

OPENDOOR

JANUARY 2022

HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH



A Message from the Call Committee Chair



It has been a pleasure to serve on the call committee. I knew that I wanted to be a part of this committee to help our congregation. The committee began meeting frequently and started building our Ministry Site Profile. This profile gives prospective pastors a view into our ministry at Holy Trinity. We developed parts of the profile based upon surveys that were mailed to some members

and emailed to everyone. There was a lot of participation in these surveys. After completing the profile, we shared the document with Pastor Heather Apel, who works in the synod office. She helped us tweak our profile some. We then met with council and made a few additional changes. Once council approved the profile, it was made available on the ELCA website.

We then started to receive several names from the synod office. We interviewed three candidates online. One candidate, who happens to be our prospective pastor, we really liked. We decided to have her come for an in person visit. We learned a lot about her current work, and how she's passionate about building relationships.

One thing that stuck out to me during our conversations is how she builds relationships. ***She is interested in every single person; young and old and everyone in between.***

I thought back to some times in my life where pastors have been present for important events like visiting a loved one in the hospital, teaching a First Communion class to my children, at a wedding, and at a funeral. Would I want her to be there for those important life moments? Absolutely.

Thank you to the congregation for all of your prayers throughout the process. I hope that you will join me and welcoming the potential new pastor on Saturday, January 8. I am excited for you to get to know her.

Diane Longdo

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We've just heard the Christmas story. Remember the part about the shepherds? They were doing what they do best: tending their sheep. They were comfortable on the hillside pastures making sure no sheep were in trouble or got lost.

Then, BOOM!! An angel appears to them in the night sky! The angel is telling them exciting news about what has happened in Bethlehem! And then there were a multitude of angels singing praises to God!

Talk about disrupting your life! Can you imagine the fear and awe of seeing this? The shepherds of course decide to check it out...and were privy to the newborn Jesus in a stable.

Do you wonder what was going through their minds? Should we take a leap of faith and go see what's going on? Should we play it safe and stay with the sheep?

I am reminded of their story when I become fearful... of what might happen, what this new year will bring. No angels have appeared to me but I hear the good news every Sunday and throughout the week. And I am filled with hope.

I don't know what's going to happen next, but I trust God and I rely on the Spirit's guidance, as Jesus walks with me through it all.

2022! Don't be afraid.

God's blessings,
Nita Cunningham,
Congregational Council President



Good Working Relationship: Mutual Expectations

Based on the Council and the Call Committee's work of soliciting information from HTLC membership and completion of a "ministry profile,"

- A. Get to know our congregation and develop relationships with members.
- B. Work closely with Christian Education committee, active in youth and adult Sunday School and confirmation classes. Help guide and develop education opportunities.
- C. Work closely with Worship and Music committee, develop engaging worship services. Increase lay participation in worship by engaging members and developing their talents.
- D. Identify and develop new and current leaders within the congregation.
- E. Support and guide community ministries. Provide support and development of programming for the Nursing Home Ministry team. Work with members to provide ministry to home bound congregants so ministry is not provided by pastor alone..

Come to meet Pastor Elizabeth Lee over the weekend of January 8th and 9th. She currently resides in Wisconsin and has been in the ministry for eleven years. Her experience includes working as an associate pastor and also as a solo pastor in a congregation.

Stop in for a chat and learn more about her background, experiences, and family. Time has been set aside on Saturday, January 8th for a meet-and-greet session in the Fellowship Hall. The afternoon will be divided into time slots to allow social distancing and to give us each a little individual time to talk with Pastor Elizabeth.

Here is the plan to keep the afternoon flowing:

Last name: A-H 2:00-3:00

Last name: I-Q 3:00-4:00

Last name: R-Z 4:00-5:00

Please try to attend at your designated time, but you can visit at another time if that is best for you.

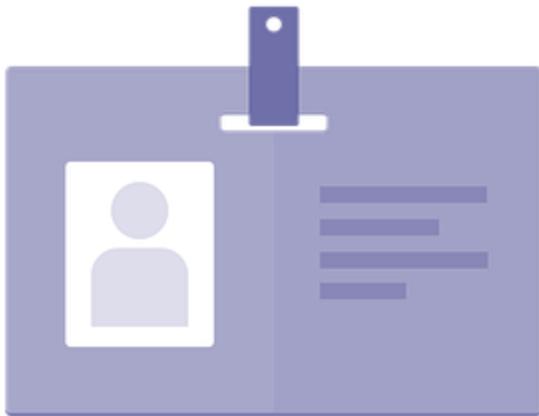
A congregational meeting will be held after worship the following Sunday, January 16 to vote on the call. You must be here in person to vote. Please pray about this important next step and plan to participate.

The Call Committee also worked on ways this congregation will support and encourage the newly called minister during the first year in order to help them accomplish these responsibilities:

- A. Prayerful support of the new pastor and our congregation.
- B. Have a welcoming spirit. Formation of a formal welcoming committee. Commitment to learn about our new pastor and their family.
- C. Support from Council and Mutual Ministry and partnership with committees.
- D. Local ministry support through Pericope studies, ministerium and conference.
- E. Our congregation promises to encourage the spiritual and personal growth and development of its new pastor.



Glenn: Let's Talk about Nametags



Several years ago hundreds of physicians and researchers gathered for the convention of the American Heart Association in Atlanta.

They were meeting to discuss, among other things, the importance of a low-fat diet for cardiac health. Observers pointed out, however, that their rate of consumption of fat-filled fast foods was almost identical to that of other conventions.

One cardiologist in the convention center food court was asked if the bacon cheeseburger he was holding was setting a bad example.

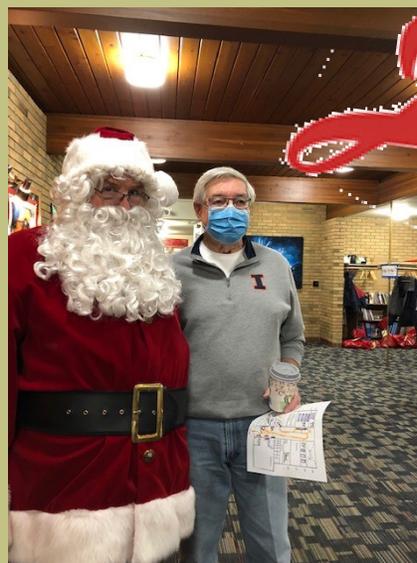
"I'm not setting a bad example," he responded. "I took my nametag off."

When it comes to character, we cannot check in and check out of our true identity. That's because whatever our nametags happen to say (or not say), our behavior always reveals what we really believe.

Across the entire spectrum of his teaching, for whom did Jesus reserve his harshest remarks? The answer is religious hypocrites.

The word *hypocrite* is a Greek term that originally referred to the mask worn by an actor during a play. Gradually it came to refer to anyone who was acting – specifically, anyone pretending to be one thing, while in truth being something else altogether.

(Continued on page 5)



2021 Jubilee was a rewarding outreach effort made possible through many donations, lots of volunteer effort and the involvement of a community partner, Meijer. Twenty families were touched as we did God Work with Our Hands.



(Continued from page 4)

During the first century the Pharisees had become people whose spiritual nametags said one thing, but whose hearts were in a different time zone.

Our best guess is that there were around 6,000 Pharisees in Israel (all of them male) when Jesus was teaching. The word “Pharisee” probably meant “set-apart ones” – prime evidence that they considered themselves to be the brightest bulbs in the spiritual chandelier. These were serious people – wholly serious about pleasing God.

The Pharisees lumped themselves into seven categories.

Some were called the Shoulder Pharisees, which meant they wore their good deeds on their shoulders, so speak, so you could always see their scorecards. This group lived in the spirit of Ben Stiller’s character in *Dodgeball*: “Here at Globo Gym we’re better than you, and we know it.”

There were also the Bleeding Pharisees, men so committed to banishing lustful thoughts from their imaginations that they routinely walked into buildings, pillars, and various objects so as not to cast a single glance at the body (or even the face) of a passing woman.

Then there were the Tumbling Pharisees. They got their name because they imagined themselves to be so humble that they refused to lift their feet above the ground. They would slide along until they hit an obstruction, and would then fall down.

Not all the Pharisees were such divas. Most were sincerely committed to doing God’s will. But in Matthew 23 Jesus has had enough. Seven times he shouts at them: “You hypocrites!”

Jesus’ rage is twofold. First, the Pharisees had turned God into a creditor who needed to be paid off, instead of a Father extending arms of love to hopelessly broken people. They had transformed religion into a crushing daily To Do List.

Second, the Pharisees had flunked their own spiritual litmus tests. Although they couldn’t or wouldn’t live according to their own preaching, they pretended to be the valedictorians of God’s university.

The call of Jesus is that our outsides must always match our insides.

That won’t happen by taking off our nametags to hide our contradictions.

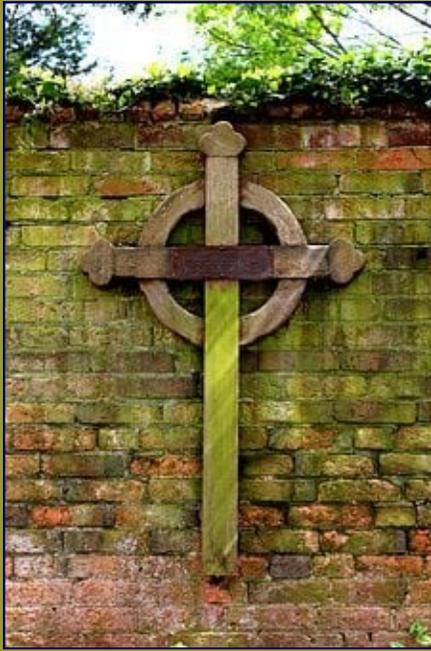
We’ll know we’re on the right path when we choose to be outwardly humble – because inwardly we know we have a lot to be humble about.



Glenn is an ordained Presbyterian minister, has 33 years of congregational leadership experience, and is the author of ten books on discipleship and spiritual formation.

From “Morning Reflections” written by Glenn McDonald.





PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

God Immanuel,

You are with us. You have been with your Church throughout history. You have blessed Holy Trinity Lutheran Church for generations. Give us assurance of your continued presence as we stand together as people of faith. Focus our hearts on Jesus and give us a hope for the future than comes through reliance on your Son, our Lord.

Amen



LET'S CELEBRATE

Birthdays

- 3 Gretchen Freese, Xavier Tetzloff
- 18 Ardeth Criswell,
Mac Ritchie, Greg Rooze
- 20 Sue Davis, Gene Rooze
- 22 Al Davis
- 24 Diane Longdo
- 29 Cindi Rooze
- 31 Bob Everson

Anniversaries

- 26 Andy & Vickie Tetzloff



Ministry Committee Reports are due by January 31 so that they can be ready for the Spring Bi-annual meeting. Our congregation usually gathers the third Sunday of February to look back on HTLC's ministries and to consider the year ahead.

DECEMBER 13, 2021 COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

		In attendance?
President	Nita Cunningham	yes
Vice President	Kevin Letcher	yes
Financial Secretary	Floyd Garrott	yes
Treasurer	Stan Harlow	yes
Secretary	Elizabeth White	yes
Members	Michele Russell	yes
	David Krueger	yes
	Bob Montgomery	yes
	Jim Smith	Yes
	Vacancy	
	Mike Anderson appointed to-day to fill the vacancy	Yes
Pastor of Record	Pastor Randy Schroeder	yes

Council Meeting Minutes



Topic

Topic 1: Greetings and Devotions –

Greetings– Hello from/to All

Quorum

Yes, quorum established

Devotions - Stan Harlow

Approve agenda

See additions (in blue), approved via voice vote

Topic 2: Appointment of vacant council position

Mike Anderson has volunteered

Motion to appoint Mike Anderson from Jim Smith.

Approved via voice vote.

Topic 3: Administrative Topics

Approve November minutes

Motion to accept by Floyd Garrott, approved via voice vote.

Pastor of Record report

Quiet month. Everything going well.

Secretary information

Collected missing information for committees. Council members on 360Unite page.

DECEMBER COUNCIL CONTINUED

Topic 4: Treasurer's Report

Report

Report sent. Motion to approve by Bob Montgomery, approved via voice vote. Report on the Council page of the 360Unite webpage.

TD Ameritrade account, re-authorization of authorized agent.

The council has expressed their appreciation for the capabilities and oversight of the investments that has been done by Al Davis to date.

Questions to the finance committee to report back to the council after their discussion:

Is there / should there be a contract for the administrator?

Has financial committee provided guidance on the level of risk to take w/ the money/investments

What about of the investment returns are negative? Decisions or changes?

Should a second administrator should be added to the account?

Suggested that this authorization to be revisited when officers change.

Motion:

Albert L Davis to be the Authorized Agent with Full Trading Authority for the TD Ameritrade Account of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Lafayette, Indiana.

Moved – Bob Montgomery

Approved via voice vote

Council secretary signed the document to be provided to Al Davis for submission to TD Ameritrade. Copy on the Council page of the 360Unite webpage.

Topic 5: Old Business

Masks

Unanimous consent to continue wearing masks during services and within the building.

Blessing talks

Volunteers are stepping up, the talks will continue monthly.

Parish administrator position

Job share between Sue Davis and Sue Lambert going forward beginning January.

Topic 6: New Business

Communion

Agreed for worship committee to discuss at their January meeting. A choice between kits and in-person.

Question about having proxy votes during congregational meeting

Not allowed by the constitution (member must be present).

DECEMBER COUNCIL CONTINUED**Topic 7: Call Process Information**

Information and discussion

Voting – by ballot, two votes, one for pastor call and one for compensation package.

Quorum – 20% of voting members; **2/3 of the voting members present** must approve the call. Compensation is 50% of voting members present.

After meeting information from the Treasurer and Financial Secretary: for 2021, there were 84 contributing family groups, for a total of 120 individual voting members. Thus a **quorum for the congregational meeting is 24 voting members**.

Composition for the pastor – the finance committee has prepared the monetary details of the package, following synod guidance and requirements.

Floyd Garrott made a motion for Council to accept the package as presented by finance committee. Approved by voice vote.

Floyd Garrott made a motion for Nita Cunningham, Kevin Letcher and Mike Anderson to negotiate with the candidate. Including complete the second page of the compensation package, which is the expectations of the pastor and of HTLC. Approved by voice vote.

Topic 8: 10 Reasons article and SWOT analysis

Discussion

Tabled to next meeting due to time constraints.

Topic 9: Committee Reports

Oral reports supplementing written submissions

Evangelism did not meet.

Written reports in the Council page in the 360Unite webpage.

Walk-in topics

Topics from congregation members attending as visitors

None.

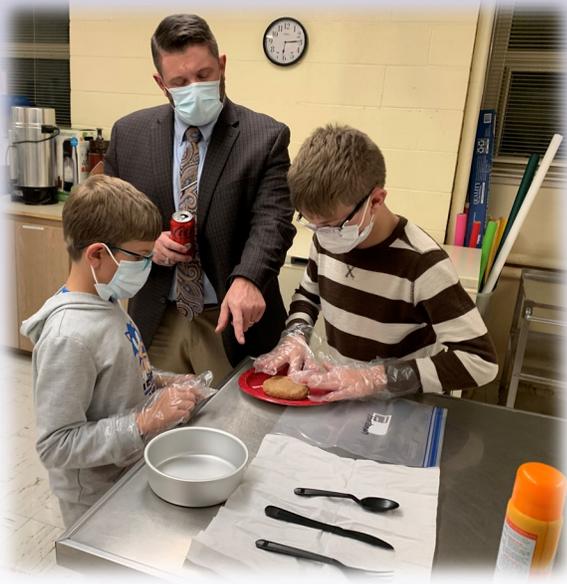
Topic 10: Closing

Prayers

Next meeting, Monday January 10, 2022 at 6:30pm

Meeting end, 8:30pm

First Communion



- Garret Benner
- Helen Greeley
- Daniel Greeley
- Reid Hintzman
- Connor Hintzman
- Noah Longdo
- Ryan Longdo



We join together as a congregation in praying for and celebrating with seven young people who learned about the sacrament of communion.

They met regularly as a class to prepare. In addition to hearing Pastor Lichtenberger speak, they made banners and baked their own communion bread before the December 5th service.



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Glancing back at a busy December



Agnus Day

THEY WERE SMART TO INVITE JESUS TO THEIR WEDDING!

I'M SURE THEY HAD NO IDEA.

JESUS IS JUST BEGINNING TO REVEAL HIMSELF TO BE THE ONE BY WHOM ALL THINGS CAME INTO BEING.*

YEAH- BUT WATER INTO WINE? TALK ABOUT THE LIFE OF THE PARTY!

WE ALWAYS DO.

JOHN 1:3

JOHN 2:1-11

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www.AGNUSDAY.ORG