

HTLConnections

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

December 4, 2020

SCRIPTURES OF THE WEEK

Isaiah 40:1-11

Mark 1:1-8

HUMBLY WE PRAY

God of Peace, surround with your healing power Elaine J., Duane P., Mark J., Elaine B., Karen G., Joel L., David, and all who suffer; all who grieve; people suffering with mental illness; your children struggling with relationships, homelessness or unemployment. Lead us to be people of hope and peace. 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 Mark Jackson. Thank you, Mark, for your generous donation for this important ministry!

FOLLOW US



THE GIFT OF PEACE

By Karen Taylor, Ministry Coordinator

As we continue this season of Advent (preparing for the BEST birthday party EVER!), this week our focus is The Gift of Peace. However, I've always thought the four gospels wrote a "G" version of the birth of Jesus. The picture of a serene, peaceful birthing experience left me wondering, "How did it really happen?" Get ready for the Gospel according to Karen.

Any person who has either experienced giving birth or witnessed a birth understands it is NOT a peaceful process. Now imagine a young, pregnant, teenage girl and her fiancé traveling across the desert on a donkey. It's dusty, smelly and definitely uncomfortable. As they reach Bethlehem, Mary experiences the early stages of labor (no doubt stimulated by her ride on the donkey). A nervous, first-time step-dad, Joseph, frantically searches for a room to no avail. The stress and anxiety must have been unbearable! What happens next can only be described as a miracle. The Virgin Mary gives birth, surrounded by filth, with the "help" of a petrified Joseph. In the midst of her excruciating contractions and bloody birth, Mary was given the gift of peace.

During this season of waiting in uncertain times, may you find comfort in the gift of peace.



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CHRISTMAS TEA

The annual HTLC Christmas Tea is THIS SUNDAY. Even though registration is closed (to receive dessert and a gift), all women are invited to join the fellowship!

Join us after Sunday worship at 10 am on the **Holy Trinity Facebook page**.

Fun, fellowship and inspirational music will make this event a highlight of your day!

SHARING TREE UPDATE

HTLC Sharing Tree clothing drive coordinators, Julie Popple and Mary Hanson-Busch, share their final report.

"Tonight (Monday, November 30), we wrapped up the Sharing Tree project with the final delivery of coats and winter clothing. We belong to such an incredibly generous church family! We donated 108 clothing items to help children in Le Sueur county stay warm and active this winter. We are grateful!"

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

We're gearing up for week 2! Find your Advent Devotional booklet **HERE** or if you prefer to watch the daily videos, click **HERE**.

FREE FOOD GIVEAWAY



FREE food distribution for Le Sueur Co. residents.

**December 16
2 - 3:30 pm
First Lutheran Church**

Click on the photo for complete details.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
PASTOR BEN!**
Sunday, December 6

UPDATE CONTACT INFO

Moved recently? Changed your phone number or email? Please let us know so we can keep you up-to-date with latest information.

Contact **Jamie Bisek**, or call 952-758-3513.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Join us for online Christmas Eve Services at

2 pm, 5 pm and 10 pm

Identical services will premiere on Holy Trinity's **Facebook** page and **YouTube** Channel. See you online!

SPREADING THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

Announcing the December Mission Drive!

Stocking Stuffers for the Little Free Pantries

Fill a clear, plastic bag (or two) with the following:

- **Hygiene Products:** Socks, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, shaving cream, etc.
- **Winter wear:** New/Handmade scarves, hats, mittens
- **Food:** granola bars, Trail mix, dried fruit, chips, etc.

If the Little Free Pantries are full, a bin will be available **Wednesdays in December, 11 am - 3 pm**, for extras.

SECRET GIFT EXCHANGE

CYF Ministry is hosting a **Secret Ornament/Sweets Exchange** open to all who worship at Holy Trinity & live in the New Prague Area School district! **SIGN UP** to receive the name & address of another family/individual to deliver anonymously. Give an ornament and/or a holiday treat. Remember to shop locally. Deadline is sign-up is December 6. Questions? Contact **Casey**

THANK YOU!

Last week, several HTLC Members expressed their gratitude towards the staff in **this video** posted in the HTLC Facebook Community Group. The video brought most staff members to tears as this has been a year full of changes & challenges.

In an email between staff, this reply sums it up best:

"I finally had time to sit down and watch the video.

It struck me that at Holy Trinity, none of us "work at the church."

We serve because we believe.

We believe in the mission of Holy Trinity.

We believe in the leadership of Holy Trinity.

And, we believe in each other.

Our strength is within us, because we believe."

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 6 & 9

ADVENT 2

The Gift of Peace

December 13 & 16

ADVENT 3

The Gift of Love

December 20 & 23

ADVENT 4

The Gift of Joy

December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

He Came to Us