

# HTL Connections

The weekly e-newsletter of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, New Prague, MN

November 20, 2020

## SCRIPTURES OF THE WEEK

*Ephesians 1:15-23*  
*Matthew 25:31-40*

## AS ONE IN CHRIST WE PRAY

Blessed Savior, bring your healing presence and holy peace to Dan B., Don M., Mark J., Rita S., Jon B., Nathan K.; all who grieve; people suffering with mental illness; struggling relationships or employment; communities devastated by natural disasters; our country; and all who suffer due to the Coronavirus. Amen

## WORSHIP THIS WEEK

Online via Facebook & YouTube

Sunday @ 9 am  
Wednesday @ 7 pm

Cable TV - Bevcomm Channel 6

Sunday @ 9:30 am  
Wednesday @ 6 pm

## RADIO SPONSOR

Given anonymously in honor of Jon Bergquist, Jamie Bisek, Jim Cody, Donna Galvin, Deb Miller & Karen Taylor. Thank you for making sure all of us have a place at God's table and supporting our efforts as a loving community.

## FOLLOW US



## GRIEF & GRATITUDE

By Pastor Ben Hilding

I grew up fumbling through shopping ads with my brother and cousins after our big Thanksgiving dinner meal at our grandparents home, as we prepared our strategy and route for the early Black Friday shopping. Then, in our early years of our marriage, there were years Alicia and I celebrated Thanksgiving by scrambling from one family gathering to the next on the same day. One year, while we lived in an apartment complex, we decided to have all our family - Alicia's and mine - to our place for Thanksgiving. We even used a friend's apartment down the hall for an extra oven. Lots of people. Lots of food. Lots of fun memories.

This year will be so different. I find myself feeling forced to choose between grief and gratitude. Should I discard my own emotions and focus on what I should be grateful for, just counting my blessings? Or do I just spend this Thanksgiving in a funk, frustrated at what I can't do?

Perhaps these two feelings can coexist. This week during worship we will look at some biblical examples of how God's people juggled grief and gratitude together, finding ways to be appreciative but also not deny the challenges and grievances they faced. God's peace and presence to you and your loved ones this Thanksgiving - however it may look.



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## GIVING UPDATE

Financial Health as of October 31, 2020	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Actual
Revenue	\$405,288,	\$388,087*
Expenses	\$466,999	\$452,548*
Revenue - Expenses	-\$61,711	<b>-\$64,461</b>

\*\$35,000 income/expenses related to the current building projects (run through capital account) are not included in totals so operation numbers are not misleading.

## COUNCIL CONNECTIONS

October 2020 Council Minutes

## SHARING TREE

**\*\*Drop off information\*\***

**Mondays, November 23 & 30, 6:00-7:00 pm.**

Place NEW clothing in a car marked **Sharing Tree** in the HTLC parking lot near the South Entry.  
Contact Julie at [popplenp@hotmail.com](mailto:popplenp@hotmail.com) or Mary at [marybusch@me.com](mailto:marybusch@me.com).

## CHRISTMAS TEA, PLAN B

Ladies, You're Invited...to Christmas Tea, Plan B.

This lovely tradition will be online this year, premiering on our Facebook page after worship on

**Sunday, December 6, 10 am.**

Holiday treats, made by Donna Galvin, will be delivered to the "Hostess" and they will deliver to their five "Guests" before the event. A special program of music and entertainment will help to bring the season into your home. **SIGN UP HERE!**

## MISSION OUTREACH

**Santa Anonymous** in Le Sueur County is seeking cash donations to purchase toys for families. (Toy preference has already been indicated by the families, please do not donate toys.) **Please contact LuAnn Leach at 507-357-4850**, if you'd like to make a donation. Deadline is November 20.

## COVID -19 UPDATE

Waiting for the COVID-19 pandemic to end is a little bit like traveling long distance with a seven-year-old in 1982. "Are we there yet? Do I have to wear my seat belt? Mom...Karen coughed on me!" It is frustrating, confusing and we want **NORMAL** back!

We hear you. We miss you. We can't wait to worship together again. Click **HERE** to read the latest updates from Pastor Alicia and Pastor Ben.

## THANKSGIVING MEAL

We're offering a **FREE** Thanksgiving Meal-In-a-Bag on Sunday, November 22, in the Holy Trinity parking lot. **Call Donna Galvin (952-486-3242) to reserve your meal and pickup time.**

## ADVENT KITS

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! To help you celebrate the season of Advent at home, we have prepared **Advent Kits** for you to use with your HTLC Advent Devotionals (coming to a mailbox near you)!

To help us maintain social distance, **SIGN UP** to pick up your kit on Friday, November 20, from 4-6 pm or Saturday, November 21, from 10 am - Noon.

**KIDS! Help us make a joyful noise. Bring your Noisy Offering when you come!**

## LONG RANGE FACILITY TASK FORCE

We're looking for forward-thinking, out-of-the-box dreamers to join this new task force. Members will meet with Pastor Ben as necessary over the course of the next two years to develop strategies that enhance the mission, vision and values through the future of our facility.

## WORSHIP SURVEY RESULTS

112 people provided feedback using our worship survey.

Results include:

67% watch online using Facebook, 23% use YouTube  
66% watch online every week, 21% watch 2x month  
39% do not feel comfortable worshipping in-person  
33% would worship in-person with masks, no singing  
16% would worship without masks and sing



## UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November 22

### THANKSGIVING

Giving Thanks to the Giver of All

Nov. 29 & Dec. 2

### ADVENT 1

The Gift of Hope

December 6 & 9

### ADVENT 2

The Gift of Peace

December 13 & 16

### ADVENT 3

The Gift of Love