

# OPENDOOR

February 2019



## A WORD FROM PASTOR DOANE

Greetings,

Welcome Sue Lambert back to the office. I missed her!! I'm sure you did too. We praise God that she has returned better than ever.

It's been exciting to see the new HTLC website take shape with the help of a Purdue student team. This issue of the **Open Door** introduces a new design and plan to broaden the content of the Holy Trinity Lutheran monthly news.

You will see the familiar articles from council, notes about upcoming events, as well as church financial summaries, but the hope is to involve more congregation members in providing content. Ideas from Mutual Ministry and Evangelism discussions include: book reviews, parent's corner, ministry/mission news, "Meet Your Council Member", as well as some topics that are intended to share and build our faith. Sue Lambert and Sue Davis will be working together to bring a refreshed presentation to the HTLC newsletter.

***Did you know that February 7-14 is National Marriage Week?***

National Marriage Week is a movement to increase the education and health of marriages across the U.S. This year married couples at Holy

Trinity are invited to participate in what is called a "Couple Checkup." The purpose of the "Couple Checkup" is to enrich and strengthen marriages.

Now I know what you're thinking. My marriage is just fine and I don't need any checkup. The "Marriage Checkup" is not intended primarily for troubled marriages. It is for every marriage. Any marriage can benefit from some improvements and strengthening. Holy Trinity will be stronger as a congregation if married members have a strong and vibrant marriage.

The "Couple Checkup" is an inventory or assessment with questions designed to evaluate numerous aspects of a marriage. To do this both spouses complete the inventory online. The inventory is scored and the results are shared with the couple and with the facilitator, which is Pastor David. Everything is completely confidential. No one else will see the results. And there will not be a group gathering to discuss results. Each couple will receive a discussion manual to provide direction for conversation between spouses. So in a sense it is almost painless, but still worthwhile. This is



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## BIRTHDAY WISHES

### February

Mary McDonald	2
Joann King	3
Franz Frederick	5
Austin Suter	5
Kolin Miller	8
Rudy Ahlersmeyer	10
Ben Sousley	11
Cynthia Wolaver	11
Jim Fisher	12
Pinnie Wallace	14
Sam Tackett	17
Brandin Tetzloff	18
Katherine Tackett	20
Jim Cahoon, Sr.	24
Lauren Gustafson	24
Ryan Longdo	25
Helen Glick	27
Donna Montgomery	28

## FEBRUARY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—PLEASE COME!

God's people are busy in the world today. In February, the church council invites you to spend a little time catching up with one another over a meal and then catching up with the ministries underway at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

2019 marks the first time our congregation moves to a schedule that includes two regularly scheduled congregational meetings per church year.

Tom Cavanaugh, Council President, notes that "the October meeting had just two agenda items – the election of council members and approval of the new year budget." This new format gets the structure in place to conduct business in the new year. In February, the emphasis will be on the minis-



tries of the church and work underway.

Come to hear about what HTLC has been doing and what is anticipated in the year ahead. Some guided conversations are planned to bring further focus to the renewing congregational work launched in November. See the story, Guided Discussions, below.

## GUIDED DISCUSSIONS

Nita Cunningham is planning sort of a "progressive dinner" conversation. No traveling across the snow..it will all happen in the fellowship hall. During the lunch portion of our February 17th Congregation Meeting we will all take part in guided conversations.

There will be specific questions, such as, how long have you been attending HTLC. Each person at the table will have time to share. After 15-20 minutes at one table, we will all

switch tables.

At the second table, we'll be sitting with different people and having the same conversation but hearing new perspectives.

After another 15-20 minutes, we will switch tables one last time.

Our hope is to be able to share our thoughts, hopes and dreams for HTLC with as many different people as possible during the lunch.

Happy Birthday

Enjoy being celebrated

---for the---

*Gift*

---you are---

Psalm 3:8

## JANUARY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

**Pastor Report:** Pastor submitted a written report; he attended the Prayer Service for Christian Unity at St Thomas Aquinas.

- The Freese family was welcomed to membership.
- Digging Deeper has resumed on Tuesday evenings.
- Reviewed fliers for upcoming events:
  - MLK Sabbath, Jan. 18 at 7:30 at Temple Israel
  - Breaking Bread & Coming Together, Jan 19 at Mt Hope Church
  - Women's March on Washington, Lafayette Chapter, Jan 20 at the Tippecanoe County Courthouse from 1-4 pm
  - Food Summit, Jan 24 at 9:30 am at Temple Israel

### Treasurer/Financial Secretary Report:

#### **CURRENT INCOME:**

- December \$35,530 (\$9,280 above monthly need of \$26,250)
- Total Income YTD:  
2.5 % below projection

**NET INCOME** (includes special /

designed funds)

- December 2018: Gain \$5,158
- Year-to-Date: Gain \$2,346

#### **EXPENSE:**

Most categories are in line with projection. Exceptions:

- Advertising 146%
- Evangelism 417%
- Worship 102%
- Technology 141%
- Utilities 112%

#### **CURRENT ASSETS**

Total Balance: Approximate:  
\$250,000

#### **COMMENTS:**

- Generosity at year end allowed for a positive cash flow!
- Jubilee Christmas funding shortfall \$780
- Designated Balances require adjustments. These are anticipated:
  - *Specials* to be reallocated
  - *Memorials* verified
  - *Sabbatical Account* created

1. Welcome Project closed

- TD Ameritrade adjusted

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Voting Delegates for Synod Assembly named: Kevin and Carol Letcher. There are opportunities for more members to attend the Synod Assembly; to be discussed at the Annual Congregation Meeting on February 17, 2019

2. Renewing your Congregation Workshop results of the small group meetings will be summarized by Nita Cunningham. They will be incorporated into the Annual Congregation Meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Council updated on NorthEnd Community Center opportunities to volunteer at local agencies.

The Annual Congregation Meeting and potluck is February 17, 2019 after the second service.

Full Council minutes as well as committee reports submitted have been posted on 365. Visit the Welcome Center to see paper copy.

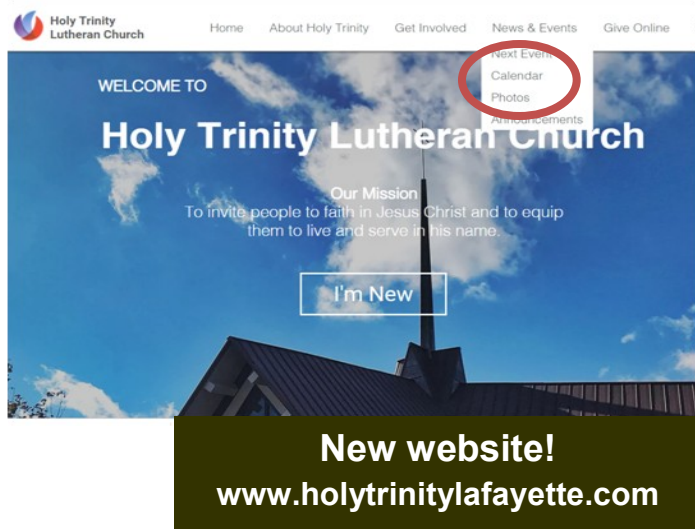
## INDIANA-KENTUCKY SYNOD ASSEMBLY IS COMING HERE!

**May 31—June 2**  
**Purdue**  
**Conference**  
**Facilities**

What an opportunity! If you haven't been to an Indiana-Kentucky synod assembly, you will want to put on your volunteer badge and spend time with some wonderful Lutherans. You might slip in for some inspiring worship, workshops or business topics. Watch for news.



**Indiana-Kentucky Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in American**  
**God's work. Our hands.**



## CALENDAR IS LIVE AND UPDATED REGULARLY

To see what's going on at church, just go to the new website to find the updated calendar. Don't worry if you can't remember your 365 login – you can see the calendar by looking under "News and Events" which is the tab that runs along the top of the screen. It's up-to-date and reflects activity planned for the current month as well as the year ahead.

## WHERE DID YOU HIDE THE LIST OF VOLUNTEERS FOR FEBRUARY?

The Epistle is the weekly news update that arrives in your email box each Thursday. Find the listing of greeters, assisting ministers, readers, acolytes, altar guild volunteers, ushers, counters and fellowship hour hosts listed there.

If you aren't receiving the Epistle or have a change in your email address, please contact Sue Lambert in the church office.



## LENTEN SEASON BEGINS WITH ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 6

The Worship Committee and Outreach have been discussing the 2019 Lenten observances. Some of the events ahead that you may want to put into your plans are:

- March 6—Ash Wednesday services at noon and at 7
- March 13 to Apr 10 — midweek Lent services
- April 14—Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)

- April 18—Maundy Thursday
- April 19 — Good Friday
- April 20—Easter Vigil
- April 21—Easter Day

Volunteers enrich our worship and fellowship during this time of the year. Please consider being a reader, helping with hospitality or putting together worship materials for these special services. Contact the HTLC office or mark your interest on the Welcome Sheet.



## BISHOP GAFKJEN'S MESSAGE

On Christmas Day, I met for the first time our new neighbors who had moved into the house next door almost three months earlier. They happened to be outside with their kids, testing out a couple of Christmas presents, while I was walking our dogs. I was a bit embarrassed as I approached them to introduce myself. I apologized to them for not meeting and welcoming them to the neighborhood sooner. They were quite gracious, offered their own apologies, and we had a delightful getting-acquainted Christmas Day conversation with each other.



As I told my wife, Janet, about the meeting afterward, I remembered an article I had read some months before, the article from which the haunting question above comes: *Who Is My Neighbor?* The Church's Vocation in an Era of Shifting Community (Word and World, Winter 2017).<sup>1</sup> The author, Dwight Zscheile, is right: the shape and locus of human community is shifting significantly in this country, probably in ways that the church has not yet fully realized or begun to address.

Referencing the book, *The Vanishing Neighbor*, by Marc Dunkelman, Zscheile points out that: Americans today spend more time with their intimates (immediate family and closest friends) as well as in an outer ring of loose social ties facilitated by social media and the Internet around specific interests. What is disappearing is the middle ring—traditionally the city neighborhood, village, or township where voluntary or-

ganizations like congregations exist. Expectations for neighborliness have changed—from block parties and pot-lucks, sharing tools and child care, to keeping to oneself and not interfering in your neighbor's business. Adults involved in intensive parenting spend more hours with their children, while these overscheduled children spend fewer hours roaming the neighborhood with their peers.

Americans look to their devices to connect with people on social media who may be geographically far removed, ignoring the people next to them on the bus, street, or at the playground. Not only does this shift suggest the loss of face-to-face (read: incarnational) relationships that can be nurturing and supportive, it also means that "People can now largely avoid relationships with those of differing views." This may well be part of the reason that community in this country is so fractured and fractious...and/or part of the reason that we can't seem to find ways to live together in justice and peace, honoring differences and diversity, and working together for the common good.

So, my little Christmas Day encounter

with our new neighbors has left me wondering: In this time and place, might we, the church, the body of the crucified and risen Christ, be called to intentionally and carefully create face-to-face space for genuine local community to emerge. Might the good news of Christ crucified and risen for the life of the world be calling us to fill that "middle ring" of American life with confession, forgiveness, and reconciliation that leads to radical welcome, bold inclusion, and life together that shines with the light of new, abundant, and lasting life for all? After all, as Dwight puts it, "In a world of eroding, divisions, and fragile community, the church stewards a most precious gift: God's restoration to communion of those once estranged in Christ, who joins us in the local, particular, and ordinary."

Peace be with you,

Bishop William Gafkjen

*Who is my neighbor in a world in which I might spend more time connected relationally to people on the other side of the globe than those across the street?*

Dwight Zscheile

## CHANGING FOOTPRINTS

The Outreach Committee is enthused about partnering with a non-profit organization with a mission to collect previously-worn and new shoes for distribution to homeless, disaster-stricken, and underprivileged people at home and abroad. In addition, Changing Footprints is a GREEN organization; they accept donations of shoes in ANY condition. Even damaged shoes are used to by grinding them into materials used in playground construction. You can learn more about the group at:

[www.changingfootprints.org](http://www.changingfootprints.org)

Marilyn Weber has taken the lead to organize efforts in the greater Lafayette area to team-up with this Indiana organization. She tells us that there are a couple ways you can help out with this effort.

Donate shoes. They make use of flip flops, crocs, dance shoes, slipper, sandals, sport shoes, high heels, baby shoes, cleats, work boots, snow boots....you get the idea! Anything!

Transport Lafayette shoes to Indianapolis. Marilyn notes that the drop off is just off Meridian Street and could be a quick addition to a trip you already have planned. Since drop offs are not tied to a particular schedule, she could coordinate a delivery if your trip happens when a Lafayette shipment is ready.

Contact Marilyn Weber to learn more.



# Thank you!

Tippecanoe Food Pantry  
January Volunteers

Dan and Judy Lokke

Mike and Mary Anderson

Floyd and Pat Garrott

Marilyn Weber

Steve Hahn

160 pounds was donated by HTLC

### Congregational Renewal begins May 2019!

#### Study Opportunities

- **Forgiveness and Reconciliation**

*"On both a theological and a practical level, forgiveness is at the very heart of what it means to be a Christian."*

- **Faith Story**

*Stories of hope, doubt, faith, failure, mercy, and triumph that draw us closer to one another and to God*

- **God Space**

*Equipping Your People to be the Church in Everyday Life*

Details shared at the Annual Meeting, February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you to everyone who helped me celebrate my big birthday.

Thank you for remembering me with your gifts, cards and phone calls. Also for the Christmas cards I received.

This was the year when reality really set in as how the future will look.



Helen Hoffman

## WISE MONEY

"You spend many years looking forward to and saving for retirement. But as retirement gets closer, the purpose of your investments will change. Your portfolio no longer has to get you to retirement – it has to get you *through* retirement!"

Whether you are thinking about retirement, recently retired, or it has been years since you last received a paycheck, helping you prepare to live the retirement you have envisioned is important.

To address these issues, **Patricia Caliendo**, financial advisor for Edward Jones, will join us during the Education Hour 9:30a – 10:30a on **Sunday, February 17th**.

Topics may include the following:

- Smart Charitable Giving
- Preparing for Retirement
- Planning for the Expected (and the Unexpected)
- Sensible Withdrawal Plan

This session is open to all.

For planning purposes, please mark the "Welcome Sheet" indicating your desire to attend.



*"Remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth."*  
*Deuteronomy 8:18*



## GOT A FLAT SCREEN TV THAT NEEDS A NEW HOME?

Many of us have purchased at least one if not two in the past few years. And as with most electronic items, the quality of flat screen televisions has improved while the price remained the same or actually went down! Did you acquire a new one to fit a particular purpose only to squirrel away a working unit in your basement or spare bedroom?

Holy Trinity Education Team may be able to assist in unclut-

tering your home. Your donation could assist us both in being good stewards of resources.

In light of the generous nature of this congregation, we ask that you first inform us of your willingness to donate a TV before bringing it to church. We are uncertain of the response and cannot handle an influx of too many units.

We can put TVs that have at least a 32 inch diagonal screen and one HDMI port to good use.

If you are blessed with too many flat screens, would you please send a brief description of your potential gift to Al Davis ([adavis@htlcweb.org](mailto:adavis@htlcweb.org))? Or you may contact the church office with information about the equipment you wish to donate.

## VANCO IS HERE — AUTOMATE YOUR OFFERING

Responding to suggestions from several members of the congregation, the Holy Trinity finance team is pleased to announce the introduction of Vanco.

This new capability provides an electronic option for making regular offerings. Contributions may be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. An electronic giving program will offer convenience for you and provides much needed donation consistency for your congregation.



*A demonstration of the electronic giving option will presented at the Annual Meeting on February 17th!*

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

not marriage counseling and it is not a prediction of the future of your relationship. It is a snap shot of your relationship at this point in time. The intent though is to help you grow as a couple and to strengthen your marriage.

The inventory will be available for you to complete the week of February 7-14. The time leading up to National Marriage Week will be spent signing up participants. There will be more announcements about how to sign up. I hope all married couples at Holy Trinity will participate. I know Cindy and I intend to complete the inventory. I hope you will join us. I look forward to hearing from you.

Pastor David

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## A note of thanks...

Peg Sines recently provided a gift to support the 2019 baptismal candle to be used at HTLC.

