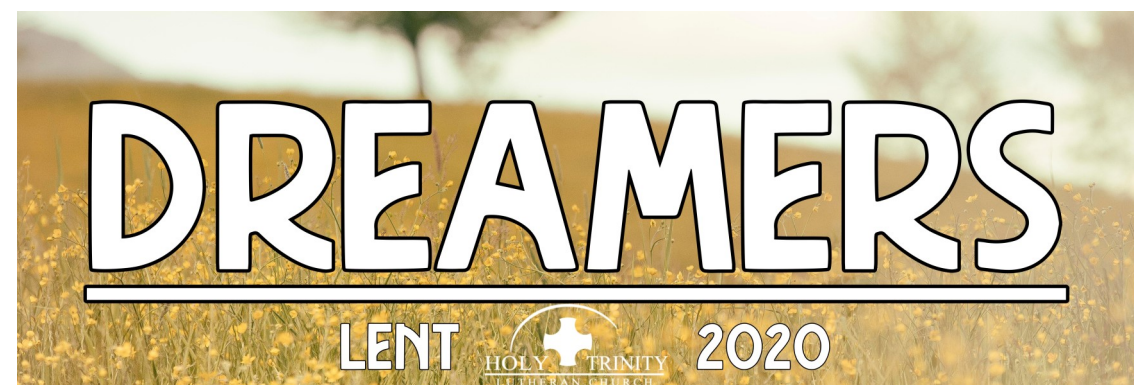
**Why take up a new faith practice?** It is common for people of faith to make a commitment to self-discipline as we remember the 40 days when Jesus was tempted in the wilderness and needed to have self-discipline. This was a training period before his launching into ministry.

**What will our theme be this year?** The theme for this year during Lent will be “Dreamers.” The Bible is full of people who have visions, dreams, and revelations. Sometimes God paints a picture of possibility through these methods. If we take time to stop, and focus on God through these three practices, we might similarly catch a glimpse of the future God has in store for us. Through Lent we are going to study a number of different biblical examples of people who had a vision, dream, or revelation that inspired them to answer God’s call and live their life in a different way.

We hope you will take the invitation to experience the sacred season of Lent. This is a training season for people of faith, when we prepare for a life of faith together.

I look forward to this meaningful season of faith with you!

-Pastor Alicia Hilding



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### Key Dates

2/2	3rd Grade Bible Class
2/5	3rd Graders receive Bibles in worship
2/8	Council Retreat
2/8	New Member Class
2/9 to 2/16	Hope House
2/26	Ash Wednesday

### In Our Prayers

We ask that you keep in your prayers: *Jesus, Lamb of God, we come to you for healing and strength. We lift up to you Laurie Tolzmann, Elaine Jacobson, Larry Edwards, Mark Jackson, Elaine Blomquist, Claire Warner, Lucinda Rose, Haily, Wayne (Mary Eagen’s brother) and for Ray and Ann Neidermeyer as they grieve the loss of their son, Tucker. Please inform the church office of any illness, hospitalizations, or prayer requests as desired.*

### Wednesday Meals

Served from 5:00-5:50pm.

2/5	Tacos
2/12	Lasagna
2/19	Chef’s Choice
2/26	Soup Supper Supreme Begins

### 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 [holyltrinityonline.org](http://holyltrinityonline.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:** Karla Klingfus  
**Vice President:** Tim Dittberner  
**Secretary:** Mary Hanson-Busch  
**Treasurer:** Jesse Hemann  
 Jay Schoenebeck  
 Jackie Mackenthun  
 Sande Schoenecker  
 Robyn Smithson  
 Dirk Berger

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**  
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20 VISION 20

LOOKING OUTWARD



The Minnesota (and buffalo plaid) themed “Looking Outward” Huddle was a huge success on January 5th as we heard from voices outside Holy Trinity. Lex Hesterberg presented a communion set made from pruned branches. Bishop Ann Svennungsen gave a keynote presentation. The “Fleshpots of Egypt” provided musical entertainment. A panel discussing the future of the church consisted of Bishop Svennungsen, Professor Rolf Jacobson from Luther Seminary, Rev. Jeffrey Engholm from Trinity Lutheran in Watertown, and Mr. Howie Smith. Lakeside Supper Club catered in tater tot hotdish and chicken wild rice soup. And the church council did the dishes.



Get Involved: Road Trips

The Road Trips to other congregations have been a blast! Dennis Jaspersen has led a crew of people to go to local churches, other ELCA churches, and destination churches, as we “look outward” at what God is doing through other faith communities. Please sign up for February road trips at the bulletin board by the church office!



Get Involved: Mission Moments

Through the “Looking Outward” phase, George Winn is coordinating speakers from the community to share insights on how the church might respond to the area needs. So far, we’ve had Mayor Chuck Nikolay, Rita Goggins from the Peace Center, Susan Eckstrom (Praha Village), and Tony Buthe (NPAS— pictured above).

12/16/19 Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Council: December 16, 2019  
Call to order 629 Berger  
Present: Berger, Klingfus, Kienow, Hanson-Busch, Dittberner, Pastor Ben, Jacobson, Hemann, Schoenebeck, Fiala  
Motion: Approve agenda with moving 2020 Budget Review/Approval to after Treasurer report and 25 drive update. Kienow, second Dittberner, passed  
Motion: Approve minutes November 18 meeting, Schoenebeck, second Klingfus: passed  
Motion: Approve special meeting minutes November 25, Fiala, second Klingfus: passed  
Devotions: Canoeing the Mountains Chapter 14, 15 and general overview/recap  
  
Treasurers report: Strong giving in November continues in December, no unexpected expenses, YTD tracking for 11-12% increase overall in revenue from 2018. Will end year with budget surplus. No unexpected changes, combining balance sheet reviewed.  
Motion: Any surplus revenue over expenses of 2019 budget to be divided : 50% to debt reduction, 25% to capital fund, 25% to general fund for liquid operating expenses. Hemann, second Kienow: passed  
25 Drive update: \$18900, 71 giving units, with 9 days left in the drive. 25 drive will be kept in short term designated fund with anticipated use beginning in May 2020.  
2020 Budget Presentation: Overview of 2020 budget including personnel, maintenance, and building fund adjustments. Stewardship review indicates pledge cards total donation amounts up 8.1% from 2018, total card numbers increased 13.2% over 2018. On track for 11-12% increase in overall giving, land sale investment will continue to go to capital fund. Budget to be presenting in pre-meeting January 19, and annual meeting January 26 with final YTD 2019 update.  
Motion: Approve 2020 budget as presented, Kienow, Dittberner  
Pastor’s Report: Thanksgiving Dinner, well attended and appreciated, Ladies Tea continues a nice tradition. Early family Christmas expecting large crowd December 18- new screens added in Pauls Place and Fellowship Hall for additional viewing and future use. Housing allowance for both Pastors for 2019 \$21,750 each.  
Karla Klingfus will offer the sermon on December 29, January 1..Reviewed Inward phase process and information gathering. Jon Bergquist retirement reception December 22, Christmas Eve services 1, 3, 5, 10  
Thanks to outgoing council members: Eric Fiala, Tyler Kienow and Dan Jacobson  
Outward Huddle: January 5<sup>th</sup>, council asked to serve the meal  
  
Motion: Mission Team benevolence donation requests: Approve \$1500 to River Valley Health Services and with Remaining 2019 donations: divide as \$4000 or 50% to Minneapolis Area Synod, \$2000 or 25% to Bega Kwa Bega Tanzania Synod, and \$2000 or 25% to Beacon Interfaith Housing Network. In January 2020 \$5000 for Christo Oberto. Klingfus, second Schoenebeck: passed.  
  
Closed with Lord’s Prayer  
Motion: to adjourn 810, Kienow, second Fiala.  
Next meeting: Monday January 27, 2020

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.

Finance Update

(Finance update as of December 31, 2019)  
Revenue: YTD Budget \$504,215, YTD Actual \$552,387  
Expenses: YTD Budget \$504,215, YTD Actual \$545,918  
Revenue-Expenses: YTD Budget \$0, YTD Actual \$6,468

COUNCIL THANK YOU!



Tyler Kienow

Dan Jacobson

Eric Fiala

COUNCIL WELCOME!



Robyn Smithson

Sande Schoenecker

Jackie Mackenthun



# Holy Trinity Happenings



## Annual Summit

Thanks to all who attended the 2019 Annual Summit (Annual Meeting) on January 26th. We recalled the many highlights from 2019, and began to look at some exciting things ahead in 2020. Following the meeting, a delicious chili and cornbread feed was shared. This is an important meeting of the congregation, so thank you to all those who came. At the meeting, the 2019 annual report was distributed. If you did not get a chance to pick up your report, you are invited to do so at the Welcome Center.



## Gospel Kordah

On January 19th and 22nd, Holy Trinity honored Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in worship. Dr. King is remembered as an American prophet of justice among races and nations. As a pastor, Dr. King preached nonviolence and demanded that love be returned for hate. We were blessed by the presence of a guest preacher, Gospel Kordah. Mr. Kordah serves as the Dean of Students/ Equity Coordinator in the New Prague Area Schools. Thank you Gospel for sharing your words and your faith with this Holy Trinity community!



## “Good Book Club”

Thanks to all the women who have jumped into the “Good Book Club,” as they seek to read the Bible in a year. The yearlong program includes meetings once a month, as well as a workbook that accompanies the Bible reading process. On January 26th, they kicked off with a Bible study with Pastor Alicia. If you have interest in learning more about this group, please contact Gina Fadden (ginafadden33@gmail.com) or Nikki Hauck (hauckclan@gmail.com).



## HTLC hosts Conference Meeting

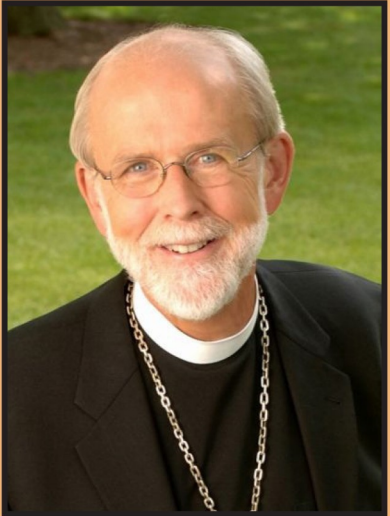
On Thursday morning of January 16th, Holy Trinity hosted the Southwest Conference clergy meeting. The Minneapolis Area Synod is made up of 8 geographical conferences, which meet on a regular basis. As part of the meeting, these area pastors participated in a prayer service, with Timothy Price providing reflective music. Special thanks to Donna Galvin for preparing hospitality items, Jim Cody for cleaning the church so quickly after Wed. night, and Jamie Bisek for all you did to welcome these pastors with open arms!



LOOKING  
BACKWARD. INWARD. OUTWARD.  
FORWARD

@ Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, March 1st~ 4 to 6 PM ~  
RSVP by February 23rd at HTLCvision2020@gmail.com, 952.758.3513

FREE • DINNER • DESSERT • KIDS  
MEAL • ENTERTAINMENT & CHILDCARE

GUEST SPEAKER:  
Mark Hanson





HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - VISION 2020



# Worship Notes



## Eyes Open Worship Series

Until February 23rd we will continue the worship series titled, “Eyes Open.” During this season of Epiphany, we open our eyes to the ways God is at work in our world. Epiphany concludes on February 23rd, which is Transfiguration Sunday.



## Ash Wednesday

On February 26th, Holy Trinity will have two Ash Wednesday services. These services will be at 4:30 and 6:00pm. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. Last year, we had a packed service at 6pm, so we hope to allow more room by adding the 4:30 service.



## Dreamers

In Lent, we will focus on the theme, “Dreamers” during worship. These services will correspond with the small groups and the “Looking Forward” phase of the Vision 2020 process.

# Mission/ Outreach



## February Mission: Diapers

Based on Tony Buthe’s “looking outward” mission moment, our February mission of the month is collecting diapers. Please bring your donations (up to size 4T) to the Missions cart in the narthex. We are also accepting new/gently used baby clothes up to size 4T.



## Give Away Night– Feb. 24th

HTLC is offering a Giveaway Night of the remaining winter outerwear items to the community and surrounding areas on **Monday, February 24, 3:30 pm-5:30 pm**. Most of our inventory is Youth Small to Adult Medium. No registration re-



## Hope House Returns

We are happy to welcome Hope House back on Sunday, February 9th through Sunday, February 16th. Please see their Facebook page for volunteer opportunities.

# Communications Central

## Faith Milestone 3rd Grade Bibles

Calling all 3rd graders and families! On Sunday, February 2nd, you are invited to a special Bible class. You will have a chance to learn how to navigate your own Bibles. On February 5th, you will receive these Bibles in worship as part of your Faith Milestone. If you know of a 3rd grader who might appreciate this opportunity, please invite them to attend!

## Boy Scout Sunday

Sunday, February 2nd, we are celebrating Scout Sunday as it recognizes the 110th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. During each Scout meeting, Scouts promise to do their duty to God and their country, to help other people at all times and to obey the 12 points of the Scout Law. Cub Scout Pack 323 and Boy Scout Troop 323 would like to thank the members of Holy Trinity for the use of their church for meetings and award ceremonies! Members of the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts will be serving as worship assistants on Sunday, February 2nd. Thank you Scouts!

## Confirmation Giving Challenge

The Missions/Outreach Team is excited to again offer the Confirmation Challenge of \$3000 to a charity of their choice. Each Confirmation team will present to the Missions Team a nonprofit organization they believe deserves a Holy Trinity donation of \$3000 and why. Those presentations will occur on Sunday, February 12, after worship, in the Sanctuary.

## New Member Class

Are you interested in becoming a member at Holy Trinity? Our next New Member Gathering will be held Saturday, February 8th from 9am-11am. 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!

## Thank you Karla!

Thank you Karla Klingfus for preaching on December 29th and January 1st! Your willingness to serve gave us a great weekend off to be with family, but it also gave the congregation a wonderful chance to see their new council president in action. Thanks also to Pat Remfert for serving as Assisting Minister. You both are servants, and we thank God for you! -Pastors Alicia and Ben

## New Executive Committee

At the January church council meeting, Karla Klingfus was elected as council president, Mary Hanson Busch was elected as secretary, Tim Dittberner was elected as vice president, and Jesse Hemann was elected as treasurer. These four positions constitute Holy Trinity’s executive committee.

## 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 and literally protect our most valuable assets. 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, Tim Thorp, Dennis Jaspersen, Tammy Kajer and, 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](mailto:volunteer@holyltrinityonline.org).

## First Communion

4th Graders are invited to a First Communion class on March 29th, from 4:30-7pm. First Communion will be celebrated on Maundy Thursday, April 9th., or the following Wednesday, April 15th at 6pm. Please RSVP for the class by calling the church office.

## Amazing Grays Update

What are we? A gathering of folks that care for each other, support one another, visit places, and visit about our every day concerns and joyful things we have. We recently went to Tim and Laurie Thorp’s for an outing and session, to My Pillow Factory and other places. Also recently, Hal Bass spoke about his life as a youngster to today. We meet every Wednesday at 9:00 am at HTLC. We do a trip or go for an outing each month. 2020 will be a great year as we gather to enjoy life and each other!

## Director of Youth Ministry Update

In November 2019, the church council approved the addition of a Director of Youth Ministry in 2020. In December, they launched the 25 Drive, which successfully raised over \$58,000 to kickstart this investment going forward. In the next month or so, be on the lookout for the position to be posted, with the intention to have this person begin mid-2020. If you know of someone who you think would be a good candidate for the position, please encourage them to apply!

## Lent Small Groups

Last year, we tried a “Get Connected” small group experience in Lent, and had tremendous success. Over 150 adults and many kids jumped into small groups with a theme of “Tests.” This year, once again we will have a small group experience, with a theme of “Dreamers.” Our hope is that as we study dreamers of the Bible, you can bring your own dreams for your faith and the future of this church. Be on the lookout for the small groups to be posted soon.