

OPENDOOR

FEBRUARY 2022



Welcome Edition



Reflections from a Member of the Call Committee, Pat Garrott

The call process was well underway when the committee received an application profile from Pastor Elizabeth Lee from a church in Wisconsin. As I read through her profile of ministry, I became quite interested in her application, and perhaps a little bit excited about the possibility of interviewing her for our position at Holy Trinity. I was most struck by her love of Jesus and her excitement about preaching and teaching the gospel to all people no matter their age or background. Her energy and creativity came through even on the written page. Some of the things she talked about that impressed me were:

- Her creative programming ideas that helped her congregation get through the pandemic that built on their spiritual growth and maintained connections within the congregation.
- Her understanding and use of technology in bringing people together through worship and intergenerational programming.
- Her love for God and preaching the gospel to educate and motivate her congregation “to live into their faith.”

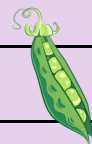
- Her willingness to “put on her collar” and visit coffee shops and engage with those in her community.

When Pastor Elizabeth interviewed with our committee I was further impressed with her answers to our questions. Some of those responses included:

- Her most favorite part of her ministry is building relationships with her congregation.
- Her excitement for Wednesday evenings when she got to teach confirmation classes.
- Setting aside regular hours each week to visit members of the congregation.

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Good Working Relationship:

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- The way she handles her many responsibilities by dividing the day into segments with flexibility to allow time for herself and her family and congregational needs as they arise. That included finding time to go to the different events of the youth of the church.
- Her approach to difficult situations involves talking out the issues so she can determine what is liked and not liked and try to find solutions that work for all involved, or drop an idea if it is not supported.

The day following her interview with the Call Committee I drove Pastor Elizabeth around our community to show her the many assets we have in Tippecanoe County, including schools, recreational facilities, and residential areas. I found her easy to be with and very personable. During the three hours which I spent with her, as we talked about many things within the church and the community, my enthusiasm for the fresh approach and the energy and her strong faith foundation in teaching and preaching was sustained.

Pastor Elizabeth is not the typical image we may have of pastors. She is not a middle aged male. She will bring a different dynamic and style in her role as our pastor. But she has “Jesus in her heart” and has the insight and wisdom and a faith in God that is deeply rooted within her that will help us to grow and be challenged in our faith.

It is such a blessing that the call process has been concluded and we now get to welcome Pastor Elizabeth and her family to Holy Trinity to serve as our Pastor. It is my fervent hope and prayer, that we will all work together for the good of our congregation as we carry out God’s work alongside Pastor Elizabeth.

Pat Garrott,

Reflections from a Call Committee member.

Marianne Blickenstaff named HTLC Office Administrator



Marianne grew up in Lafayette and attended Jefferson High School and Purdue University. She has lived in Illinois, Kansas, Ohio, and Tennessee but recently moved back to Indiana to be closer to family. She has two children. Her son Andrew lives in Chicago, and her daughter Liz lives in Nashville, Tennessee. Marianne has one grandchild.

Marianne is Managing Editor of *Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology*, which is produced by Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. She does this part-time work online and will combine her editing work with her duties at Holy Trinity. She also occasionally teaches online courses in biblical studies for Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. She enjoys quilting, hiking, reading, gardening, playing violin, and doing artwork in her spare time.

New Office Hours

10 am to 2pm Monday—Friday

Telephone: 765 447-4205

Email: office@htlcweb.org



Pastor Elizabeth, her husband, Josh, with Xander who is 8 and in 3rd grade. Nico and Kenzie are 6 and in kindergarten.

Meet Pastor Elizabeth Lee

Have you read the stories in “Living Lutheran” that feature a person in a way that gives the opportunity to hear about life and faith in the person’s own words? Here is how Pastor Elizabeth responded to Sue Davis when asked to introduce herself to HTLC.

When you mentioned the Living Lutheran profiles it made me think of one of my confirmation projects. I have the students answer questions and then create a "magazine spread" of each student. I never ask people to do something I'm unwilling to, so I also have a spread.

Name: Elizabeth Lucille Lee

College: Wartburg College, Waverly, IA

Seminary: Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

What activities have you been involved with at church and in the community?

I really enjoy building relationships and getting to spend time with people at church and in the community. I also enjoy getting to lead worship and share God’s grace through word and sacrament. In the community I like being outdoors; from hiking to swimming you will find me out and about. I also enjoy reading so you will often find me at the library and when possible at the local coffee shop.

What country does your last name originate from?

Lee is traditionally an English and Norwegian name. It is derived from Old English leah. It means meadow or forest clearing. It is a very common last name in the United States. In the 2000 census it was the 22nd most common surname. (census.gov “Frequent Names” 2000)

What does your name mean to you?

I like my name because it draws on the history of loving and strong women in my family while also allowing me to create my own identity. Over the years I have used nicknames but have come to the point that I use my full name because it is my name and for me incorporates my understanding of who I am.

What does it mean to you to have the name, “Child of God”?

It creates my understanding of who I am and whose I am. It is a constant reminder that I am created in the image of God and loved by God beyond measure. It is also my call to discipleship. My identity as child of God calls me into the world to be God’s hand, feet and voice so that others can experience God’s love and new life.

What does it mean to you to be a Christian?

To be Christian means we are striving to live out our baptismal promises to:

- Live among God’s faithful people
- Hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper
- Proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
- Serve all people, following the example of Jesus
- Strive for justice and peace in all the earth

Pastor Elizabeth—Living Her Lutheran Life continued

How did your parents choose your name?

Elizabeth is my maternal great grandmother's middle name. My middle name, Lucille, was my paternal great grand-mothers first name. Their hope is that I would have their commitment and love of family as a strong and independent woman.

Who is your favorite Biblical character and where is their story found in the Bible?

My current favorite Biblical character is Mary Magdalene. Her story is found in Matthew chapters 27 and 28. Mark chapters 15 and 16. Luke chapters 8 and 24. And John chapters 19 and 20.

Why is this your favorite character?

I really like Mary Magdalene because she is a complex character. She is known for her sins and yet Jesus calls her to follow and she does. She listens to Jesus' teachings and follows him to his death. Mary is also the first to discover that Jesus is alive. When other disciples are shut away afraid she is at the tomb and the first to be told that Jesus is alive. In fact for a little while Mary is the entire church as Jesus speaks to her and commands her to go and tell others the good news that he is alive.

How do you relate to this character?

I relate to Mary Magdalene because I am a complex person. While I am always trying to do the very best that I can in every role and setting I know that I fall short. I know that I'm not always the person I want to be and yet God calls me. I'm called to shepherd God's church in this changing world. I'm called to help others to recognize and act on the reality that God is in our midst. I'm called to share God's love with others.

What does it mean to you to be a Lutheran?

To live by Lutheran theology based on the five solas.

1. Scripture Alone
2. Faith Alone
3. Grace Alone
4. Christ Alone
5. To the Glory of God Alone

What is your favorite church memory?

When I was a toddler my mom would clean the church that my grandfather was the deacon at and while she was cleaning I would follow my grandpa and the priest around. I was always curious about what was happening and wanted to help. They even made a small desk for me in their office so that I could sit and do work with them. I loved getting to be so involved with the life of the congregation and it helped me realize

Why is it important to you to be a part of a congregation?

I truly believe that to be Christian we need to be a part of a congregation. The only way that we can live out our baptismal promises is in community with others. I also completely believe that we experience God's love through other people and we need to be in community with others for this to happen. The expressions of love and encouragement I experience through a

Why is having faith important to you?

Faith is important to me because it creates the foundation for who I am and for whom I live my life. It determines how I interact with other people, how I care for creation, and how I utilize and share the resources God has given me. Faith brings me courage to face life situations that can seem impossible and gives me comfort in the midst of grief. Faith also gives me joy and excitement for what is possible.

Glenn: Some Self Reflection

According to Greek mythology, Narcissus was a spectacularly handsome young man.

Every female in his zip code yearned for his affection.

He could have cared less. In the words of author Eugene Peterson, “Narcissus had no time for them. He was all the company he needed. He could not waste time on anyone. He required his full attention.”

The beautiful nymph Echo fell hard for Narcissus, but even she got the cold shoulder. Brokenhearted, she pleaded for divine redress. The goddess Nemesis came up with the perfect punishment. “May he who loves not others love himself only.”

A few days later Narcissus, stooping to get a drink of water, caught sight of his own reflection in the pool. Talk about love at first sight. He couldn’t bear to stop admiring such perfection. This proved to be problematic, since getting a drink would ripple the surface of the water and spoil the view. Unable to eat, drink, or avert his gaze, Narcissus gradually faded away, leaving behind nothing but a delicate spring flower that still bears his name.

It’s not overly dramatic to say that American culture has been on an increasingly narcissistic journey for a long time.

In 1954, when the Gallup Organization asked high school seniors if they considered themselves “very important,” 12% said yes. In 1989, when Gallup asked that year’s seniors the same question, an astonishing 80% answered affirmatively. *New York Times* columnist David Brooks cites this as evidence of America’s embrace of the culture of The Big Me. We’re not talking about healthy self-regard, as in, “Since all people have inherent value and dignity, I will treat myself and others with enduring respect.” Rather, “I am one in a million – a truly special person. I’m the center of my own universe.”

In her bestselling book *Eat, Pray, Love*, Elizabeth Gilbert makes this virtually an article of religious faith. God shows up in “my own voice from within myself... God dwells within you as you yourself, exactly as you are.”



In other words, I’m not just special. I’m divine. Like Narcissus, I need to spend all of my time appreciating *me*.

Therefore I resonate with commercials that tell me to focus on my personal retirement account, my wardrobe, my figure, the whiteness of my teeth, the vacation that I deserve because of the pandemic, and my Buick SUV – or as the ad puts it, my very own S(You)V. It’s all about me.

The spirit of the times has influenced the Christian community as well. I’m told that I need to focus on *my* spiritual gifts, *my* prayer life, and *my* calling, and to hold out for a church that will meet *my* spiritual needs.

Such matters do have some importance. But they’re not *central*. The kingdom always comes down to what Jesus is doing at any given moment, not what I happen to be doing.

How can we ever cultivate self-forgetfulness in a culture that is intoxicated by celebrities, selfies, and celebrities taking selfies? How can we embrace humility in a world that applauds the self-love of Narcissus?

The deepest and wisest answer is to *serve others* as a way of life.

It’s no accident that Jesus said, concerning himself: “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).

(Continued from page 5)

Service is the ultimate grandiosity-buster. Nothing grows humility like being quietly available to meet the needs of other people. Especially those who struggle to care for themselves.

Parenting is a kind of service that deepens our humility. Our children desperately need us. But they don't always say thank-you. And we don't always know how to love them, especially as they grow older.

Caring for aging parents also humbles us. Sociologists tell us that we are living in the first period in human history in which the average woman will spend more hours giving primary care to her mother than her mother gave to her when she was a little girl. Searching for the right combination of grace, tenderness, patience, and firmness with older family members is a significant strategy to choke our pride.

The primary reason that Jesus calls us to a life of service is not just to help others. We are the ones who are chiefly transformed when we serve.

I once heard someone say, "The best preparation for a mission-centered life is to do at least one thing every day that you really don't feel like doing."

The magical reality is that the more we make that choice, the more we become the kind of people who *want* to do what is difficult but good.

And better still?

We'll find ourselves less and less interested in that old habit that never got us anywhere in the first place – staring in wonderment at our own reflection.



From "Morning Reflections" written by Glenn McDonald.



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.



Adopt a Spot Award is presented to a volunteer for tackling a gardening challenge and beautifying an area around the church property.



Paul Slavens was a warm, kind-hearted and inviting presence at HTLC; he set an example for a welcoming culture at HTLC. The Slaven's award is made in his honor to highlight a person carrying on Jesus' command to invite others to know Jesus' love.

Wayne Barnaby was a Property Committee Legend! His award is presented to a person who has devoted time and effort to caring for the HTLC facility and grounds with love and dedication.





PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

Living God,
in Christ you make all
things new. Transform the
poverty of our nature by
the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our
lives make known your
glory, through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and
Lord.

Amen.



LET'S CELEBRATE

Birthdays

2	Mary McDonald
2	Scott Schwartz
3	Joann King
10	Rudy Ahlersmeyer
14	Pinnie Wallace
18	Brandin Tetzloff
25	Ryan Longdo
26	Helen Glick
28	Donna Montgomery

Mark your Calendar

Saturday, February 5 Game Night in
the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 pm

Sunday, February 27 following
worship Spring Bi-annual meeting

Wednesday, March 2 Lent begins with
worship at noon and at 7pm

JANUARY 10, 2022 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	No
	Mike Anderson	Yes
Pastor of Record	Pastor Randy Schroeder	Yes

Council Meeting Minutes



Topic 1: Greetings and Devotions –

- Greetings– Hello from/to All

Nita led a discussion on God in our Lives

- Quorum

Quorum established.

- Devotions

Attachment for Topic 1, led by Pastor Randy.

- Approve agenda

Amended as listed below (date of February congregational meeting). Approved as amended via voice vote. Bob Montgomery made the motion.

Topic 2: Administrative Topics

- Approve December minutes

Mike Anderson made a motion to approve Dec 13 and Dec 20 draft minutes. Approved as written via voice vote.

- Pastor of Record report

Mutual ministry meeting attended. All the rest going OK.

- Secretary: Recurring tasks

Next meeting.

Topic 3: Finance Committee

- Treasurer's report

Bob Montgomery moved to approve the treasurer's report approved as written. Passed via voice vote. Report is listed as Topic 3 attachment.

- TD Ameri-Trade discussion

Al Davis, Assoc. Treasurer, was present for the discussion.

A summary of the account balance from its' inception in December 2017 to current in December 2021 was presented by the treasurer, Stan Harlow.

To address the questions raised at the December, 2021 meeting, the financial committee presented a draft contract for the TDAmeriTrade account with Al Davis as the sole agent. The contract was discussed. Dave Krueger made a motion to approve the draft contract as written, this was approved via voice vote. Finance secretary and council president will sign the contract, as well as the agent for the account.

The draft contract and the account history provided to Council.

JANUARY COUNCIL CONTINUED

Topic 4: Old Business

- Masks

The request for all to wear masks in the church service, as well as the building in general was agreed to be continued. General consensus.

- Parish Administrator support

Motion to hire Marianne Blickenstaff as parish administrator. See attached information for Topic 4. This was approved by voice vote.

- Blessing Talks

The Blessing Talk, normally the second Sunday, will not be done in January as this coincides w/ Pastor Lee's visit. And the next week is the service w/ Pastor Apel. So the January talk will be postponed. The talks will resume in February.

- Coffee time after worship

Will no longer be done while county is COVID red, see below.

A discussion on the service structure going forward due to the very high incidence of COVID in the county.

No changes to current practice for the January 9 service with Pastor Lee (singing and masks).

For the service on January 16 with Pastor Apel, the I-K Synod requests no singing during the service.

This is due to the very high incidence of COVID at this time.

For services beginning January 23 and continuing, a "hybrid" model was proposed by Dave Krueger.

The service will still be open for members to attend in-person. Only a soloist (most likely the pianist) will sing. The congregants present will be requested not to sing. All persons will be requested to wear masks at all times. On-line services will continue.

All of these proposals were approved by voice vote.

Topic 5: New Business

- I-K Synod mission support

Bishop's office has a program mission support share. Requesting financial commitment for 2022. HTLC has 11% of our total budget already allocated for synod mission giving in our budget. Synod also asks for a one-time gift to be used for the "Church of the Future" projects. Several projects, or "where needed most" are listed.

Stan Harlow moved that \$2K be used as this one-time gift, for where needed most. This amount is 10% of the extra from 2021 monies. Approved by voice vote.

- Set date for congregational meeting (February)

The constitution calls for a February meeting, for reports. February 27 was selected.

Topic 6: Arrangements of Call for Pastor Lee

- Review of weekend visit and Sunday service
- Plans for January 16 congregational meeting
- Potential for voting via Zoom

Jan 16 congregational meeting following the service. Service to be led by Pastor Heather Apel, Assistant to the Bishop of the I-K Synod. Service to follow guidelines for masks and singing as above (topic 4).

The current HTLC constitution only provides for in-person voting. Pastor Heather Apel recommends council do a continuing resolution to the constitution to allow voting electronic (Zoom) and by phone. There is recommended language in the model constitution for the resolution. Synod legal has determined that this is acceptable under Indiana laws. To amend the constitution for this resolution, a 2/3 approval from council is required.

JANUARY COUNCIL CONTINUED

Continuing Resolution:

C10.06A22. This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

Bob Montgomery moved to approve the continuing resolution. This was approved by voice vote, with all voting Yes (the 2/3 requirement was met).

The language requires that council approve this option for each meeting as needed. Council approved electronic and phone voting for the congregational meeting on January 16, 2022.

ECW will update the constitution with this section and send an electronic copy to the Synod for filing.

For the voting on 16 January for the call decision:

Pastor Heather and her tech crew will send the Zoom invitation and do the tally. Floyd Garrott will work with Pastor to verify that the Zoom participants are voting members.

Mike Anderson and Dave Krueger will count the in-person votes.

Topic 7: Committee Reports

- Oral reports supplementing written submissions

Worship and Music, Property, available in 360 Unite.

Rest did not meet.

Walk-in topics

- Topics from congregation members attending as visitors

None.

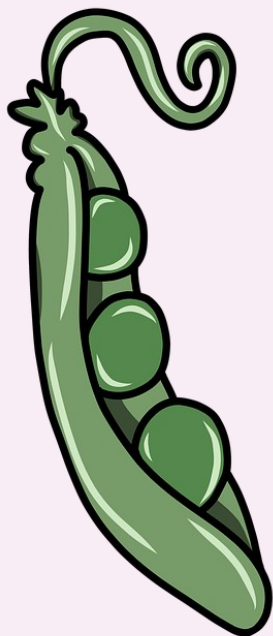
Topic 8: Closing

- Prayers

Meeting end, 8:25pm.

Next meeting, Monday February 14, 2022 at 6:30pm





Lessons from the Garden

Pastor Lichtenberger told the story from the pea patch that has some life lessons for Christians. You can watch the sermon from Jan 23 on Facebook or You-Tube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QrrGAUzlo6E>

Peas grow hanging down from the vines

- one of the peas was always on top.
- one of the peas - always in the middle.
- one of the peas - always on the bottom of the pod.

The peas assumed an order of importance based on their limited perspective on the vine, however this view changed as the harvest proved the wisdom of the peas to be distorted.

Some lessons from the pea patch:

- All of you are important.
- All are important in the body of Christ, this church.
- As we work together with Pastor Elizabeth, it will be important for each of us to do whatever we can to become the church that God wants us to be. It will be important for us to build each other up and work together so that others will know we are Christians by our love. In working together as the body of Christ, we build up the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ as



Purdue Lutheran Ministry Request

Due to COVID concerns some of our students are not comfortable eating in the dining halls. They have asked if PLM and friends could help.

However, instead of asking for actual food donations, we are asking for monetary donations so that we can get specific items for our students due to a few students have dietary needs and we would like to support all our students. If you are able, please give a monetary donation with the word "food" in the memo line, or visit our webpage www.plm.org and go to the donation tab and make a donation there with the word "food" and help us feed our students. Thank you so much for your generosity and support of PLM.



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BIBLE PASSAGE — He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Agnus Day



Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. "Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.