

The Visitor

March 2020

Volume 37 Issue 3

Dreamers

What are your dreams for Holy Trinity? What do you see in our future?

Our theme during this season of Lent is Dreamers and we want to hear from you. Are you hesitant....nervous? Does it feel like a weird thing to do in the church? I'm not surprised.

Jesus faced religious leaders who preached that religion was about rules and regulations. They told people to learn where the lines are and to stay within them. Many times, that same attitude can be felt in the church today. But when we look to His ministry, we see that Jesus made sure faith wasn't just about following the rules. Faith also involved wondrous miracles, breaking down barriers, daring to welcome the outcasts, feeding more people than what seemed possible, and picturing God's heavenly future and how that leaks into our world today.

Michael Yaconelli is considered a guru in the world of youth ministry. In his book *Dangerous Wonder* (1998), Yaconelli refers to Jesus as the "Dream Giver." The One who wants us to listen to His dream for us, and to give ourselves permission to dream as well. He writes, "We have forgotten how to dance, how to sing, and how to laugh. We have allowed technology to beat our imaginations into submission and have become tourists rather than travelers. Screens dominate our time, alter our values, numb us to life in all of its wildness" (p. 25). Yaconelli adds that, "somewhere along the way we had the child chased out of us. Our childlikeness is usually snuffed out by people who tell us what we can't do. They are dream stealers" (p. 26).

This Lent, let's push the limits.

Let's not be burdened by what we can't do. Let's not be silenced by the dream stealers. Rather, let's honor the vision of the prophet Joel:

"I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit." –Joel 2:28-29

Notice that it's the old and the young, the male and the female, the wealthy and the slave. When it comes to God's work in the world, all people have the chance to dream-and yes, that includes you!

As we enter the fourth and final phase of the Vision 2020 process, we are "Looking Forward." As we think about the future, we want to invite your dreams and visions of the future, even if you feel like they might be a little far-fetched or unrealistic. On Sunday, March 1st, we kick off this "Looking Forward" phase with a Vision Huddle, and we are intentionally putting young people in leadership roles. I believe our young people are not simply representing the future; those with a childlike faith just may not have had all their dreams stolen yet. Because of that, our young people just may be our best teachers in how to dream today.

Where can you start? It might involve letting your mind wander during a sermon. It might involve jumping into a small group and brainstorming ideas together. It might involve spending time in prayer after reading a Lenten devotional. In the words of Yaconelli, "It is time to find the place where the dangerous wonder of faith can be discovered-a place landscaped by risky curiosity, wild abandon, daring playfulness, quiet listening, irresponsible passion, happy terror, and naïve grace" (p. 32).

During this season of Lent, whether it's during worship, during your own devotional time, or during your small groups, give yourself permission to dream. To wonder. To ask, "What if?," or "Why can't we?".

Let's look forward to the future together!



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Key Dates

3/1	Vision Huddle Dinner #4
3/8	Daylight Savings Time
3/8	Small Groups—Start
3/29	First Communion Class
4/5	Palm Sunday
4/9	Maundy Thursday
4/10	Good Friday
4/12	Easter

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 Mark Jackson, Elaine Blomquist, Haily, Rachel, Robin, and family and friends of Rochelle Sorensen, daughter of Bob and Audre Johnson, wife and mother of Dave, Lucas and Krista Sorensen and Maureen Edwards in the death of her husband, Larry. Light our way to peace, O Christ. Amen.*

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

Wednesday Meals

Served from 5:00-5:50pm.

3/4	Soup Supper Supreme
3/11	Soup Supper Supreme
3/18	Soup Supper Supreme
3/25	Soup Supper Supreme

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
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

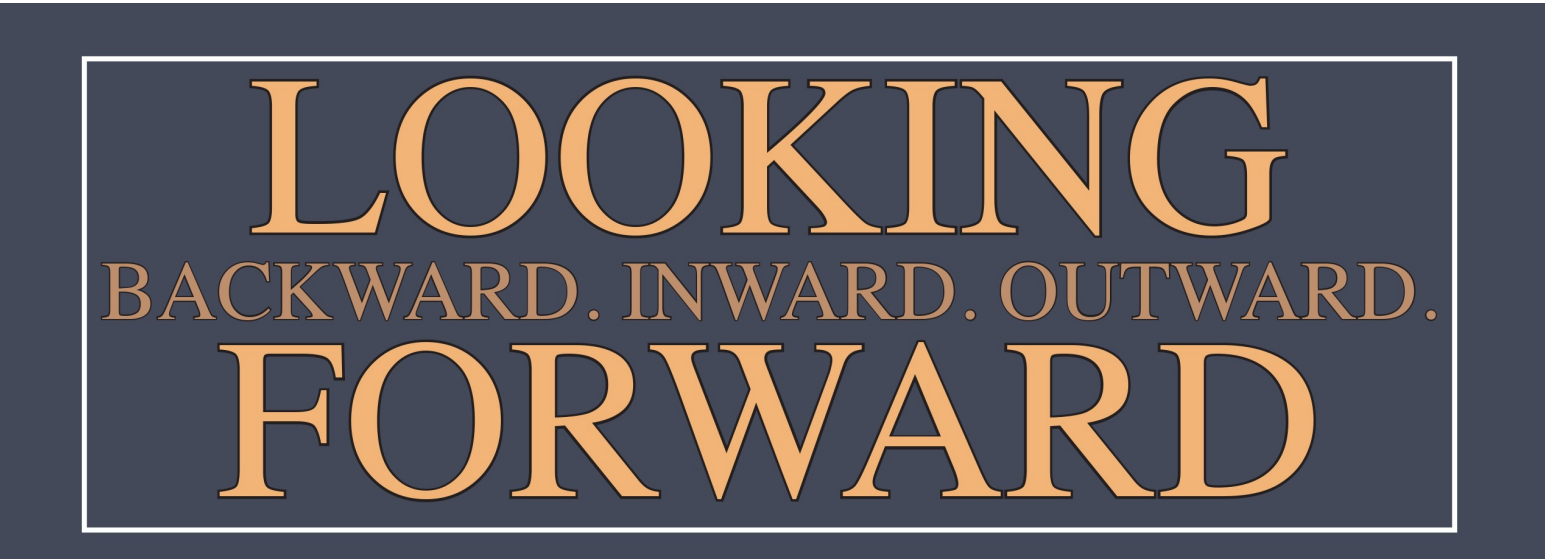
President: Karla Klingfus
Vice President: Tim Dittberner
Secretary: Mary Hanson-Busch
Treasurer: Jesse Hemann
Jay Schoenebeck
Jackie Mackenthun
Sande Schoenecker
Robyn Smithson
Dirk Berger

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-Pastor Ben Hilding



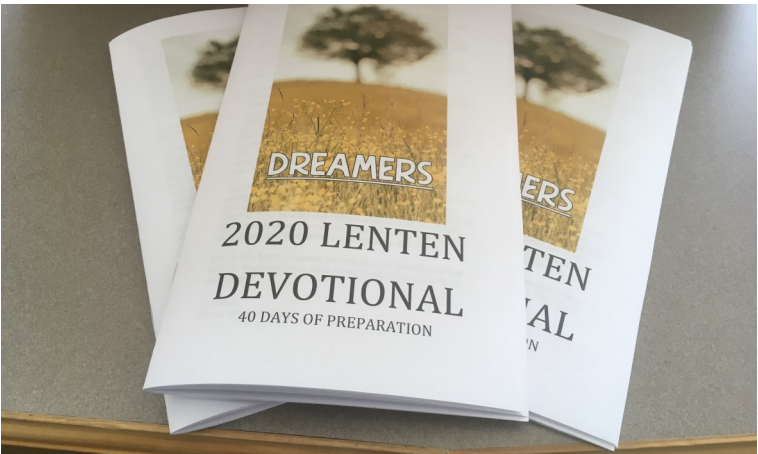
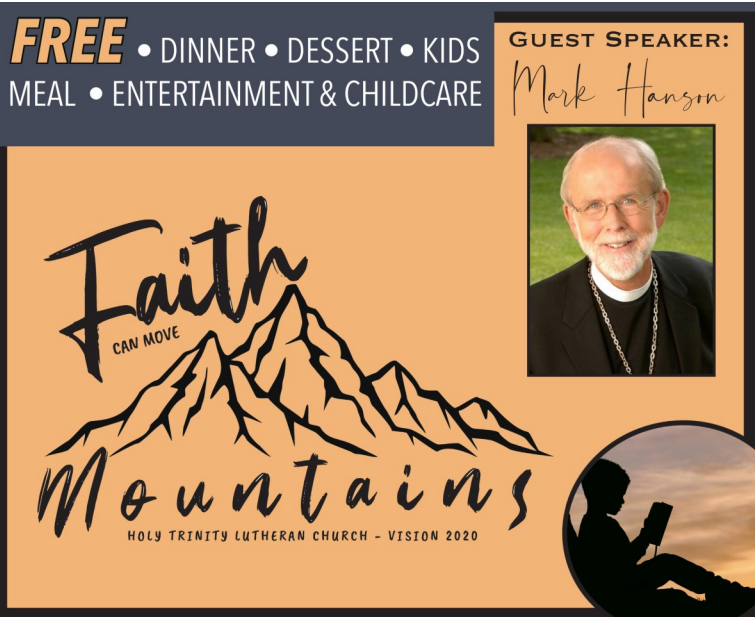
Looking Forward Huddle

It’s not too late! This Sunday, March 1st, Holy Trinity has it’s fourth and final Vision Huddle. We will look forward to the future together! Mark Hanson, retired presiding bishop of the ELCA and president of the Lutheran World Federation will be with us as our keynote speaker. In addition, since we will be looking forward to the future, many of Holy Trinity’s young people will be having leadership roles. The bell choir will play, confirmation students will be greeting and serving the meal, high school students will be leading prayers and introducing the speaker, and a youth band will also debut. We’ll get updates regarding the vision process thus far, as well as information regarding the last steps of the Vision 2020 process. Lastly, a surprise gift will be presented to the church: you won’t want to miss it! Call the church office to reserve your spot at a table today!



Worship Series: “Dreamers”

Holy Trinity’s worship theme during Lent will be “Dreamers”. What are your hopes for the future of this church? What are your dreams as a faith community? Through Lent, we will study Biblical characters who had dreams and visions. We’re invited to bring our own dreams to the table as well.



Get Involved: Lent Devotional

One Holy Trinity tradition is to publish a Lenten devotional, featuring words and prayers from within this community of faith. These devotionals are now available. Please consider taking up the discipline of reading one of these devotionals for each of the 40 days of Lent. Thank you Deb Lindblom for partnering with the staff to make this devotional available!

1/27/20 Council Meeting Minutes

Call to order: 631 Dirk Berger
Present: Pastor Alicia, Pastor Ben, Klingfus, Berger,Smithson, Schoenebeck, Hanson-Busch, Schoenecker, Hemann, Dittberner, Mackenthun.
Approve agenda as printed: motion Schoenebeck, 2nd Klingfus, motion passed
Introductions by all members, welcome to new members, thanks to outgoing members.
Approve December 16,2019 minutes as printed: motion Klingfus, 2nd Hemann, motion passed

Election of 2020 Executive Team: Dirk Berger presented candidates for executive committee office as follows:

- President-** Karla Klingfus
- Vice President-** Tim Dittberner
- Treasurer-** Jesse Hemann
- Secretary-** Mary Hanson-Busch

Motion to approve/elect all candidates as presented : Schoenebeck, 2nd Mackenthun, motion passed

Devotions: Pastor Alicia/ Karla discussed plan for devotions for 2020 council rotating months using a hymn or Bible verse as inspiration

Pastor Alicia Report; thank you for a great 2019 year, highlighted the generosity of the congregation and encouraged reading of the annual report. Discussed 2020 Minneapolis Area Synod benevolence donation- council supports a recommendation of 10% increase to \$22,000 this year. All those who need to sign will be updated for banks and investment accounts include president and treasurer and accountant- plan for signing at next finance meeting. Minutes of annual meeting including elected council and this meeting including elected executive members to be forwarded to account holders through the church office. Council members will also be asked to write devotion for this year’s Lenten devotional booklet, theme is Dreamers.

Pastor Ben Report: Christmas attendance and service times reviewed. Currently in Eyes Open sermon series. Vision 2020 Looking Outward church visits happening, Mission moments highlighted with community leaders presenting ideas for local/area needs and outreach at services. Next huddle, Looking Forward March 1st.

Recap of 25 Drive included discussion of next steps toward hiring of Youth Ministry Director. Including development of committee to finalize job description and expectations, process for interviewing/hiring. Team to be formed by Pastor Ben, includes 2 council members, church staff member and CYF task force representative in addition to member at large from the congregation. Targeting June 1st start date. Holy Trinity sending representatives to EcoFaith Power Up Event February 8, 2020. Lutheran Pastors gathering recently hosted by Holy Trinity, well received.

Treasurers Report: Reviewed year end 2019 and December highlights of increased general contributions and year end gifts. Expenses up in December above budget reflect planned Benevolent team spending. Reviewed combining balance sheet.

Recap 2019 Annual Summit: consider increased outreach to encourage attendance/ stressing quorum amount, possible change to meal format during meeting time considered.

Dates of Note:

- February 8, 2020 Council Retreat- Redeemer Lutheran Church 8-4
- February 17, 2020 monthly council meeting 6:30, executive team 5:30
- February 22, 8:30-12:30 – Mpls Area Synod Toolkit workshop- email regarding registration to follow

Closing Prayer- Karla Klingfus
Motion to adjourn 758a: Dittberner, 2nd Schoenebeck, motion passed

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 January 31, 2020)
Revenue: YTD Budget \$45,184, YTD Actual \$47,144
Expenses: YTD Budget \$47,160, YTD Actual \$44,964
Revenue-Expenses: YTD Budget \$-1,976, YTD Actual \$2,181

Holy Trinity Happenings



Welcome New Members!

In February, 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: Kimberly and Kyle Carolberg, Tim, Meghan, Ashley, Lucas and Tyler Consdorf, Arlene Hilding, Mary Lou Most, and Tim, Cassie, Lydia, Paige and Benjamin Olson. We believe each of these people has been called to this community of faith, and we celebrate the ways God will shape Holy Trinity through your contributions. Welcome to HTLC!



Council Retreat

On February 8th, the Holy Trinity Church Council spent the day at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Henderson for a retreat. Over the course of the day, they spent time looking at the big picture, diving into some particular projects for the 2020 year, and learning about the various strengths we all bring. Thank you to Gallup Certified Katie Christensen for helping us identify our strengths, and Pastor Diane Goulson and Redeemer for your hospitality! We are blessed with wonderful leadership at Holy Trinity!



Road Trips

Thanks to all who jumped into a Looking Outward Road Trip. Over the course of January and February, Holy Trinity delegates went to 20 other churches to learn best practices, and also gain an outside perspective on Holy Trinity. These road trips went to other local churches, Minneapolis Synod recommendation ELCA churches, and destination churches. Pictured above is a group that went to Grace Church in Eden Prairie. Special thanks to Dennis Jasperson for coordinating these efforts!



Minneapolis Synod Toolkit

On Saturday, February 22nd, a number of Holy Trinity leaders attended the Minneapolis Area Synod toolkit. This event was designed by the synod to provide congregational leaders with the tools they need to effectively lead congregations. Representing HTLC were Pastor Alicia Hilding, Pastor Diane Goulson, Paul Newton from the Risk Management team, and councilpeople Jesse Hermann, Jackie Mackenthun, and Sande Schoenecker.



Lent is a season in the church year when we often prioritize spiritual practices. This year we would like to invite HTLC into three community faith practices during the season of Lent: 1) worship, 2) daily devotions, and 3) a four-week small group Bible study. Our theme for Lent is “Dreamers” and in each of these practices we will be reflecting on the dreams of some Bible figures and how we can relate to their dreams and visions in our own lives.

- 1. Worship:** Join us this Lenten season for worship on Sundays at 9am and/or Wednesdays at 6pm. On Sundays, we will worship using a liturgy from the Gather hymnal’s morning prayer. On Wednesdays, we will worship using the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. Sermons will remain consistent at both services.
- 2. Daily Devotions:** Please consider making a commitment to this daily faith practice for the season of Lent. Place this book somewhere where you’ll be reminded to read it as a routine part of your day or follow Holy Trinity on Facebook where you can also read these daily devotions.
- 3. Small Groups:** The third invitation we’d like to extend to you is to join a small group. These groups will meet 4 times over 4 weeks, for approximately an hour each. There are a variety of times to fit your schedule. You can sign up for a group either online or on the bulletin board by the office. Here’s the list of available groups. If you don’t see one that fits your schedule, maybe you could start your own group!

Group	Leader	Dates	Time	Location
• Laurie’s Group	Laurie Thorp	TBD	TBD	TBD
• Donuts with Don	Don Conn	3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1	6:00-7:00am	Lau’s Bakery
• TBD	Mark & Jenny Walser	3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29	3:00-4:00pm	Walser home
• Da Dreamer’s	George Winn	3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31	9:00-10:00am	Room 205A (HTLC)
• Post Amazing Grays Group	Audrey Austin and Barb Gullickson	3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1	10-11am	Fireside Room (HTLC)
• Mom’s Group	Amy Sticha	3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1	4:30-5:30pm	Fireside Room (HTLC)
• Giggles & the Bible	Jamie Bisek	3/12, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2	10-11am	HTLC Library
• Mom’s Online group	Pastor Alicia Hilding	Online Discussion	When you can	
• Cocoa & Campfire	Barb Niemeyer	3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29	10:30-11:30am	Fireside Room (HTLC)
• Wednesday Waiters	Christie Will	3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1	7:00-8:00pm	HTLC (Room TBD)
• Misfits Group	Luke Friendshuh	3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29	5:00-6:00pm	Fireside Room (HTLC)
• Verse & Vino	Michelle Newman	3/10, 3/17, 3/24, 3/31	7:00-8:00pm	Newman Home
• Bibles & Brew	Paul Newton	TBD	TBD	Greg Saylor’s home
• Recovering Guys off Church Council	Nate Kahnke	3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23	6:00-7:00pm	Fireside Room (HTLC)
• Schafers’s Group	Kathleen & Craig Schafer & Dennis Jasperson	3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29	10:30-11:30am	Youth Room (HTLC)

Mission/ Outreach Updates

INCREASE
FOOD ACCESS.
BUILD STRONG
COMMUNITIES.

GIVE TO YOUR
LOCAL FOOD SHELF

OR DONATE AT
MNFOODSHARE.ORG/DONATE

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Food
Share

MARCH
CAMPAIGN

a gmcc program

gmcc

follow us @mnfoodshare

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INTERFAITH HOUSING COLLABORATIVE

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Beacon article

Recently, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative decided to do a feature article on Holy Trinity! Beacon has taken notice of Holy Trinity's work through Hope House, and wanted to tell our story. If you'd like to see the story, you can find it either on Holy Trinity's Facebook page, or Beacon's website.

March Mission: Healthy Snacks

March is FoodShare Month in Minnesota, so our Mission Drive will be healthy snack options for the Peace Center. They are requesting popcorn, trail mix, nuts, pretzels, dried fruit, granola bars (not chocolate-covered), tortilla chips, and salsa. The Peace Center always appreciates seasonings/spices, canned meat and fruit, condiments (mayonnaise, mustard, and ketchup), breakfast items (cereal hot/cold, bars), salad dressing (all varieties), rice/grains (all varieties), and personal care items (shampoo, soap, toothpaste & deodorant). Please leave them in the shopping carts in the Narthex. Thank you!

As part of the Looking Outward Mission Moments, Rita Goggins came to present on the Food Shelf. Below are the distribution numbers for the Peace Center in 2019.

2019 Peace Center Distribution Numbers		
	Monthly	Annually
Households	120	1440
Individuals	400	4800
Pounds of Food	11,000	132,000

February Mission: Diapers

Thank you to everyone who brought in diapers for the February Mission Drive! They will be much appreciated as we provide options for those in the surrounding area. So far, we have collected over 6,500 diapers, valued at over \$1,600! Thank you for your generosity!

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Communications Central

Director of Youth Ministry Update

NOW HIRING!!! Director of Youth Ministry

We are ready to make our dream of hiring a Full Time Director of Youth Ministry a reality!! We are looking for a passionate, creative individual to take the lead with Youth Ministry (5th Grade and below); strategically partner with our Pastors to enrich our confirmation program and continue the development of a High School Ministry program.

Successful candidates will possess the following qualifications:

- Strong organizational and administrative skills
- Has experience developing sustainable systems
- Able to communicate effectively and thrive on a high performing team
- Adept at building trusting relationships with both youth and adults
- Masters of Arts in Children's Ministry is preferred

If you, or someone you know, would be a great fit for this exciting, unique opportunity, please submit resume and cover letter to Jamie Bisek in the church office or email to office@holytrinityonline.org.

The full job description will be posted on our website on March 1st. Deadline to apply is April 1st.

Prayerfully,
Youth Director Hiring Committee: Tim Dittberner, Sande Schoenecker, Alyce Price, Jamie Bisek, Jamie Sticha (chair)

First Communion Class

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.

Thank you notes

Volunteers of the Month

This month we received a wonderful group that should be recognized. The high school kids that help with Crew Time as well. Their commitment to the program and the kids is great!

A week ago Carrie Balk and I asked about extra help for our 4th grade group so we could enjoy a sermon now and then. Well those HS kids have school and homework and sports and friends and some even have jobs, yet they find the time to commit to volunteering. I just think that is incredibly wonderful and selfless and deserves to be recognized. I really hope that those kids know how appreciated they are. They are there week after week setting a great example of service for so many little eyes!

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

The Pink Unicorn

The HTLC Endowment committee invites you to join us for a viewing of THE PINK UNICORN, a play by Elise Forier Edie and directed by Michael Robins, of Illusion Theater. The endowment committee provided the primary funding for this production.

Ivey Award-Winner Kate Guentzel takes the stage as Trisha, a Christian widow, who must choose sides in her conservative Texas town after her teenage daughter announces she is "gender queer" and starts a chapter of the Gay Straight Alliance at the local high school. With sharp wit and humor, this rich and poetic story explores what it means to be a parent and a community in these changing times. Many of you may remember Kate, as she was a member of HTLC and grew up in New Prague.

The production will be held at The Prague Theater on Friday, March 6th, 2020 at 7:30pm. Tickets are free of charge. Make reservations at: PFLAGNEWPRAGUEMN@gmail.com. A free-will offering will be held for The St. Croix Resource Ctr, an organization providing services for homeless youth.