

HTLConnections

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

SCRIPTURES OF THE WEEK

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

December 18, 2020

HUMBLY WE PRAY

Source of All Joy, in the midst of our struggles to find joy, bring healing and hope to Deb O. (Lindsay C.'s mom), Jack G., Al R., David, Tammy, Joel L., Karen G., Audre J., Pastor Dave A., and all who suffer. Cover with your compassion the families of Elaine J. and Barbara L. as they mourn their deaths. Be the source of hope for people who hunger, seek shelter, or employment. Strengthen, encourage and give wisdom to doctors, nurses and teachers. Amen.

WORSHIP THIS WEEK

Online - Facebook & YouTube

Sunday @ 9 am

Wednesday @ 7 pm

Cable TV - Bevcomm Channel 6

Sunday @ 9:30 am

Wednesday @ 6 pm

Radio - KCHK 95.5 FM & 1350 AM

Sunday @ 9 am

RADIO SPONSOR

Our Sunday radio broadcast ministry is sponsored by Maureen Edwards, in memory of her husband, Larry (Merry Christmas). Thank you, Maureen!

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HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE GIFT OF JOY

By Casey Fremstad, Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministry

One of my favorite songs from camp went a little something like this:

"I've got joy, down in my heart, deep, down in my heart. J - O - Y, down in my heart, deep, deep down in my heart. Jesus put it there, and nothing can DESTROY IT, DESTROY IT, DESTROY IT AHHHHH!" (Take a listen [HERE!](#))

Pretty joyful, right?

Living in this pandemic has caused me to question the joy supposedly found "deep, deep down in my heart." I desperately needed to be reminded that deep, spiritual joy is not dependent upon people, things, or circumstances, but is in fact delicately sewn into our hearts by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who remains good and steadfast in every season.

As we reflect together on the gift of joy this Advent, I pray that you take heart knowing that nothing in this world can destroy the joy in which we receive from Jesus Christ.



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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES



Services will premiere on Holy Trinity's **Facebook** page and **YouTube** Channel. KCHK will broadcast on Christmas Day at 9 am.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Click the links to view the beautiful Christmas concerts of the Lutheran Colleges.

Luther Gustavus

GIVING UPDATE

Financial Health as of November 30, 2020	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Actual
Revenue	\$482,931	\$426,979
Expenses	\$555,779	\$494,869
Revenue - Expenses	-\$72,848	-\$67,890

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAMS
Resume January 13!

MEMORIAL SERVICES



We are sad to report the passing of long-time HTLC member, **Barb Loebner**. Her Memorial Service will be held on Tuesday, December 29 at 11 am. More details next week.

Elaine Jacobson, Donna Galvin's mother, was laid to rest on Sunday, December 13. Please keep the families of Barb and Elaine in your prayers this holiday season.

YEAR END GIFT

Please consider a special year-end gift to Holy Trinity this Christmas Season. Contact **Jamie Bisek**, or call 952-758-3513.

CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION

You are invited to join Pastors Alicia and Ben via Zoom for a Christmas Communion Service at 10 am.

Learn more **HERE!**

Prepare your own communion setting of juice or wine and any bread of your choice. Want to make your own?

Donna will show you!

2020 CHRISTMAS LETTER

This year, we are following the MN Dept. of Health recommendations and keeping the church closed for Christmas. The "inn" is closed, but we heartily invite you to the "manger" of online worship. **Read more from Pastor Alicia and Pastor Ben.**

MUSIC CELEBRATION WEEK

Online worship means you can worship safely with friends and family! Distance no longer limits participation or viewership. Please invite your friends & family to tune into worship this week for a service filled with inspirational music. **SHARE the HTLC Facebook page or YouTube channel** prior to worship to enjoy it together...no matter the physical distance between you.



HTLCHRONICLES

Visit our blog for stories of hope. Thank you to Dennis Jaspersen, Todd Gillingham, and Joanne Reemts for sharing their stories.

SECRET GIFT EXCHANGE

A reminder to those participating in the Secret Ornament/Sweets Exchange, please deliver your gifts between December 18 - December 20.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

We're gearing up for some more fun activities in the New Year for our High School Youth. **Register here to get notifications of upcoming events.**

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 20 & 23

ADVENT 4

The Gift of Joy

December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

He Came to Us

December 27 & 30

CHRISTMAS 1

Featuring Bishop Ann Svenningsen

January 3 & 6

EPIPHANY

A Star Ahead