

## **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**

***Share the Gospel. Overcome Barriers. Connect One to Many.***



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**Vice/Supply Pastor, Nancy Truscott**

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**Evelyn Oberndorf, Supply Musician**

### **Council Members:**

Steve Oberndorf (President) / Marcia Hayes (Vice President)

Ken Geiselmann (Secretary) / Jeremy Boyer

Karen Lewis / Doris Schulz

Terry Graney (Treasurer)

### **Newsletter Easter 2021**

#### **From Pastor Nancy Truscott**

Greetings to the Holy Trinity Church Family!

We are preparing to enter the most deeply spiritual time of all the church seasons. As the Sundays and weeks of Lent move forward, we get even closer to the heart of Jesus with Holy Week providing time for reflection directly at the foot of the cross. We see the sacred heart of Jesus suffering on the cross and ask ourselves: Is there anything more I can give of myself in response to Jesus' selfless life-giving love? Is there something I need to address personally or for the sake of others that will allow God's love to shine even brighter. How can we be beacons of God's light of justice and peace shining on all people of all faiths and cultures, races and genders? The journey to and through the cross is what makes the bright light of Easter possible.

As early morning light grows into the full brightness of day, God's love grows in our hearts. When the suffering of Good Friday gives way to the Joy of Easter, we shout ALLELUIA because Christ is risen by the glorious love of God! After our time of deep reflection, by God's glorious grace, we rise too! Best of all, through our disciplines of Lent – especially focusing on prayer and giving time, talent, and treasure – the people around us also rise to brighter life.

With the ultimate Light of Joy in our hearts we proclaim:

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen indeed!

Alleluia!

*~Pastor Nancy Truscott*

## **From Doris Schulz, Council Member**

As members of the church council we take turns and prepare opening devotions for our monthly meetings. The following was my devotions for our March 16, 2021 session which I have been asked to share with you.

One year ago tomorrow we met virtually as a council for the very first time. Coronavirus was new to us and we didn't quite know what to expect or what would happen next. The lockdowns and stay-at-home order had just begun. At the time we were told it would be for a couple of weeks. A year later we are still meeting virtually, our church is still not open, there are still lockdowns in various parts of the world and the virus rages on. For my devotions last year I composed and read a prayer that I think is still appropriate for our situation today. I have said this prayer throughout the past year and share it again today with you because it is still pertinent to our current situation:

*“Lord Jesus you are the divine physician and healer of the sick. We turn to you in this time of illness that has spread through all the nations. You came into the world for our sake as one of us and you suffered as we do. Surround us with your healing love. We place our fears and worries into your hands. We place our sick under your care. As we continue through this trial, help us to know that you are with us at all times. We give thanks to you that your loving grace enfolds us today, tomorrow and for all eternity. In the security of your heavenly embrace, we ask that you stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. In your name we pray. Amen.”*

In closing I want to end on a more hopeful note from Philippians: do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

*Wishing you all Gods, love & peace.....Doris Schulz*

## **From Steve Oberndorf, Council President...**

### ***Pastoral Call Status***

We started the Pastoral call process in January after a preliminary virtual meeting with Bishop Bartholomew. Because of the small size of the congregation, the council will also be acting as the call committee. The council is open to non-council members participating and providing input to the process, especially as we draw closer to meeting with candidates. As the initial step in the process, we are completing a Ministry Site Profile (MSP) which is used by candidates to access whether they are interested in interviewing for a call to serve as our pastor. We are about 80% through the actual completion of the MSP. The MSP provides information about our congregation and our community, including information about what we believe our mission is, what we are looking for in a pastor and what we are willing to do to support the pastor we call, and general demographic information about Nutley. We thank all of you for your assistance in completing the questionnaire we distributed in February, which is the first step in completing the data for the MSP. While we will probably submit the MSP assuming a part-time call, we are exploring with the Synod the possibility of a shared ministry with another ELCA congregation or a denomination that is in full communion with the ELCA. When the MSP is completed, it will be adopted by the council and submitted for approval to the Synod. When Synodical approval is given, it then will be released on the ELCA's website and thus made available to those clergy members and seminarians seeking a call.

At this point, we cannot provide you with any information on how long the call process will take to be completed. I suggest that the process may be longer than any of us anticipate and previous call situations will not be comparable. In addition, according to ELCA rules we cannot provide any information concerning a candidate who we consider for an interview or to whom the council as call committee extends a call. However, you will play an important role in the process as the successful candidate will lead a service, you will have the opportunity to ask questions of the candidate at a special congregational meeting held after that service, and the candidate must receive the affirmative vote of a minimum of 2/3rds of the members present at that meeting.

The council/call committee asks for your prayers and your cooperation as we enter this new adventure into the future of Holy Trinity.

### ***Financial Update***

To keep our members up to date on our current financial situation we will be providing an update with each Newsletter. We will also attempt to provide more information more frequently as part of the mailings we send to you regarding worship services and events. Please be aware that the information in the newsletter comes from the financial report given to Council at its latest meeting (March 16<sup>th</sup>). This information is from the financial report for the month of February that was presented at that meeting. Therefore, the information will be at least one month behind.

#### **For February 2021:**

Regular Monthly Offerings --- \$3,223

Actual Total Expenditures --- \$4,998

Estimated Average Weekly Attendance on Zoom --- 22

*Steve Oberndorf, President of Council*

## VICE PASTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

### From Pastor Nancy Truscott, adapted from our Bishop's letter of agreement

There are seven specific responsibilities for the Vice Pastor. They are:

(1) To meet monthly with the Congregation Council of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and provide them with pastoral counsel and guidance. If there is a schedule conflict, the Congregation Council should accommodate itself to your schedule.

(2) To preside, or arrange appropriate Lutheran presidency, at any extraordinary worship services such as weddings or funerals.

(3) To supervise the educational program of the congregation, and, if possible, to teach the catechetical program.

(4) To call upon and provide pastoral care for those members of the congregation who are hospitalized or long-term home bound.

(5) To make yourself available, including how to be reached, to those who need to see a pastor, e.g. crisis counseling.

(6) To see that the administrative matters of the congregation are well attended to, and especially that the Parish Register is correctly maintained during the interim.

(7) To report on a monthly basis to the Office of the Bishop as to the status of the congregation's life in the interim.

The Congregation Council of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is responsible to assist and support you in every reasonable way so that the mission of the congregation continues to be well served.

## WORSHIP

### "Zoom" Worship Information

Until we come together again for worship, we invite you to join us as we engage in the following online/phone opportunities for community:

#### WEEKLY SUNDAY WORSHIP - EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:00AM

We will gather via Zoom (video and phone conference) to worship God, to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and to be nourished by our presence in one another's lives.

Join Zoom Meeting Video Conferencing:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82552194898>

Phone Call for Voice Only: 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID is: 825 5219 4898

*Please also check our website and Facebook page for any updates ([htlcnutley.org](http://htlcnutley.org))*

### Good Friday – April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Join us for Good Friday worship, 7:30pm.

### Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am



Come and hear the good news of the new life we have been given in Christ's death and resurrection!

Please note that the Synod will be providing the worship service for us on **Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.**



### Worship Assistants Needed

Even though we are meeting virtually, we still need Assisting Ministers and Lectors. If you are interested in helping with either, please let Tina in the office know. Thank you.

## **CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS**

### **Congregational Annual Meeting was January 31, 2021**

The congregation met virtually after worship on Sunday, January 31, 2021, to hear reports of the ministry done in 2020 and consider what we might do in 2021. The meeting included elections and approval of the 2021 spending plan. Annual reports were made available the week before the meeting.

Council: Steve Oberndorf, President, Marcia Hayes, Vice President, Ken Geiselman, Secretary, Jeremy Boyer, Karen Lewis, Doris Schulz, Terry Graney (treasurer).

## **GIVING IN OUR COMMUNITY**

Please note that the *Nutley Family Service Bureau* and *Vincent United Methodist Church* are still accepting food (Nutley Family Service Bureau) and care item donations (Vincent Church) at this time. Please contact these establishments for the most recent donation times, or if you are in need.

## **COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

We will now be including the latest council Meeting Minutes as part of the Newsletter. They can be found on the last page.

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES February 18, 2021

**Opening:** 7:05pm

**Members Present:** Pastor Truscott, Ken Geiselman, Steve Oberndorf, Terry Graney, Marcia Hayes, Doris Schulz, Jeremy Boyer, Karen Lewis

**Opening Devotions:** Pastor Truscott read from Mathew Chapter 5 vs. 3-9

**Approval of Last Minutes Meeting:** January 12, 2021

**Motion to Accept by Ken 2<sup>nd</sup> Marcia approved**

### **Old Business:**

Return to in-person worship: Pastor Truscott has to change our start time because of conflicts with Cranes Mills. After discussion it was decided to start at 9am effective March 14.

**Motion by Jeremy to start at 9am on March 14<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marcia approved**

Should we have Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Jeremy preferred at least Good Friday. It was decided we would do Good Friday only. Pass the word around to everyone.

The Sunday after Easter will be a Synod service. Pastor Truscott will be off.

Steve is hoping for a mid May start to in person worship.

The Congregational Report is due. Pastor Truscott will check with Tina regarding this report.

Ministry Site Profile: Still lots to do and the congregation response has been limited to say the least. Pastor feels a final R.S.V.P. and then fill out with what we have.

### **New Business:**

Reports:

Pastor Truscott will try to make in person visits when possible. She has had a request for a confirmation class. So far there might be 3 attendees.

Finance: After some discussion it was decided to try to find a church accountant.

**Motion to accept the Treasurers report by Doris 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marcia approved**

Endowment: Steve would like to see if we can get some professional help.

Property: There are what might be some serious problems with the building.

The roof, the ceilings, general appearance of the outside of the building and mold.

There should be a general inspection by a professional.

Per the request. The Nancy Gunther bequest will be used as needed.

Balance of the Berkobin bequest, \$2500 to be decided. Jeremy stated that Thrivent usually matches any church donations. We will look into this.

We will need another special meeting to work on Ministry Site Profile. It was decided on February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

The contact list needs to be updated.

Discussion was held on how to update the congregation on what the council is doing. It was decided to publish council minutes in the newsletters.

There was discussion on putting the palms outside of the church. No decision made.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday March 16, 2021 @ 7pm.

Closing Prayer: The Lords Prayer

Meeting adjourned @ 8:55pm Submitted by: Ken Geiselman