

# OPENDOOR

SEPTEMBER 2021



## Beginning Anew - Let Go, Trust God, Rise Up

The last 18 months has been a difficult time for all of us due to Covid-19 and maybe for other reasons. As far as the congregation goes, we had livestream worship only for quite a while, Sunday School video recorded lessons for our children, Zoom meetings and Bible studies, etc. Even when we are together now, we are still wearing masks; we don't share the peace with a handshake or hug, or see each other's faces unless we are outside.

As Pastor Jeff Linman, an ELCA pastor, shares:

***Who could have imagined that a microscopic virus named Covid-19 would cause so much disruption in our world, our lives, and our churches? Weariness, grief, uncertainty, and even division have become viral as we struggle to recover. The long-term impact of Covid on congregations remains uncertain, but I am convinced that the attitude and spirit of church leaders and members as they respond to this crisis will play a key role as they navigate the challenges ahead.***

In two of its definitions for "crisis," the Merriam-Webster dictionary connects crisis with opportunity: **the turning point for better or worse and the defining moment.** The Chinese characters for "crisis" capture this connection as well: **Danger and Opportunity.**



*Albert Einstein saw the connection too: "In the midst of every crisis, lies great opportunity." It's all about getting people in the right frame of mind to see beyond this crisis to an unprecedented opportunity to move from death to resurrection in the church. It's time to begin an exciting Spirit-powered journey to trust God to empower your dreams and to rise up to embrace opportunities."*

You might say that Holy Trinity has had two crises in the last 18 months, the pandemic and the departure of Pastor Doane and Sue Lambert. Read again these words - **"In the midst of every crisis, lies great opportunity."** We are in a time for a new beginning as we seek to continue to do the work that

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God has called us to. It is a time for **“Beginning Anew”** - a time to **“Let Go, Trust God, and Rise Up.”**

And that ***is*** happening. We have not been marching in place over the last 18 months. As I shared in the first paragraph much has happened including:

- adapting to Zoom and live-streaming platforms, we worshipped, as well as conducted all kinds of meetings and classes,
- making food available to those losing jobs during the Covid lock down,
- maintaining and even improving our property to safeguard everyone as we shut down and then found ways to come back together,
- we celebrated and sent beloved members of our church family in new directions as they moved to new communities or retired, and
- we invented a “Jubilee Express” way to help parents in our community provide Christmas cheer to their children.

***Plus, ministry and God’s work will continue to happen.***

On Sunday, September 12, we will begin a new schedule with Sunday School at 9 am and Worship at 10 am. Isn't it great that this plan was decided so that our children and adults can have Sunday School, and all of us can worship together at 10 am? I know that some of us may wish for a different time for worship or for Sunday School. But this seems like a very good plan. All of us will be going to Sunday School 30 minutes earlier than the old schedule, and some of us will be worshipping either earlier or later than for the previous schedule. But really, it's not about what an individual wants, but it's about all of us working together to find out what is best for all.

Speaking of Sunday School, it begins on Sunday, September 12 at 9 am. Diane Longdo may provide a light breakfast of donuts, juice and milk for our youth that morning. Nita Cunningham will be leading music. Morgen and Shelly Benner will teach along with TJ and Diane Longdo.



The adults will be offered a Sunday morning series entitled "Thriving Beyond Covid."

Confirmation classes for three of our youth will begin at some point. We have three youth who will attend classes with one youth from Our Savior Lutheran Church. The schedule is still being worked out.

First Communion Classes will be held for some of our children in the next few months.

Adult Choir begins practice on Wednesday, September 8, at 6:30 pm. The choir will sing every Sunday. Yea!

Other "normal" activities have begun again. Sewing machines are humming in the quilting room. You may see a Fife and Drum corps practicing in our parking lot on a Monday evening or catch the sound of square dancers in the fellowship hall. Church members are busy outside the building volunteering with community organizations like Lafayette

Urbane Ministry and Purdue Lutheran Ministry.

All of this will be happening without a new pastor. We will have a new pastor at some point; that will be great. But we cannot wait for a new pastor to **"Begin Anew."** God's mission at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is too important to wait. So, now we need to **"Let Go, Trust God, and Rise Up."**

**Let Go** - At times we need to let go of thinking about how we have always done things one way and to think about trying new ways. We need to put aside our own interests and think about the needs of all.

**Trust God** - We need to place our ministry



completely in God's hands and trust that God will do new and wonderful things here.

**Rise Up** - We need to rise up and get involved. We have dedicated leaders and servants as members of Holy Trinity. Your help, prayers and your offerings are needed to continue the work of this church.

I hope that you have felt comfortable to return to worship and other activities of the church. If you are hesitant, that is fine. Come when you feel comfortable. Please continue to worship live stream and support Holy Trinity with your prayers and offerings. I am looking forward to the time that we can all be together in one place again as the people of God. There is something very special about worshiping, studying and serving the Lord with our fellow believers. Together, with each other and with God's help, we can do great things.

Yes, the pandemic has been a bad experience for all of us. The question is "What will we do now with this opportunity to make a difference in our community and the world through Holy Trinity Lutheran Church?" The opportunity is there. How will we respond?

Lastly, thank you for this opportunity to share with you and lead in worship on many of the Sunday mornings. I count it a great privilege to do this.

Whether you are present in person or watching livestream, let's **begin anew** Sunday, September 12. It's time to **"Let Go, Trust God and Rise Up!"**

**Pastor Jim Lichtenberger**



## A Random Sightings of God at Work

Two weeks ago, my son-in-law Shane, was driving to Virginia when he had car trouble. He was able to get his car to a repair shop. The problem appeared to be a faulty fuel pump. Repair parts would be not be available for several days.

Shane had to report to a destination within a few hours and it was too late in the day to rent a car. The repair shop loaned Shane their personal car so he could continue on his way and make his appointment. He has since returned the borrowed car to the owners.

Thank God for kind-hearted people willing to loan their car to a stranger along the road.

-Stan Harlow

*The submission above was provided by an HTLC member. You are invited to share how you see God in your everyday life, too. Sue Davis would be glad to work with you to capture a simple moment when you recognize God's at work.*



Hunger Hike is an annual community fundraising event whose mission is to Raise Awareness & Make a Difference in the Fight Against Hunger — locally, regionally & globally.

**Hunger Hike (Celebration & 3K Walk)** event details are as follows:

✦ **Sunday, September 19**

✦ 1 p.m. – Event begins; 2 p.m. – Hike starts at Riehle Plaza, Lafayette

✦ Benefits three Lafayette community partners



**Register** ▶

Youth Sunday School sign up is underway. Click: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe3Ae4ra2BXVeBpRX4eUFmX0m5kiyoxduR7XHSG2FeNwl8mhQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe3Ae4ra2BXVeBpRX4eUFmX0m5kiyoxduR7XHSG2FeNwl8mhQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)



## LET'S CELEBRATE

### September Birthdays

- 2 Will Peugeot
- 3 Doug Gustafson, Dorothy Schurr
- 7 Delores Linden, Wayne Russell,  
John Kretzschmar, Shawn Keegan
- 10 Tom Cavanaugh
- 11 Anita Slavens, Barby Wood
- 12 Kyle Robertson, Betsy Hillery,  
Charlie Ahlersmeyer
- 13 Michele Russell,  
Cecily Cavanaugh
- 14 Brandon Rooze
- 23 Andrew Westen
- 24 Bill Hillery
- 25 Aaron Hoskins
- 27 Joe Wenthold
- 28 Jim Wagner
- 30 Sandra Donahue, Connie Getchel

### September Anniversaries

- 6 Jeff Greeley & Gretchen Freese
- 7 Wayne & Michele Russell
- 17 Todd & Stephanie Crowe



## PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

God of wisdom,  
You have given us talented  
and engaged pastors to lead  
HTLC through this time of tran-  
sition. Members like Nita Cun-  
ningham have risen up to the  
challenges of leadership, and  
faithful Call Committee is en-  
gaged in the work of finding a  
new pastor. Thank you! Fill us  
all with the Holy Spirit so that  
we may Let Go, Trust God,  
and Rise up.                    Amen





## Briefly....from Council

It's an exciting time to be God's church. September is a time for new things. It's particularly exciting to be part of God's church here at HTLC. Our Call Committee has sent in our Ministry Site Profile, the summary of which can be found at [ELCA.org/call-process/current-openings](http://ELCA.org/call-process/current-openings). Your Council is grateful for their work.

Besides our ongoing call process, Council meets monthly to discuss the business of HTLC, as well as committee reports. These meetings are not closed, unless there is a more private, confidential task, such as meeting with the Call committee.

In October, there will be two openings for Council representatives. Please prayerfully consider this important position.

Council is also devoted to the spiritual well-being of HTLC, through committee work and others.

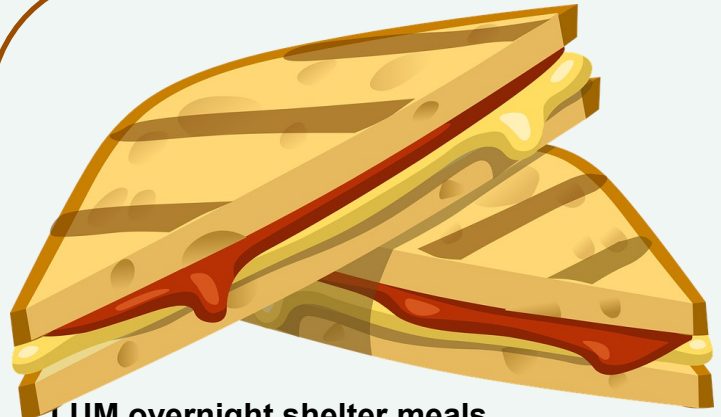
With that said, Council members are not the only ones to be involved in what's going on at HTLC. We are all asked, no **expected**, to carry out Jesus's great commission:

*"to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."*

(Matthew 28:19-20)

We are to be examples of God's love, in our giving, in our worship, in our serving and in our fellowship.

God's blessings



## LUM overnight shelter meals

Council prepared and helped serve a meal for the overnight LUM Shelter Tuesday, August 10. Council would like for HTLC to provide meals for the shelter about every three months.

LUM has some simple guidelines to take the guess work out of helping with this ministry and they are posted on the LUM website. Since Council is fresh from their experience, they summarized some of the basics here to help you consider how you might help.

The meal is delivered to the shelter at 8:00 pm. If you would like to serve the meal, show up at 9:00 pm. (Whichever group prepares the meal does not necessarily have to serve or even deliver the meal. We can tag team!)

The summer schedule is for sandwiches, salty snacks, etc. The winter schedule is soup, crackers, etc. The shelter requests breakfast items for the next morning, granola bars, cereal bars, fruit snacks, etc. and one pound of coffee.

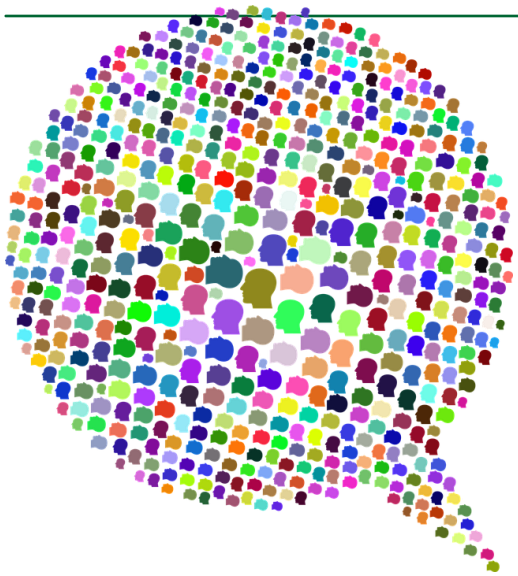
The meal preparation could be done by any group from HTLC, committees, choir, quilters, Coffee Hour buddies, etc. There are dates open in October or November. You may ask any Council member about their experience.

Please contact Nita Cunningham, Council Chair, with questions and to volunteer.

Phone 317-213-2984

Email [deacnita@gmail.com](mailto:deacnita@gmail.com)

God's blessings



## Giving Your Blessings a Voice

The Evangelism Team is inviting folks to share their blessings with others at HTLC. Starting in September, on the second Sunday of each month, a congregation member would share a brief (3-5 minutes) message of how they are feeling blessed.

Members of the Evangelism Committee will be leading the way in September, October and November just after the announcements. Please prayerfully consider sharing your blessings with the rest of us. If you watch on Facebook or Livestream, you could write it down, send it to the church office and it would be read for you.

Members of the Evangelism Committee will be leading the way in September, October and November just after the announcements. Please prayerfully consider sharing your blessings with the rest of us. If you watch on Facebook or Livestream, you could write it down, send it to the church office and it would be read for you.

Please see Kevin, Wayne or Nita with questions and to schedule.

God's blessings



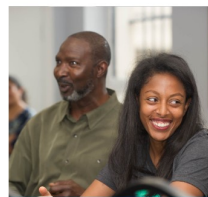
Action Center



Advocacy



Philanthropy



Volunteer

## Lutheran Immigration and Refuge Services

Pastor Peugeot spoke of the work of LIRS in his August 22 sermon. Learn more here:

[https://lirsconnect.org/get\\_involved](https://lirsconnect.org/get_involved)

Tweets by @LIRSorg

LIRS Retweeted



Tim Young  
@Young25Tim

If you're looking for a trusted, experienced organization to support, consider a gift to @LIRSorg. We've been resettling refugees since 1939, and Afghan Allies since 2009. We know a thing or two about welcome, and we could use your help! 🙌  
<https://twitter.com/LIRSorg/status/1429456323716997128>

## ELCA Disaster Relief

A devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck southwest Haiti on Aug. 14. Over 1,400 people were killed, and that number is expected to increase as search-and-rescue efforts continue. Blocked roads are delaying the delivery of vital supplies to hospitals, which are overwhelmed with more than 6,900 injured people. At least 26,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, but the full extent of damage is still unknown. Haiti is also suffering through a political crisis and was hit by Tropical Storm Grace on Monday night, which caused severe flooding in communities already damaged by the earthquake.

For over two decades, the ELCA has maintained a presence in southern Haiti through support for agricultural and sustainable development work. To continue our engagement with those communities, Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with partner organizations in the communities to meet relief needs, including food, water, medical supplies and temporary shelter. In the future, other areas of support will include psycho-social care, water and sanitation, and creating sustainable livelihoods through agriculture and livestock. We also stand with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti as it assesses damage and impacts on churches and church life.

Your gifts will support earthquake survivors. Click here to help: [Gifts to "Haiti Crisis"](#) will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by the earthquake in Haiti.



## AUGUST 2021 COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

August 9, 2021 meeting called to order at 6:35 by Nita Cunningham  
Devotions: Al Davis  
The agenda was approved.

Attendance: Nita Cunningham, Pastor Schroeder, Stan Harlow, Carolyn Claussen, Dave Krueger, Bob Montgomery, Elizabeth White, Michele Russell, Kevin Letcher, Al Davis. Absent: Floyd Garrett

July 2021 minutes of the July 2021 Council meeting by Al Davis, were approved. Requested amendments to the July 2021 minutes are complete and included in the final document.

### Reports

Pastor's Report -Pastoral needs are met. Pastor Schroeder and Diane Longdo discussed shared confirmation classes between OSLC and HTLC.

### Treasurer/Financial Secretary Report

**July 2021 Summary: Month Seven of the Calendar Year 2021 - Target Percent is 58.33%**

**INCOME:** \$20,450

**Current Envelopes:** Income for the month \$20,440 which is \$1,560 below the monthly need of \$22,000.

**Total Income YTD:** Income is below projection by \$15,938

**EXPENSE:** Contained overall

### NET INCOME:

July:	Gain	\$7,369
Year-to-Date:	Gain.	\$32,687

### CURRENT ASSETS

Total Balance:	\$427,602
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### Comments:

With full time clergy and office staff, an additional \$48,400 would have been required.

We are grateful for God's favor.

Albert Davis, Treasurer



The July 2021 Council Treasurer's Report was approved.

Follow-up discussion focused on the importance of spending to support outreach and sharing the word of God over discretionary spending on facilities, and the impact of COVID on in-

come, spending, and the ability to do outreach. In addition, the October resignation of Treasurer Al Davis was discussed. He is willing to train and assist the new treasurer.

### Old Business

#### Masks during worship

Nita Cunningham shared current ELCA Synod guidelines on the use of masks. Pastor Schroeder shared information about use of masks at OSLC.

Carol Letcher will be asked for ideas on how to safely include choir in Sunday worship in September. Looking into providing the choir with N-95 masks for extra protection while singing was also suggested. A consensus was reached to continue wearing masks. The issue will be revisited at the September Council meeting.

#### Parish Administrator

The Parish Administrator Operations Committee has reopened the search for a Parish Administrator.

#### Call Committee

The Call Committee is faithfully working through the Call process as outlined by Synod guidelines. After discussion, it was decided to provide the congregation with the link to the public site profile on the Indiana Kentucky Synod.



## AUGUST COUNCIL CONTINUED

Insurance Required: Outside Groups Using HTLC  
Kevin Letcher reviewed all HTLC insurance coverage with the Council. He has determined that all coverage is adequate at this time, but suggests increasing umbrella liability coverage and revisiting the need for flood insurance. Outside groups using the church facility are providing proof of insurance at this time.

### New Business

#### Memorial for Pastor Hoffman

Council unanimously welcomes a memorial for Pastor Hoffman with placement at the preference of Helen Hoffman.

#### Beginning Anew

Pastor Nyland suggests that the Beginning Anew program of study may have value for HTLC. Elizabeth White will look for the informational video as presented at the Synod Assembly. Further discussion is tabled until the September Council meeting.

#### Signage on the West side of the building

Treasurer Al Davis led a discussion on the advisability of spending additional funds on discretionary building improvements in light of financial issues. Since the sign was previously approved, and at the request of the Evangelism and Property Committees, selection of the sign was completed. The Davis' will fund the sign with the help of any other Council member(s) who wish to contribute.

#### How We Feel Blessed Testimony

There will a monthly opportunity at the beginning of church for a congregation member to share how they feel blessed. The first 3 months are scheduled, and the congregation will be given the opportunity to sign up after that.

#### Use of the church facility

Interim Pastor Kate Crecelius and representatives from Gloria Dei in Mulberry, St. Peter's in Frankfort, and St. Paul's Lutheran church in Attica requested the use of HTLC for a mini retreat. Council granted their request and welcomes them to HTLC.

### Council Terms

The current term and eligibility for each Council member were reviewed in preparation for the September Council meeting.

### Committee Reports

Committees met in person at church or communicated electronically as needed. Committee information is provided to Council by email before or through discussion at the meeting.

Evangelism – Report submitted.

Christian Education – Report submitted.

Worship/ Music – Report submitted.

Technology – Report submitted.

Property – Report submitted. Chairman Wayne Russell is resigning as chair of the property committee. We appreciate his willingness to continue as a member of the property committee. A replacement chairperson will be announced after selection by the committee.

Outreach – Report submitted

Mutual Ministry – Report submitted.

Youth – No report.

Stewardship – No report.

*The HTLC Council gratefully acknowledges all the committee members and volunteers who give so generously of their time, talents, and resources to support the ministry at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.*

The meeting was adjourned, closing in prayer.

Next meeting: Monday, September 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Carolyn Claussen



## Sharing News from Church Women United:



August 3, 2021

**Pastors, please be sure all the women of your church have a chance to read this letter.**

Dear Church Women United Friends:

The Executive Board of Clinton County Church Women United met on June 8, 2021, to discuss whether or not to continue hosting CWU events each year, including World Day of Prayer. After much discussion, it was decided to disband this organization altogether.

At this time, we only have two officers (doing the jobs of eight officers). Attendance continued to decline, including for World Day of Prayer. Dues/donations from churches have continued to decrease dramatically. This has put a tremendous responsibility on those two officers.

At the close of our financial books, we had a checkbook balance of \$302.71. It was decided to send our usual donation to the state organization, with this year being \$52.71. \$150 was then sent to 180 Recovery, a men's recovery shelter that is being built in Frankfort, and also to the Lafayette YWCA, which houses homeless women.

This was a very difficult decision, and we thank each and every one of you who were part of this organization over the past many years.

I have included a synopsis of this organization from the beginning. Enjoy the memories!

Jan Sandos, 2021 President of Church Women United, provided a history of the activities, services extended to others and fellowship highlights as part of this letter. You can find her letter on the bulletin board posted in the narthex across from the sanctuary.





*Thriving Beyond COVID* was developed as a gift to the church by Pastor Jeff Linman.

Jeff has a passion for awakening Kingdom impacting dreams in the church. In 33 years as a pastor, he served 4 congregations, 20 of them as the founding and lead pastor of Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church in Orlando, Florida.

## Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

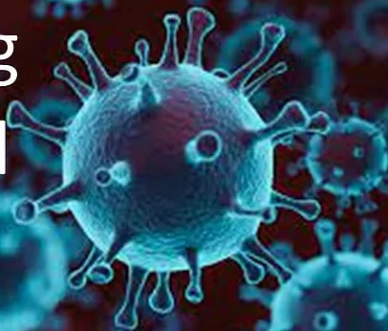
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Open Door Editor: Susan Davis

# Thriving Beyond COVID



Helping congregations get in the right frame of mind to successfully navigate their Post-Covid challenges and come out stronger and more vital than before.

*Thriving Beyond COVID is a 3 or 4 session scripture based study resource designed to help churches release the burdens of the pandemic, promote deeper faith in the Spirit's power at work in their midst, and empower their mission going forward.*

HTLC invites all adults to join the group at 9 am starting September 12. During the 45 minute session, you can expect a video segment, Bible exercise and good conversation.

## Agnus Day

