

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
A Reconciling in Christ Community



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The Reverend Kathryn S. Irwin, Pastor
J. Scott Jones, Cantor

Council Members:

Emily Thomsen (President) / Sally Bayhi (Vice President)
Ken Geiselman (Secretary) / Terry Graney (Treasurer)
Marcia Hayes / Karen Lewis / Doris Schulz

Newsletter / Lent & Easter 2020

From Pastor Kathryn...

My dear siblings in Christ,

Lent is upon us once more, and perhaps we find ourselves wondering what we will “give up” or what discipline we will take up for the season. The question I want to encourage you to ask this year is: “Why will I do this thing? What do I hope to get out of it?”

Giving up chocolate or cutting out caffeine or committing to an exercise routine all may be good Lenten disciplines. But they might just be ways we use Lent as an excuse to do things we think will make us feel better or be better people.

Lent is not about being better, nor is it about self-improvement schemes. But what Lent can be about is remembering whose we are already and that we are already, as Children of God, declared “good” with all of God’s creation.

As we enter into a season of discipline, of fasting or prayer or alms giving, consider how these practices and their many variations can be helpful to you, not to make yourself better, but to draw yourself closer into relationship with God, and to see more clearly your membership in the Body of Christ and your inherent worth and relatedness to all your siblings within the Body.

I pray that this Lenten season is one of discovery and growth, that we might at the end of it all find ourselves blooming along with the lilies of Easter Sunday.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Kathryn

Another note from Pastor Kathryn...

It is with great joy that I share with you our newly and unanimously adopted Identity Statement from our annual congregational meeting:

HTLC is a sacramental community of disciples of Jesus the Christ.

Having been blessed with gifts of the Spirit, and seeking God's guidance through prayer and worship, we will use these gifts to share the good news of God's unconditional love and respond to the needs of all in our community and in the world.

Rejoicing in the gifts we have been given, we will joyfully give as we have received.

We recognize and celebrate the great variety present in God's Good Creation and look for ways to be as open, affirming, and honoring of the many different ways God's children are created to be God's image in the world:

all races, all gender identities, all sexual orientations, all languages, all backgrounds, all futures, all economic statuses, all citizenships. All of God's Children.

Come as you are, and join us!

Adopting this statement has allowed us to become accepted into the Reconciling in Christ partnership with ReconcilingWorks, a national independent Lutheran organization that works to foster and support inclusive faith practices for the sake of the Gospel. This is an exciting step forward in our discernment as a congregation of who we have been made as a community in Christ and how we are being called to serve God and neighbor. Being Reconciling in Christ (or RIC) allows folks to find us on the RIC database if they are looking for a worshipping community but unsure of how they will be welcomed. With this RIC designation, now folks can know before meeting us that we are welcoming to ALL of God's children and our siblings in Christ!

In addition to the new Identity Statement, we also adopted seven core values:

SACRAMENTAL

COMMUNITY

DISCIPLESHIP

PRAYERFUL

DIVERSITY

STEWARDSHIP

MUSIC

In the coming year, we will gather once a month after worship for some time of fellowship, food, and exploration of one of these values so that we can dig deeper and more clearly articulate what it is about these words and ideas that we hold so dear. I hope that you can join us for these events: March 15, April 19, May 17, June 14, July 19, August 16, and September 20.

Pastor Kat

WORSHIP LIFE

Quarterly Healing Services Next Healing Service March 1 at 2pm

Pastor Kathryn will be offering an occasional service of healing and Holy Communion on the first Sundays of March, June, September and December at 2pm. All are welcome at these brief services of prayer, scripture, simple music, and communion. Please reach out to Pastor Kathryn with any questions.

LENT

Lent is a 40 day season beginning on Ash Wednesday extending to Holy Week that leads us to the cross of Jesus' crucifixion. It is the time when we hear Jesus' words, "if any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." In the early church, lent was the final intense period of baptismal preparation before baptism at Easter.



Ash Wednesday – February 26th

We begin by remembering that we are dust, and to dust we shall return.

Evening Worship with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion, 7:30pm.

(Please see the sign-up sheet or contact the office to help in Ash Wednesday worship.)

Lent Tuesdays: *At the Name of Jesus*
Join us on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 (March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31) for Lenten midweek worship. Each week we will consider Philippians 2:5-11, bringing out different pieces of this Scripture reading that we will hear in worship on Passion Sunday, April 8. Around the scripture we will gather for a service of evening prayer.

Lenten Soup & Study with Franklin Reformed Church, Thursdays at 6:15pm, Starting March 5th

Join us here with our friends from Franklin Reformed Church Thursday evenings at 6:15pm for our Lenten Soup n' Study. We will be reading *Spiritual Defiance* by Robin Meyers. The study will run from March 5 thru April 2. Books can be purchased through betterworldbooks.com, barnesandnoble.com, or smile.amazon.com. It is also available on Nook and Kindle. If you have trouble getting the book or are otherwise interested but unable to obtain a copy, please talk to Pastor Kathryn.

Please see the sign-up sheets for attending the study and for providing soup/bread. At least 3 soups are needed each week (1 vegan soup, please).

Holy Week

Sunday of the Passion and Palm Sunday – April 5th

Community Blessing of the Palms Several Nutley congregations will process with palms from their churches to the front lawn of **Town Hall (corner of Chestnut Street and Vincent Place) on Palm Sunday, at 9:15 a.m.** for a service of blessing of the palms. The palm branch for Christians is a reminder of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem when the crowds waved palm branches of victory.

Palm Sunday Festival Worship at Holy Trinity

Join us at Holy Trinity, at 10:00am for Palm Sunday Worship and Holy Communion. We will wave "eco-palms" from Lutheran World Relief which ensure a fair price is given to harvesters & protect the environment. We will hear the story of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as well as the story of Jesus' passion and death as recounted in the Gospel of Mark.



April 9th, Maundy Thursday

Join us with Franklin Reformed Church (at Franklin Reformed) for Maundy Thursday Dinner & Communion at the Table (the time TBD). Franklin Reformed Church is located at 45 Hillside Crescent, Nutley

Good Friday – April 10th Community Cross Walk

The Nutley Clergy Fellowship invites the community to join them for a Cross Walk on **Good Friday, April 10th at 12 noon starting in front of Nutley High School**. Prayers for peace, healing, safety, compassion, and justice will be offered in front of locations like Nutley Family Service Bureau, and Nutley Police and Fire Departments. Participants of all ages can join for all or part of the walk and are invited to bring a cross of any size to carry as a Christian witness.



Good Friday Worship at Holy Trinity

This solemn service of prayer and reflection centers around the account of the state sanctioned murder of Jesus by crucifixion. As we gather and hear the story that we know so well, we are confronted once again with the amazing lengths to which God does go for love of us, God's created people. There are no depths – not even death – to which God will not travel to care for us. There is hope and good news even in this night of intense sorrow and emptiness.

Please join us for **Good Friday worship at 7:30pm**.

Saturday, April 11th

Prepare the Church for Easter Worship,

Meet to prepare the church for Easter at **10:00am**. All are invited to come and help in this holy work of transforming what has for the many weeks of Lent been a sparsely appointed space of hopeful yet solemn preparation into a space full of new life and joyous celebration.

Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter, April 12th

10:00am Festival Worship with Communion



Come and hear the good news of the new life we have been given in Christ's death and resurrection! Sin has no power over us, the grave cannot hold us, in baptism we have been freely given forgiveness of sins and new life with Christ as brothers and sisters and siblings in the family of God! Alleluia!

Altar Flowers

If you would like to honor or memorialize someone or a special date with altar flowers, the cost remains \$30; the sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the front entryway, or you may call or email the office.



Altar Flowers

Worship Assistants Needed



Would you like to help in worship? We are in need of Communion Assistants & Assisting Ministers. There are "Holy Trinity Worship Assistants" guides on the table in the entryway that explain in detail the responsibilities of each worship area. You will be trained for the position you sign up for and will be scheduled to serve approximately once a month (sometimes less if we have enough people scheduled for each position).

Please see Pastor Kathryn, Scott Jones or contact Tina in the office if you are interested. Thank you.

Baptismal Birthdays



Baptism is our birth into the Body of Christ, the Church. As brothers and sisters in Christ, let us celebrate these anniversaries with each other.

If you haven't already done so, please let the office know of your date of baptism and your birthday, so that we may celebrate your special day!

Daylight Savings

Remember to set your clock ahead one hour for daylight savings time on **Sunday, March 8th**. You don't want to be late for worship!



Snow Day?

We always prefer to gather as the Body of Christ on Sundays, but also try to keep everyone safe. In the case of inclement weather, check the phone message at the office: (973) 667-0256. The message will be updated by 8:00 AM.



STEWARDING GOD'S RESOURCES

Stewardship for Lent & Easter

Jesus teaches, "What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?" –**Mark 8:36, 37** (NIV)

Instead of the superficial "How's it going?" a wise colleague asks friends, "How is your soul?" The question requires effort. To answer it I must plunge deep inside – below the constantly churning waters of everyday joys, hopes, ambitions, desires, anxieties and disappointments. These are so strong, especially our desires and ambitions, that if we are not careful they can absorb all our time and energy.

Jesus repeatedly warns us not to let our desires and our worries overwhelm us, keeping us from paying attention to the soul. Our soul is where we connect with God, the source of our greatest strength and truest identity. Without attention, our soul can wither like a plant without water. As with all the treasures God has given us, we must be stewards of our souls.

The mystics of old and modern prophets (such as Richard Rohr, Marjorie Thompson, and Howard Thurman) teach us to employ prayer, holy silence, and other spiritual disciplines to tend our souls and keep worldly worries and desires from drowning us. This month, begin a daily practice of caring for

your soul. You might begin with five minutes of spoken prayer followed by five minutes of silence. Or reflect deeply on a Scripture passage. Or try prayerful yoga. (Your pastor might be able to give you some resources or ideas.)

With a little practice and attention, you can become stronger, more centered, and more spiritually resilient.

How is your soul?

--Rob Blezard

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Food Pantry, Advent Coin Holder, Good Gifts & Poinsettias



Through your generosity you have donated:

\$305 for the Advent Coin Holder Special Offering
\$315 in Shoprite Gift Cards
\$425 towards ELCA Good Gifts (3 chicks, 3 honeybees, 6 pigs, feed 1 refugee family, 2 school uniforms for girls, 1 goat)
32 Poinsettias to help beautify the Sanctuary

THANK YOU!

Souper Bowl of Caring



Thanks to your generosity, we have collected **\$259** for the Souper Bowl of Caring! **100% of our donations will go to help support the Vincent Care Kitchen.** Over \$6 million has been reported!

Serving at the Vincent Care Kitchen

Holy Trinity helps to serve at the Care Kitchen the last Saturday of every month. The Kitchen provides

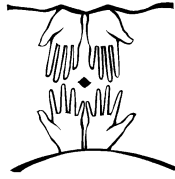
a nutritious meal every Saturday (except the first Saturday of the month) at Vincent United Methodist Church in Nutley. Everyone is

welcome. If you would like to help serve, please talk with Julie Franchino or Greg Sekula. Thanks!



Food Pantry and Personal Care Items

Each month we focus on one Care Item and one Food Item for the Care Pantry at Vincent UMC and the Food Pantry at Nutley Family Service Bureau. Contributions can be brought to HTLC any time, but on the fourth Sunday of the month we will bless them during worship and pray for those who will benefit from them in the coming month.



The Care Pantry at Vincent UMC serves 50-60 families each month, providing much needed household and personal care supplies to our neighbors in Nutley.

Monthly Care Items:

January: laundry detergent
February: single packed toothbrushes, toothpaste
March: shampoo
April: bar soap
May: dish soap
June: household cleaners
July: laundry detergent
August: single pack toothbrushes & toothpaste
September: shampoo
October: toilet paper & paper towels
November: disposable razors & shaving cream
December: bar soap

The Food Pantry at Nutley Family Service Bureau serves over 150 households each month, providing nutritious and comforting food options for our neighbors in Nutley.

Monthly Food Items:

January: canned beans
February: peanut butter & jelly
March: canned chicken, tuna, stew
April: tomato sauce
May: macaroni & cheese
June: canned fruit & applesauce
July: canned beans
August: peanut butter & jelly
September: Canned chicken, tuna, stew
October: tomato sauce
November: macaroni & cheese
December: canned fruit & applesauce

**PLEASE CHECK EXPIRATION DATES BEFORE
DONATING. THANK YOU!**

LEARNING OUR FAITH

Congregational Core Values Lunches

Please join in the fellowship and exploration of our congregation's newly adopted Core Values of: sacramental, community, discipleship, prayerful, diversity, stewardship, and music. Once a month we will meet after worship to discuss one of the values and how we can, as a congregation, best live into that particular value. There will be a monthly sign-up for food, please check the back table in worship. We will meet on March 15, April 19, May 17, June 14, July 19, August 16, and September 20.

Christian Education and Faith Formation for Our Younger Siblings at HTLC

In October we started offering a variety of Children's Faith Formation activities each month. We continue on the second and third Sundays, children aged 3½ through 6th grade will be invited to join their teacher (Julie Franchino or Ruth Sekula) at the back of the worship space after the reading of the Gospel and will return to worship in time to receive Holy Communion (or a blessing) with the congregation. On the first Sunday of the month will be an opportunity for the children to remain in worship with the whole community for the entire service and receive a Children's Sermon right after the reading of the Gospel.



Please feel free to speak to Pastor Irwin with any questions you may have.

CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS

Thank you!

Thanks to those of you that helped with Advent & Christmas Worship. Those who polished the brass we use in worship, who helped to decorate/undecorate the church for Christmas, to those that contributed to our potlucks and to anyone who helped in any way during the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Seasons. We could not do it without you!



Thanks to **Nancy Duhm** who again donated the 2 wreaths that hung on our front doors during Christmas!

Congregational Annual Meeting was January 26

The congregation met on January 26th to hear reports of the ministry done in 2019 and consider what we might do in 2020. The meeting included elections and approval of the 2020 spending plan. Annual reports were made available the week before the meeting. If you would like a copy, 2019 annual reports and minutes of the meeting will be available from the church office.

Officers: Emily Thomsen (President), Sally Bayhi (Vice President), Ken Geiselmann (Secretary), Marcia Hayes, Karen Lewis, Doris Schulz, Terry Graney (treasurer).

THE SEASON IN OUR COMMUNITY

Zion Lutheran Rahway Homeless Ministry

At the congregational council meeting, Reverend Carmine Pernini from Zion Lutheran in Rahway joined us to share about an exciting and Spirit-filled new ministry their congregation launched in February. They opened a 14-bed homeless shelter in their fellowship hall, for the months of February and March (with the intention of expanding it to December through March at the end of 2020). As with all new ministries, funds and other forms of support are needed. We are very excited to announce that HTLC will be partnering with our siblings in Christ at Zion Rahway by means of a \$2500 gift to help make this holy dream a life-saving reality!

“Relay for Life” Prayer Service

The “Relay for Life” Team and the Nutley Clergy Fellowship invite the community to join them for an interfaith “Prayer Service” for all those touched by cancer on **Wednesday, May 6, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Mary’s Church, 17 Monsignor Owens Place in Nutley.**

National Day of Prayer, May 7th

Thursday, May 7 is the National Day of Prayer. People of all faiths are invited that day to spend some special time in prayer for our world, our country, and our leaders. The Nutley Clergy Fellowship will hold a short **Prayer Service at 12 noon in front of Nutley Town Hall.** All are invited. Whether it is at town hall, at home, at work or anywhere, all are invited to lift prayers to God for our community, our country, and our world.

KEEP IN PRAYER

Steve, John, Sally, Corona Virus Victims, Fran, Paul and Family, Yolanda, Ann, Ryan, Zoe, Thanksgiving for Sarah, Carole, the family of Amanda Russo and son, Terry, Bruce T., Tom, Roz, Linda’s husband, Faye, Ann, Yolanda, Carole, Ruth, Vanessa, Ann, Will, Michael, Kalagh and Ethan M., Kenny, Danielle, Tiffany, Sadie, Leonard, The Finn Family, Julieann & Family, Family & Friends of Irene H., Carmen R., Rachel, Pete, Harland, Barbara, Elaine, Sean, Beau & Sion, Paul, Roni, Robin, Fred, Miriam, Irene, Cort, Scott, Ruth, Cecilia and her family, Kathy, Dominic, Family & friends of John Linsey, Carolyn, Bob, Terry & Shawneen, Tucker and Thomas I., Jim G., Evelyn, Monte & Dawn, Charlie, Ellen, Kate, Steve, Cynthia, Rich, Leona, Susan, Margaret, Sandra, Marilyn, Doris, the unemployed, under employed, people of 12-step programs, those we will tell the story of Jesus the Christ.

People are kept on the list for 3 months; please update the office with changes. Give prayer slips to an usher or the pastor before service or place in the offering plate for the following weeks' service.

Easter Flowers (please order by Sunday, March 15th)

Your flowers will beautify the sanctuary on Easter morning & may be taken home after Easter worship



No. of Lilies (\$10 ea.): _____ No. of Tulips (\$10 ea.): _____
 No. of Daffodils (\$10 ea.): _____ No. of Pompoms for Easter Cross (\$4 ea.): _____

TOTAL FLOWER DOLLAR AMOUNT \$ _____

Name: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

ELCA Gifts & Special Offering (please order by Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020)

Working with our neighbors in the United States and in nearly 50 countries, *ELCA Good Gifts* works to break the cycle of hunger and poverty and to provide pastoral care for those in need.

Just \$10 purchases a peep of chicks: Chicks lay eggs for nutritious meals. Extra eggs can also become a small business.



\$20 manure for farming: Manure increases soil quality, reduces the risk of erosion and improves nutrients available to crops — helping a farmer increase their yields in a big way!

\$50 purchases a goat: Goats are the superhero of the barnyard. Why? Because goats can go where other animals can't, surviving in some of the world's harshest environments – rocky terrain, drought-prone areas, small plots of land, you name it. Fresh milk from a goat provides daily nutrition for children and their families. Offspring can rapidly transform a community when shared with other families in need.

Special Lenten Offering (donate any monetary amount): We invite you to make a special offering to the church this Lent as part of your personal Lenten discipline by considering what blessings you have received from God this year and how you might give back to God some of the generosity you have been shown. Offerings, once discerned, can be brought to church any Sunday through the Lent or Easter seasons, mailed to church or dropped off in the mail slot.



Peep of Chicks: _____ x \$10.00 each = \$ _____

Manure: _____ x \$20.00 each = \$ _____

Goat: _____ x \$50.00 each = \$ _____

Special Offering: Fill in your donation amount \$ _____

TOTAL GIFTS AMOUNT \$ _____

Name: _____

EXTENDED TOTAL FOR FLOWERS & GIFTS: \$ _____

(For Counters to fill in)

PAID: \$ _____ via check# _____ or cash _____