

# OPENDOOR

NOVEMBER 2019



## Family Promise of Greater Lafayette and Holy Trinity Lutheran: A Community Partnership



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has been a part of Family Promise of Greater Lafayette (FPGL) for ten years! It's been a good ministry and one that has grown and flourished in our community.

The program is dedicated to keeping homeless families together as a unit while providing temporary shelter and services in the hopes of helping them to achieve sustainable independence. In 1986, an inter-faith hospitality network got a start in New Jersey; faith-based groups opened their facilities to care for families. The model spread across the country and the Lafayette affiliate began in 2009 with Holy Trinity's congregation serving as one of the founding members.

Originally, we invited up to three families to stay overnight at our church and to share a dinner meal in our kitchen. They stayed for a week at a time. After a time, we partnered with members of Riverside Covenant to help us provide hosts and meals. We figured out how to manage our alarm system

### Inside this issue:

Pack Away Hunger News	3
Council Highlights	4
Jubilee Briefing	5
Talent Show Retrospective	6-7
Birthdays and Anniversaries	8
Bishop Gajkejen— On Prayer	10
Pastor Doane Message	12
Don Lambert on Making Faith Come Alive	15

## FAMILY PROMISE (CONTINUED)

and how to make coffee for the van driver-volunteer who came each morning to get the kids off to school and the parents off to work or to the day shelter to move forward with their search for permanent housing.

When the NorthEnd opened and a Family Promise house was built, the program model changed. There is room for many more; up to 5 families can stay at the facility designed to give space to each family unit while sharing kitchen and common living areas. Each family keeps their own calendar. Some work days, some evenings, some nights. They all come and go according to their own schedule which has been one of the positive changes. This allows each family to operate as they would in their own home.

Although the Lafayette community has embraced the program and made it possible to help more families by increasing the staff to cover the overnight hours, the church roots associated with the program run deep.

Church volunteers no longer haul trailers around, make beds, stay overnight or meet up with van drivers, but the HTLC-FPGL partnership continues.

The simplified volunteer "jobs" include:

1. Dinner Host — bring a prepared meal for guests to the house at 5pm on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Other nights the families cook in the shared kitchen.
2. Hosts — Two church volunteers sign up for a shift between 4:45 and 9pm Monday through Friday; there is a Sunday morning shift as well. Sometimes there are opportunities to socialize or help with a little homework, sometimes the families are busy elsewhere.

Parents leading their family group are responsible for caring for their children, for keeping their

### Recent volunteers offer comments:

*I like to cook for Family Promise! The house was FULL last time I took a meal. Thanks to some last minute help from Nell Kretzschmar, it was fun. Although the families all keep their own schedules and space doesn't allow them eat at the same time, the door burst open at 5pm when Al and I arrived. Some happy boys helped us get things toted in and set up. Isn't this what Jesus was talking about? — Sue Davis*

*I have found it a tremendous experience to be the hands and feet of God. Each shift has provided me an opportunity to meet and speak with residents who have faced tremendous challenges and are turning their lives around due to the support they are receiving from social services and churches. They are the working poor who are looking for a "hand up and not a hand out." My experience at Family Promise is best summarized by Kahlil Gibran, "You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give. And what is fear of need but need itself." — Kevin Letcher*

shared facility clean and arranging to be at work or appointments as needed. The volunteer role is intended to simply support the parents as they take steps to move ahead toward their goal of living with their children in their own apartment or home.

Changes at HTLC have occurred too. Our Outreach Committee has given voice to how important this ministry is in our congregation. They also serve as hands and feet during our week of service. Marilyn Weber has most recently shouldered the job of organizing volunteers. She's tackled an online scheduling tool called, SignUpGenius. It has been a good way to keep everyone aware of the week's activity. If you have an interest in volunteering, don't let the computer scare you away. Marilyn can help get you signed up.



Leadership Changes at FPGL are also underway. Laurie Earnst has been Executive Director since June 2010. She led the efforts to raise community support and funding for the new shelter as well as making the transition from a church-based model to the current shelter.



The Board of Trustees for Family Promise of Greater Lafayette, Inc. announced that Nakeshia Hedrick as the new Executive Director. We're looking forward to the vision and leadership that Nakeshia will bring to our organization as we continue to serve families experiencing homelessness in the Greater Lafayette area," said FPGL Board President, Dr. William Hoover.

She brings experience working with vulnerable populations and youth in both her professional and volunteer commitments. Her many responsibilities included connecting families with social services and other organizations to promote and encourage their self-sufficiency, work in line with the mission of FPGL.



## Family Promise of Greater Lafayette Coming Up

**FPGL will hold a farewell reception for Ms. Earnst on Sunday November 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Hannah Community Room at the North End Community Center (second floor) from 2-4 with a presentation at 3:00 pm. The public is invited.**

**FPGL will also hold a welcome reception for Ms. Hedrick and her family on Sunday November 10<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 in the Vinton Room located inside the North End Community Center. The public is invited.**

### HTLC 2020 Hosting Schedule

**January 6-12, 2020**

**April 20-26, 2020**

**June 1-7, 2020**

**October 12-18, 2020**

# January 20, 2020

PACK AWAY  
**HUNGER**  
Life. Changing. Nutrition.

What's in a food packet?

The food packets contains a rice-soy casserole: fortified soy, six dehydrated vegetables, 21 vitamins and minerals (powder additive) and rice.

The meal ingredients are formulated by food scientists to provide a rich source of easily digestible protein, carbohydrates, and vitamins needed by an undernourished child's body and mind.



HEY — QUESTION!!!!

I can't pack, but want to donate. Donations can be made online at either: <https://donate.packawayhunger.org/lafayettemlkday2020> or [www.christumchurch.org/giv](http://www.christumchurch.org/giv) All money collected will go directly to meeting the purchase of materials for the food packets to be assembled and shipped.



## OCTOBER 2019 COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Attendance: Tom Cavanaugh, Al Davis, Bob Montgomery, Nita Cunningham, Carolyn Claussen, Dave Krueger, Sue Phebus, Pastor Doane

Absent: Peg Wright, Floyd Garrett, Kevin Letcher. Quorum was established



Minutes of the September 2019 Council meeting were approved.

### Reports

#### Pastor's Report

Report Submitted. Discussion included a review of attendance since September 1, 2019. The Evangelism Committee and Pastor are coordinating ongoing efforts to increase attendance and welcome new members. They will continue to encourage members and visitors to complete the welcome sheet.

The Pastor would like to offer a special thank you to Marilyn Weber, Deb Pohlenz, Wayne Russell, and Dave and Connie Krueger for their faithful and loving care of a parishioner in need during the October 13, 2019 services.

Treasurer/Financial Secretary Report submitted by Albert Davis, Treasurer

Summary: Month Nine of the Calendar Year 2019 - Target Percent is 75%

INCOME: \$26,146 (Five Sundays in September)

Current Envelopes:

Income for the month \$26,113 which is \$1,530 above monthly need of \$24,583

Total Income YTD: Income is in line with projection - perfectly

EXPENSE: Contained overall

NET INCOME:

September 2019: Gain \$7,715

Year-to-Date: Gain \$6,177

### CURRENT ASSETS

Total Balance: \$289,072

### COMMENTS:

Budget proposal for 2020 is in the sweet spot for now. . .

Congregational Meeting to be held October 20th to approve 2020.

Treasurer's Report for September 2019 was approved.

### Old Business

As of October 14 no members have agreed to join the Congregational Council. Letters and/or e-mails will be sent this week to request that they consider serving HTLC on the Council. Floor nominations will be requested during the Congregational Meeting on October 20.

### New Business

Nita Cunningham reviewed the placement, condition, and use of AED devices and fire extinguishers throughout the building. Scheduling CPR instruction through the American Heart Association and fire safety instruction with the Lafayette Fire Department were discussed. It was agreed that this instruction would be open to the community.

Deb Pohlenz has created a care kit of first aid and other supplies for emergency and/or medical need during church events.

Updating emergency contacts for members was discussed.

### Committee Reports:

#### Evangelism –Report submitted.

Plans are in place to welcome visitors and to encourage everyone to complete the welcome sheet. A call team will be formed to contact those we have not seen for a few weeks and to check on their well being. Michele Russell will make calls for fellowship. The interfaith dinner and upcoming speakers have been advertised.

#### Technology –No Report submitted.

The Pastor's laptop is working well. Committees may elect to use their budgets for technology if that is their priority.

**OCTOBER COUNCIL** CONTINUEDProperty – Report submitted.

Maintenance tasks are up to date, upcoming tasks are planned, and the building is well cared for.

The front door installer is not responsive to ongoing problems. Discussion focused on possible next steps to address this issue.

Thank you to Don Lambert for replacing the screens on the gazebo.

Mutual Ministry – No meeting this monthChristian Education – Report submitted.

Classes for all ages are well organized and enjoyed by those attending.

The Council is grateful for Diane Longdo and all those who provide loving Christian instruction to our children.

Youth - Report submitted.

About 19-20 people attended the campfire at Exploration Acres. It is hoped that inviting all members, including younger children, will increase the number attending youth events.

Stewardship – No report submitted.Worship – No report submitted.

Questions still arise about the possibility of consolidating Sunday worship in one service. Discussion focused on the impact this has had in other congregations.

Outreach – Report submitted.

Jubilee Christmas and participation in packing dinners during MLK day are planned.

Next meeting: November 11, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Carolyn Claussen

**It's Jubilee Christmas time again at HTLC**

On SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup>, Holy Trinity will be hosting 25 families at Jubilee Christmas. This morning of joy and community will give our guests the opportunity to shop for gifts for their children, in addition to receiving clothing, a ham, food certificate, household supplies, Christmas stockings and a hand-made quilt from our own HTLC quilters!

Jubilee Christmas is a partnership with the Lafayette Urban Ministry. Guests are low-income parents who have been registered by LUM and assigned to HTLC. Guests will select about 3 gifts per child and will receive a ham & food certificate for Christmas dinner, a tin of cookies, gift certificates for teens in the household, household products, and a quilt lovingly made by HTLC Quilters.

**We need YOU help us make Jubilee a success:**

**VOLUNTEER:** The sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the narthex. Hosts are especially needed.

**DONATE:** a new, unwrapped toy for a child 0-12 years of age. Some suggestions include:

- For younger children: Duplos, blocks, bath toys, simple puzzles (with knobs on the pieces), shape-sorters
- For older children: craft kits, simple electronic sets, sports equipment, board games, remote control cars, action figures, Legos, hand-held video games, head phones

**PROVIDE A CLOTHING GIFT:** Take a tag from our clothing tree and purchase new clothing for a child. Record YOUR name and the child's info on the list provided, purchase the clothing and PUT THE TAG ON THE BAG; return to the church by Sunday, Dec 8<sup>th</sup>.

**MAKE:** a financial contribution. Envelopes are available in the rack near the office door, at the Welcome Center, or simply mark your donation "Jubilee."

### A hint from our Jubilee Christmas friends at LUM:

***Ollie's Bargain Outlet purchased the inventory from Toys R Us.***



# What's happening?

**Saturday Night**

Turn your clocks **BACK** one hour before you go to bed on November 2!



## INTERFAITH MEAL



**AMER'S GRILL**  
MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE

**Date:** November 10, 2019

**Location:** Amer's Grill Mediterranean Cuisine and Buffet, 3500 Indiana 38, #100, Lafayette, Indiana, 47905, 765-838-2990

**Time:** 4:00 PM

**Dress:** Casual

**Cost:** Guests will be responsible for purchasing their own meals and beverages.

**Details:** Contact Kevin Letcher



**Clean Up Day—bring hand tools and gloves . Nov 2, 9–noon**



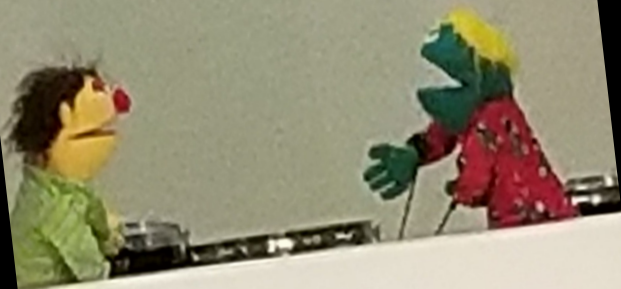
## Medicare Overview Presentation-Nov 13

You are invited to join us for a program by John Williams, Medicare Specialist with State Health Insurance Assistance Program – SHIP. The program will be from 11:30—1:00 and is free and open to the public, so you may invite friends and family to attend





## 2019 Talent Show



### Some featured acts pictured:

Freese-Greeley Family

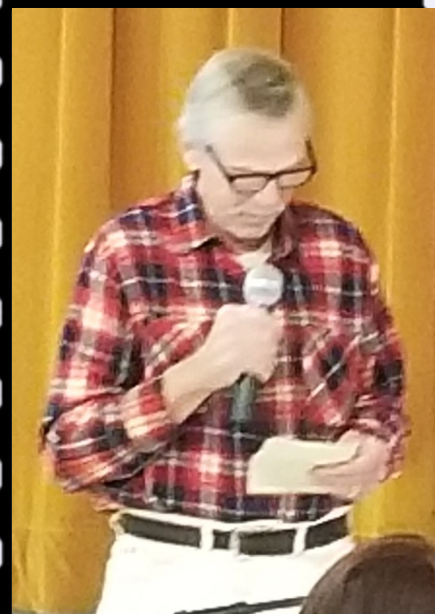
Floyd Garrott and Peg Wright

Trinitarian Singers

Fred Feigel

Joe and Greg Wenthold

Paul "McCartney" Wenthold  
and Helen Hicks-Wenthold





## NOVEMBER

## LET'S CELEBRATE

- 2 Property Clean up Day
- Family Promise Goodbye: Laurie
- 3 Earnst
- 4 Cribbage
- 10 Interfaith dinner at AmerGrill
- Forum: Medicare speaker: John Williams
- 13 Forum: Social Security speaker: Janice Winters
- 15 Book Club
- 17 Cribbage
- 20 Trinitarians
- 21 Book Club
- 25 Open Door articles due
- 25 Cribbage

## DECEMBER

- 2 Cribbage
- 4 Advent Services 12pm and 7pm
- 11 Advent Services 12pm and 7pm
- 14 Jubilee Christmas
- 16 Cribbage
- 18 Advent Services 12pm and 7pm
- 19 Book Club
- 24 Christmas Eve Services 4pm and 7pm
- 27 Open Door articles due
- 29 5th Sunday: Special Focus Ministry

## JANUARY

- 6 Epiphany Ends
- 6 Cribbage
- 12 Interfaith dinner at AmerGrill
- 15 Open Door articles due
- 16 Trinitarians
- 17 Book Club
- 20 MLK Pack Away Hunger Workday
- 20 Cribbage

### November Birthdays

- 4 Justin Widmer, Conner Brown
- 7 Lynne Sherry, Laura Sisken
- 9 Sue Lambert, Ed High, Carol Letcher
- 12 Patrick Cavanaugh
- 13 Helen Greeley, Daniel Greeley
- 13 Sarah Lillo, Carlene Widmer
- 15 Bryan Hubbard, Selena Cahoon, Ezekiel Sherry, Sophia Widmer
- 16 Janet Wang, Rebecca Westen
- 18 Bonnie Cahoon, Diana Foxen
- 19 Cory Back, Brittany Rooze, Cheryl Schrier
- 20 Laverne Glick, Greg Wenthold
- 21 Ivan Vogelgesang, Tina Spille
- 22 Mackenzie Davis Carranza, Katherine Letcher
- 25 Ed Purdy
- 27 Christi Cahoon, Eli Widmer
- 29 Kathy Senft

### November Anniversaries

- 16 Tom & Connie Getchel
- 22 Gene & Pat Rooze
- 24 Charles & Pamela Guarino
- 28 Jim & Patti Smith
- 30 Laverne & Helen Glick

Please see details in other **Open Door** stories or watch for news in the **Epistle**

**Don't just ATTEND your church - LOVE your church.**

**Serve, give, invite, worship, post, join, engage, participate!**



## MISSIONARY SUPPORT: Dr. Jeffrey Truscott

You can designate support for our missionary, Jeffrey Truscott, which will include your name in the Christmas Eve bulletins, and be represented in the holiday decorations.

Jeffrey teaches at Trinity Theological College in Singapore and Holy Trinity has committed to support his work there.

To support our missionary, make checks payable to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. On the memo line of your check, please write MISSIONARY SUPPORT. 100% of this money goes to Jeffrey's work.



If you wish to order a poinsettia plant, each one will be \$9.50. Please make checks payable to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. If you are ordering a plant, please write POINSETTIA on the memo line. If you are mailing in your request, please provide your name and any individuals you wish to honor with your gift.

**Orders should be placed by November 24, 2019.**

When moving furniture pieces sitting on the carpet, please do not drag them. Lift and carry. It's fine to ask for help; we'll work together to save the carpet and furniture from damage.



## FROM BISHOP GAFKJEN

Pray always. Do not lose heart. What is the intimate connection between these two needs, not commands, as Luke portrays them? Is prayer, constant prayer, prayer in all situations, a key to avoid losing heart?



Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. (Luke 18:1)

Does losing heart, becoming discouraged or disillusioned, become a barrier to active prayer? And, by the way, how is your prayer life – and that of our faith community – these days in which it is so, so tempting to give up and give in, to lose heart?

In her helpful book *Help, Thanks, Wow*, author Anne Lamott suggests that these three words capture the three essential prayers. In many ways, I think that she is right. From Genesis to Revelation, scripture is filled with cries for help, expressions of gratitude, and wide-eyed wonder at the works of God. But I also wonder whether we need to be reminded that “praying always” also suggests listening, the kind of listening that any life-giving, relationship-growing conversation requires.

Perhaps a book about that form of prayer would simply be entitled, *What?* Listening prayer may be the most important – and most overlooked – form of prayer for the church and all the baptized Spirit-sealed people of God at times like our time, when it is so easy to lose heart, when so much of what we hear, experience, and feel is about loss, decline, diminishment, and uncertainty. Listening prayer begins with questions like:

- What is God’s narrative, God’s story, about the present and the future?
- Or, better, listening prayer begins like this: Gracious God, what are you saying to us, to me, in this challenging time?
- What are you up to? What needs to change in my life in order for me to follow faithfully?

Such listening prayer begins with deep, slow, careful, exploratory listening to scripture and tradition, both for the promises of God that have sustained and guided God’s people through the centuries and for the stories of what God’s deliverance looked like when the promises were fulfilled (hint: it was seldom what God’s people first imagined it would be when they started listening).

Listening prayer arises from hearts and minds that learn to listen below the surface of the routine humdrum of daily life for the God who is present and speaking right now, in this moment. It calls us to intentionally let go of what we think should happen and open ourselves to whatever God’s Spirit may be saying and through whom God may be saying it. After all, God often speaks through those through whom we least expect God to speak, as old Balaam discovered [see Numbers 22:22-35].

Listening prayer invites us to let go of the need to always speak and, instead, to be quiet for a time, to create “empty” and expectant space in our hearts, our days, our life together for God to fill with God’s Word by the power of God’s Spirit for the sake of God’s renewing work in us and in our world. Listen, dear people of God: Pray always and do not lose heart.

Listen, God is calling,  
through the Word inviting,  
offering forgiveness,  
comfort and joy. (ELW  
#513)

Peace be with you,

Bishop Bill Gafkjen



## PRAYER FOR MY CHURCH

God,

*Open my eyes that I might see my church as You see it. Let me see where change needs to take place, even if it is painful to me. And use me, I pray, to be an instrument of that change whatever the cost.*

## I-K Synod Fall Appreciation of Deacons and Pastors



*Gracious God, we give you thanks for pastors, deacons and bishops whom you have called to the ministries of word, service, and sacrament.*

*With your Holy Spirit, strengthen and sustain these ministers in their calling, so that through their witness the Church would join your work of compassion, mercy, justice, and peace through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

HTLC is especially grateful for God's provision during 2019 as we were blessed with care and support from:

Pastor David Doane

Deaconess Nita Cunningham

Pastor Gretchen Freese

Pastor Jim Lichtenberger

Pastor Will Peugeot

**Dear Church Family,**

**Thank you for the wonderful cards many of you sent on my 98<sup>th</sup> birthday!**

**My son has read all of your cards twice to me.**

**God's Peace to All,**

**Peg Sines**





## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DOANE

Everyone has noticed there are fewer people in worship at Holy Trinity. There is no “one” reason to account for the decline. But it is also true that declining attendance at Holy Trinity is not new. Since 2002 (17 years ago) there has been a steady decline in average worship attendance. But in this last year the decline has been accelerated. At the end of 2018, we reported an average attendance of 139. At the end of September our year to date average attendance was just over 100.



### ***Why is that?***

It is a question we have been asking ourselves in church council, mutual ministry committee, worship committee and evangelism committee for some time now. There is no single reason we can point to that is the culprit. Some people who were regular worship attenders have died. Several families have moved because of jobs. Kids have gone away to college. Some households have chosen to attend other churches. Some people have left due to conflict or dissatisfaction. Some have advanced in years and are physically unable to attend any longer. And some have left and are unable to give us a reason why.

### ***No magic answer***

Recently I had the opportunity to sit in on a podcast by a group called “Church Answers.” The subject of the podcast was “Increase Attendance by 10% or more.” They started with some sobering information about church attendance across denominations and across the country. Their data says 65%-90% of congregations have plateaued in attendance or are in significant need of help to restore declining attendance. They note that many congregations are in an accelerated rate of decline, something we have experienced at Holy Trinity. And here is the most sobering fact: There is no “magic bullet.” There is no miraculous solution to right a sinking ship. It takes hard work and there are no guarantees.

20-30 years ago, people attended church for a variety of reasons. People felt compelled to attend because of religious convictions or because of life circumstances that caused them to seek spiritual answers and solace. People attended religious services because they thought it was good for business or politics. Still, other people attended religious services because they had a

sense of connection to a particular church. They may have started attending worship because of some big event at the church like a revival or working in a food pantry or even because someone invited them to come. Now, in 2019, those who feel compelled to attend worship have slowed to a trickle. And people don’t attend anymore because it is advantageous to be seen in worship for the sake of business or politics. And finding ways to connect people to a church has been largely abandoned by churches of every denominational stripe.

When is the last time you invited someone to come to church?

These days, it seems most churches would rather sit in a pew and wait for people to come to them. Those churches are dying, and they are dying at alarming rates.

So, is it hopeless? Is there nothing we can do? First, I want to assure you that I believe there is hope. It may be that we need to rethink our priorities and our goals. We may need to adjust how we do things and order our ministry. If we are willing, the power of the Spirit can and will work among us.

### ***A focus on relationships***

In the podcast one example was given for what a church can do. It wasn’t a new idea for me. They called it “Invite your one.” I’ve heard it call “each one brings one” or “Friendship Sunday”. They are all the same in that their primary focus is relational. The strategy is simple. Each person invites one person. But it is more work than it sounds. You must convince people they can actually invite someone to worship.

For the last few weeks Al Davis and Don Lambert have been teaching a class on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening entitled “God Space.” It offered training in how to talk to people about your faith. One of the excuses I’ve heard from people about “Friendship Sunday” is “I don’t know anyone to invite.” But just simple isn’t the truth. It may be we have to rethink the people we meet day in and day out. The goal is not only to get someone new to come to church. It is also to create a culture of invitation. The hope is “Invite your one” who become “Invited your many.” The hope is we would cease being afraid of talking about our faith with anyone.

## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DOANE CONTINUED

But it isn't about the numbers either. Growing our church and increasing attendance would be nice, but it is more than that. It is about being faithful to the Gospel. Jesus called us to disciples that go out into the world and tell others about Him. Every baptized person has this as their calling.

So, I ask you an important question. Do you love this church? Do you want this church to survive and thrive? Do you believe we have something to offer the world around us? Sitting in the pews and waiting for people to come to us leads only in one direction. Waiting for someone else to come along and do this work for us also leads only in one direction. I say, "God isn't done with us." Working together, good things will happen. If you agree, let's talk. Our future depends on it.

Pastor David



~ GOOD ~  
**THINGS**  
 ARE GOING  
*to Happen*

## Mutual Ministry Reflection

Remember this?

In his time, Luther asserted that the plow-boy and the milkmaid could do priestly work. Martin Luther shook up his generation by dismissing the notion that there were two classes of Christians: spiritual and secular. The "Priesthood of All Believers" conveys the message that every believer is a priest. We all have a spiritual role in the world.

***In the body of Christ, we are not merely waiting for the paid minister to aid others and recruit new members, we are relating to one another and using the gifts that God has given each one of us.***

In May, as the Eli Lilly grant was launched, Mutual Ministry invited us to build and restore relationships with one another, making a priority of worshipping and receiving the sacraments, and participating in the discussion groups that focused on helping us live in peace and proclaim the good news of God.

Over the summer, Pastor Gretchen, Pastor Jim and Pastor Will provided worship leadership and supported spiritual renewal efforts through words and witness.

Discussion groups were well attended both Sunday morning and at Wednesday sessions. Our pastors have been joined us in prayer and study focused on:

- ☐ Forgiveness and Reconciliation
- ☐ A Story Worth Sharing
- ☐ God's Space: listening and relating to others as they wonder about God

Mutual Ministry was encouraged to see interest and active participation by such a good cross section of our membership. Spiritual connection is vital to healthy congregations; spiritual bonds will keep us together as we face the challenges of the future.



## BEAUTIFUL QUILTS

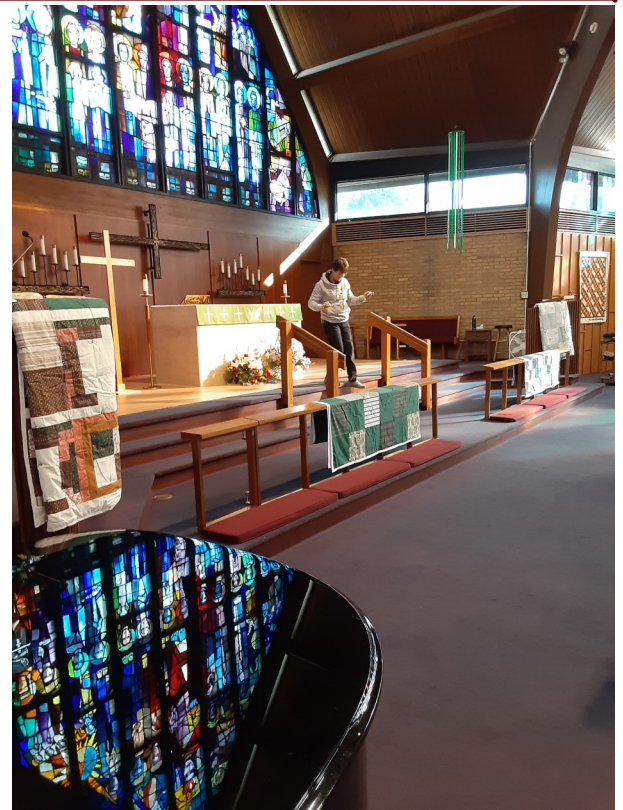
Not so quietly in a back corner room of the education wing, a group of ladies meet twice a month to make quilts.

This year they made 93 quilts which were displayed on the pews during worship October 20th.

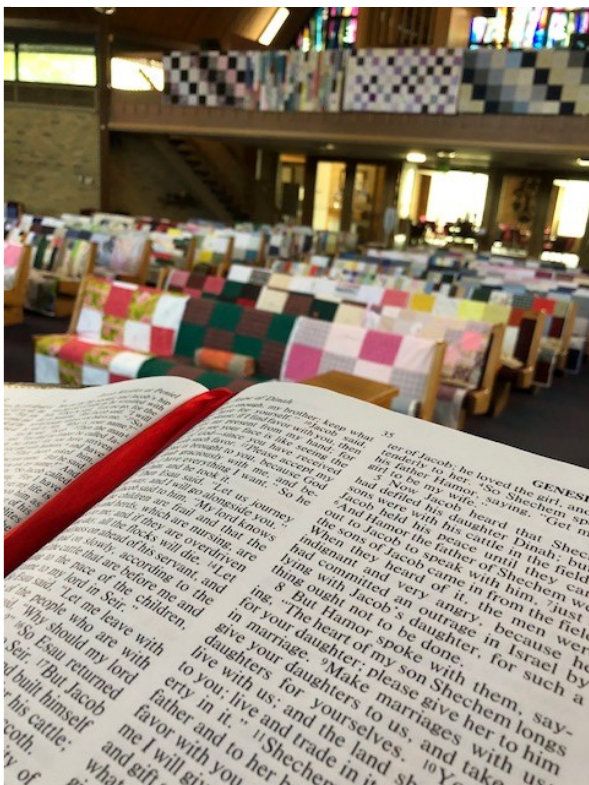
- 84 quilts will be sent to **Lutheran World Relief\*** and from there will be sent to those in need around the world. Last year our quilts went to Peru and Angola.
- 26 quilts will be given to Jubilee families at Christmas.

There is another small group of who make prayer shawls and lap quilts; this year 12 persons were given a shawl or lap quilt to remind them the church was praying for them and to give them comfort.

All are welcome to help with these ministries.



\* **Lutheran World Relief** says this about the Mission Quilts: Imagine the comfort and care you feel when you snuggle under a comforter or wear a piece of clothing made or worn by a loved one. That's the feeling your share through an LWR Mission Quilt. Useful for shielding against the cold and rain, and for warm bedding, quilts can also be purposed as simple tents, floor coverings, or a wrap to hold a baby on a mother's back. In a simple combination of fabric and thread, you reach out to people in their time of greatest need with a strong message of hope – you are not alone.



*Sue Frederick's  
response to  
winning "Best  
Chili of 2019"*





## DON LAMBERT ON MAKING FAITH COME ALIVE

This verse is familiar to many of us:

### **Matthew 25:36**

***I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'***

It's a verse spurs us to take chicken soup to our sick friend and to donate clothing for Jubilee Christmas or on behalf of Family Promise. The prison part can make us uneasy! Talking with someone who has been to jail frequently may give new insights that come from meeting with folks who have little experience with church and/or Christianity.

Over the past four years, Don Lambert has been part of a team providing a regular Tuesday Bible study at the county jail. Tom Camp, Senior Pastor at Harvest Chapel Church, founded a jail ministry several years ago and has mentored other Christian men who have an interest in ministering to inmates in our community. Don tells us that the program has gained a favorable reputation with the Sheriff's staff and the judicial community and they are welcomed each week when they arrive to talk with the men who ask to participate.

As Don relates the stories of men he meets, it's clear that he is able to look past tattoos and some tough first impressions to listen. Telling him their life experiences, their decision-making errors, family issues and substance abuse problems made it easier to treat them with respect. He used the word "heartbreaking" as he wrote about how smoking spice has damaged the mind of a young inmate who has "periods of semi-intelligent consciousness," but ultimately can't communicate his thoughts. Don goes on to say that "The irony is – he's a brilliant artist. He can draw things that at first glance look like a printed photograph." For now, he is content to stay in jail but Don holds out hope that the artistic talent may someday help him find his purpose.



Others are interesting and smart and on the way to better things. In October, Don met a "remarkable young man. I'll probably only meet him once, but even covered with tattoos, he's going to be someone significant someday." He found him to be inspirational and quite knowledgeable about the Bible. Don summed up their discussion with, "It was an enjoyable discussion and a mutually encouraging time together."

The time spent with such a diverse group is unpredictable. On October 24, Don had trouble even putting his experience into words, but posted a vibrant message on Facebook:

I felt...defeated, exhilarated, challenged, enlightened, edified, educated (adj. & verb), depressed, valued, frustration, regretful, appreciated, insignificant, faithless and faith-filled. If you're wondering if I really believe it's possible to feel all that at one time? Yes...Yes, I do. I definitely do.

Being a disciple and helping others come closer to our powerful, loving, holy and forgiving God does generate a whole range of feelings, but the reward is that assurance that we are answering God's call and using gifts and talents to do His work.

Don would be glad to share more of his experiences and provide more information about the Tippecanoe County Jail Bible study – just ask!

