

OPENDOOR

APRIL 2021



COME IN

Have you been to a used-to-be town...a place left behind by time and the highway? There are many of them. You can follow a sign down a narrow county road and find one. Some are divided by a more traveled road, posted with a speed limit without a reason. There may be a few houses, some still lived in, and a few buildings that used-to-be a general store, a school, or a one pump gas station.

And sometimes, if you are very lucky, there is still a church.

We enjoyed spending time together, going for afternoon rides, traveling down roads she had known for many years.

Age would slowly take her words away, but not yet...and her memories led us to that little still-a-church in a used-to-be town.

As we walked around the church we met a man in his Saturday clothes pulling a ladder from his truck. Answering his question, I explained she had gone to this church when she was a girl.

He pulled out a key chain and said..."Come in."

We sat in the pew where she used to sit with her family. We looked at the hymnal and the beautiful windows, and I listened to stories about Sundays long ago. We held hands as she went silent, deep in her own thoughts. He was still working as we left. The congregation was blessed to have this elder who spent his



This glimpse of God was captured by a fellow HTLC member. She invites each of us to think about a moment lived or step taken in our faith journey, especially with people we've known and loved. You are invited to share how you have seen God in action.. Contact Sue Davis to get started with your story.

Saturday in this way, and we were blessed to come when he was there.

We thanked him again for his kindness. I wonder if he knew the gift he had given with those words..."Come in."

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HOLY WEEK

March 28 - PASSION SUNDAY (*Palm Sunday*)

9:30 Service of Worship with Holy Communion

April 1 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00 Holy Communion & the Beginning of the Passion

April 2 - GOOD FRIDAY

7:00 Service of Worship with the Seven Words from the cross

April 4 - EASTER SUNDAY

9:30 Resurrection Celebration and Holy Communion

All services will be livestreamed.

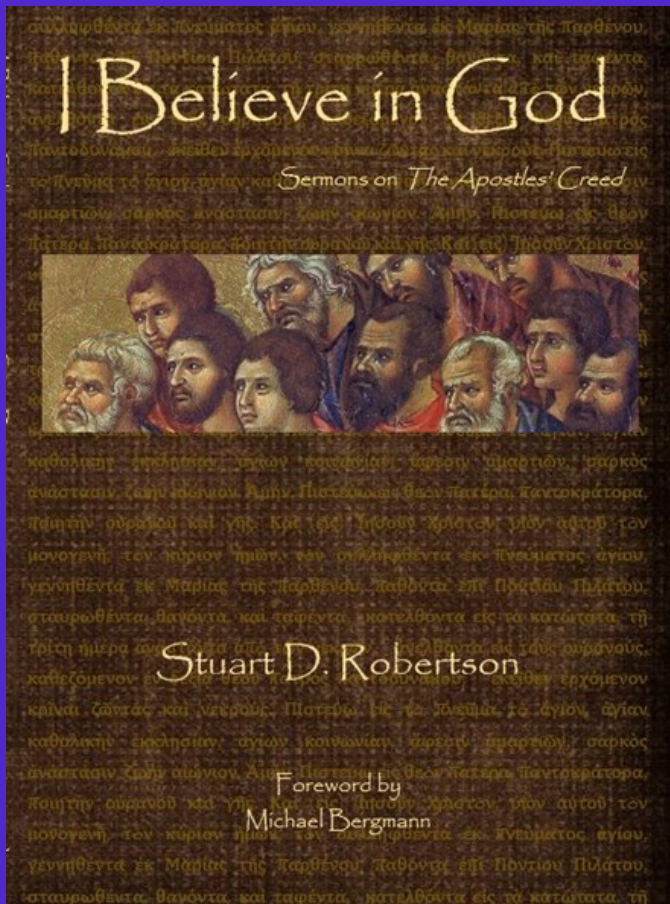


In-Person Worship Resumes — April 11

For members who wish to return to the sanctuary for worship, HTLC will begin offering in-person services at 9:30 am April 11.

Council is moving cautiously and asks members to:

- Call or email Michele Russell, member of the Worship Committee, to tell her number of people from your family planning to attend. Contact her at 765 471-1329 or email michelerussell97@gmail.com. If you let us know by Friday, we'll have socially distanced seats set up ahead of time.
- We will continue to wear masks.
- Communion will be served with the individually packaged elements.
- No choir yet—but stay tuned! We'll get there again.
- Livestream will be offered for those not quite ready to return yet...



DR. ROBERTSON

Dr. Stuart D. Robertson, lecturer of Hebrew Studies at Purdue, will present a streamed talk titled "In the fullness of time, God sent his Son" on Tuesday, April 6 at 6:30 pm. Dr. Robertson, a retired Presbyterian minister, was one of our invited speakers in 2019 as part of our Inner Faith Speaker series and we are delighted he is returning.

Clergy Call Committee Formed:

Mike Anderson

Morgen Benner

Amy Brown

Pat Garrett

Helen Hoffman

Diane Longdo

Wayne Russell

Ahead: Spring Speaker Series

May 8, 2021 at 2:00 PM (Saturday)
"Consider The Women - A Provocative Guide To The Three Matriarchs Of The Bible"

Dr. Blue's book, with the same title, was featured in "Living Lutheran" magazine. Presenter: Rev. Dr. Debbie Blue, House of Mercy Church, St. Paul, Minnesota



LET'S CELEBRATE

April Birthdays

- 1 Nell Kretzschmar
- 2 Christina Newell
- 4 Addi Bush
- 7 Amy Brown
- 8 Barbara Mussche, Ed Lausch
- 10 Matt Brown
- 18 Sandy Meshberger, Jane Tolen,
Hayden Ritchie
- 23 Lauren Ahlersmeyer
- 27 Walter Lillo,
Jonathan Hillery, Caitlin Hillery

April Anniversary

- 20 Don & Sue Lambert

PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

Good and Gracious God,

We give you thanks for Pastor Albertin, Pastor Lichtenberger, and Pastor Schroeder as they have faithfully served our congregation.

Our council has relied upon your wisdom and direction in making decisions for our congregation during difficult times. Continue to bless and lead them. We pray for Christians in our neighborhood, community and city. May your Holy Spirit inspire us to serve and to proclaim the gospel, that the name of Jesus Christ might be glorified.

Prayer is how we actively practice believing, so simply, so confidently, that God has the whole world in his hands. It's where we "let petitions and praises shape our worries into prayers, letting God know our concerns" (Phil 4: 6-7 The Message)

Christianity Today

Rescued



On a wintry morning in February 1956, a riding instructor named Harry de Leyer drove four hours from his Long Island farm to New Holland, Pennsylvania.

Every Monday as many as 300 horses were auctioned at this Amish community. Harry, a Dutch immigrant, knew horses. He had \$80 in his pocket and hoped to purchase a gentle animal that could become a lesson horse for his students.

The auction attracted a plethora of buyers. Some of the horses were purebreds. They fetched the big bucks. Some animals needed to be trained. Others simply needed to be loved. There were worn-out plow horses, tired ponies, and creatures who had been ill-treated for years by one too many owner.

By midday the auction would be over and every horse would be purchased.

The last bidder was always the Kill buyer. He would pay bottom dollar for the animals no one wanted. They would be crowded into a truck and driven to the slaughterhouse, where their carcasses would become pet food and their hooves boiled down into glue.

On his way to New Holland, Harry's old car struggled through the snow. Then he blew a tire. By the time he arrived, the auction was over. Everyone was gone except the man who had just finished loading about 15 animals into the Kill truck for their final ride.

Harry still hoped his long drive wasn't in vain. Maybe there was a decent horse on the Kill truck.

The slaughterhouse buyer was in a hurry. Harry stepped forward to take a look. He was drawn to an underfed, overworked plow horse, at least eight years old, covered with mud and manure. "I couldn't see much through the slats in the truck, but I saw this grey horse that had very kind eyes who would be a quiet-type horse who would give back in loyalty and affection. He was missing a shoe, had cuts on his knees, and I could see where hair had been rubbed off by a harness."

How much was he worth? "He's yours for \$80," said the Kill buyer. Harry gave him every dollar in his wallet.

When the neglected horse arrived at the de Leyer farm, Harry's daughter – captivated by his grey coat against the background of falling snow – thought he looked like a snowman. Now he had a name.

Snowman proved to be so gentle, especially around children and nervous riders, that a doctor who lived down the road from the de Leyers begged to buy him as a horse for his kids. Harry consented.

(Continued from page 5)

That's when the fun began.

Three days later, Harry looked up and saw Snowman standing in his paddock. The horse had jumped numerous fences in order to rejoin the man he loved. Harry returned the horse, advising the doctor to build his fences higher and to tie a tire to Snowman so he couldn't jump. Three days later, Snowman was back in Harry's paddock – tire and all.

Gradually it dawned on the Dutch horse trainer that this might be an extraordinary animal.

The horse never again left Harry's side. De Leyer began to enter Snowman in jumper events.

People laughed out loud when the old grey plow horse walked into arenas alongside the best of the best – animals specially bred and trained to clear high hurdles. But laughter turned to awe when Snowman won the National Horse Show Open Jumper Championship in 1958 – just two years after being rescued from the Kill truck. Then he was named the American Horse Shows Association Horse of the Year in both 1958 and 1959.

Snowman became a celebrity. He was featured in *LIFE* magazine, appeared on *The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson*, and for years was the star of his own fan club. He even inspired a Breyer Horse collectible.

Along the way he never lost his love for children. When the school bus arrived in the afternoon to drop off the de Leyer kids, Snowman frequently jumped over his paddock fence to meet them.

An award-winning 2016 documentary, *Harry and Snowman*, recounts the Cinderella story. [Check out](#) this official trailer, which includes priceless footage of Snowman at the national championship.

Who knew that for a mere \$80 Harry de Leyer had rescued one of the greatest jumpers in equestrian history – a horse that would

become a member of his own family?

If it's hard to imagine going from the slaughterhouse to the penthouse, just think what God has done for us.

The apostle Paul minces no words: "God rescued us from dead-end alleys and dark dungeons. He's set us up in the kingdom of the Son he loves so much, the Son who got us out of the pit we were in, got rid of the sins we were doomed to keep repeating." (Colossians 1:13-14, *The Message*)

People in our culture have a hard time picturing themselves on the Kill truck.

Many are put off by the very notion that we need to be rescued.

But once we've spent some time living under God's leadership – experiencing hope instead of cynicism, grace instead of exasperation, steady purpose instead of trying to control everything – only then will we grasp what a miracle it was that when God looked at us, covered with spiritual mud and manure, he didn't turn away.

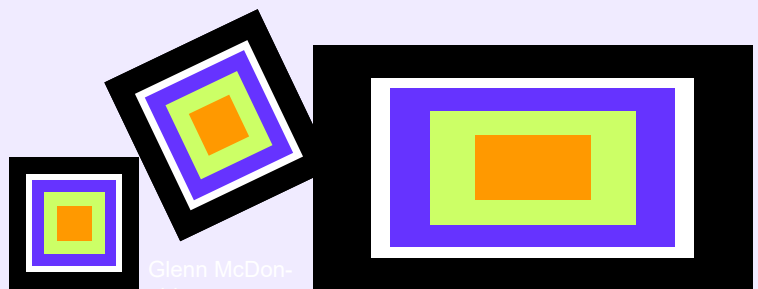
Instead, he saw in us what we were always meant to be.

Champions.



From "Morning Reflections" written by Glenn McDonald.

Glenn is an ordained Presbyterian minister, has 33 years of congregational leadership experience, and is the author of ten books on discipleship and spiritual formation.



Glenn McDonald
2014

A Letter from our Missionary

Greetings from Singapore.

Although I continue to live and work at Trinity Theological College in Singapore, I am actually teaching online to students at the Seminari Teologia Tinggi in Siantar, Indonesia, an institution of the Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP), on Sumatra island. I teach courses on worship and preaching, as I have been doing for the past twenty years. Although I am receiving private instruction in the Indonesian language, my teaching still needs to be interpreted by the student class leaders (or “ketua” in the local language).

People often ask whether I am concerned about the quality of translation and whether students are getting the ideas and concepts accurately from the translator. So far, the answer seems to be “yes” because the test scores, while not stellar, are not so dismal as to suggest that nothing is “getting through”! Teaching with translation is one of those experiences where one must learn to trust others and their commitment to the task. To date, God has provided me with capable and responsible translators.



In previous letters I probably mentioned the fact that Good Friday is a national holiday in Singapore—a legacy of the days when Singapore was a British colony. As it happens both Good Friday and the Ascension (or “Whitsunday”) are national holidays in Indonesia. The Ascension was traditionally an important holiday in the Low Countries of Europe (more so than in Germany), and the Dutch brought this tradition to Indonesia when they colonized this southeast Asian archipelago in the seventeenth century. (In America, mostly the “liturgical churches”—Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Lutheran—observes the Ascension, although the Amish and Mennonites of southeastern Pennsylvania usually mark this fortieth day after Easter by ceasing work). I have yet to discover how Indonesian Christians celebrate the Ascension, whether in public worship services or observances in the home.

Although the Ascension conjures images of Jesus “flying” up into Heaven, we need to transcend any such childish, silly notions of the Ascension. In fact, Jesus ascends to the Father to take his place as Lord and King over all things that he might fill them with his presence (Ephesians 4:10). Accordingly, Jesus is not stuck in history merely to serve as a good moral example for religious people. Rather, the risen one who conquered death now rules over all things, times, and places. The Ascension is really the condition for his promise to be with us until the close of the age (Matthew 28:20). Indeed, it is because of the Ascension that Jesus meets us at the font, at the table, and in the people gathered around the font and table. Thus the Ascension is not an occasion for us to think “Where is he?” but “Thank God he is here!”

I am grateful for the presence of the risen and ascended Lord in your congregation and for your continued commitment to missionary sponsorship. I am glad that you are journeying with me (in a sense), and that together we are making a difference in southeast Asia. May the ascended Lord and King rule victorious in your lives and in your church!

Best regards in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jeff Truscott, Singapore/Siantar, Indonesia

MARCH 2021 COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Zoom meeting called to order by Nita Cunningham

The March 2021 meeting agenda was approved.

Attendance:

Nita Cunningham, Floyd Garrott, Pastor Schroeder, Stan Harlow, Michele Russell, Carolyn Claussen, Kevin Letcher, Al Davis, Dave Krueger, Bob Montgomery, Elizabeth White

Minutes of the February 2021 Council meeting were approved.

Reports

Pastor's Report - Pastor Schroeder has been informed of and responded to prayer concerns and pastoral needs.

Treasurer/Financial Secretary Report

February 2021

Summary: Month Two of the Calendar Year 2021 - Target Percent is 16.66%

INCOME: \$14,115

Current Envelopes: Income for the month \$14,105 which is \$7,895 below the monthly need of \$22,000.

Total Income YTD: Income is below projection by 11,772

EXPENSE: Contained overall

NET INCOME:

February: Loss (\$1,990)

Year-to-Date: Loss (\$4,511)

CURRENT ASSETS

Total Balance: \$386,889

Submitted by: Albert Davis, Treasurer

The February 2021 Council Treasurer's Report was approved.

Old Business

Reopening in person worship was discussed. Topics included Synod recommendations, a reopening date, the

possible need for reservations, singing restrictions, communion in the pews, and other safety guidelines.

Bob Montgomery moved to open in person worship on April 11, 2021 under constraints currently in place and with communion in the pews. The motion was seconded by Dave Krueger and passed unanimously.

Michele Russell will contact the Worship Committee for help with reservations as needed and ideas for safe singing.

New Business

Quilters request

Quilters submitted a request to resume twice a month whole group meetings with lunch and beverages.

Al Davis moved to grant their request as stated, and asked that they notify the office of any additional space used so cleaning may be done. The motion was seconded by Dave Krueger and passed unanimously.

Update on Lafayette Area Group Ministry

Three Council members attended the meeting with representatives from six Lafayette area churches and Pastor Nancy Nyland. It was shared that within a 50 mile radius of Holy Trinity and Our Saviour, there is one called pastor. The meeting focused on exploring ways to meet the needs of all congregations through a shared ministry format including Pastors, Deacons, and Interns. The discussion will continue at the next meeting on March 25, 2021.

SWOT Analysis

Thank you to Elizabeth White for compiling the answers from the 21 submitted forms. Trends in responses were reviewed, and the compilation will be given to the Call Committee for their use.

Additional completed forms are welcome, and responses will be added to the compilation.

The Council thanks everyone who submitted a SWOT form to help in the call process.

Selection of the Call Committee

The following voting members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church have volunteered to serve on the Call Committee and have had a conversa-



MARCH COUNCIL CONTINUED

tion with Nita Cunningham about serving HTLC in this important task:

TJ or Diane Longdo, Pat Garrott, Amy Brown, Helen Hoffman, Wayne Russell, Morgen Benner, and Mike Anderson.

Al Davis moved to accept the slate of volunteers to form a Call Committee. The motion was seconded by Dave Krueger, and passed unanimously.

The Council appreciates these faithful members who have offered to serve Holy Trinity on the Call Committee.

Grief Session Follow-up

Will Peugeot will lead a group called the HTLC Parish Care Team to follow up with congregation members.

The Council is grateful for Will and the Parish Care Team volunteers who are willing to do this important ministry.

Live Stream Request

A member inquired about the possibility of using live stream technology in the event of a memorial service. Stan Harlow will look into what will be needed to make this possible.

Committee Reports:

Committees did not meet in person.

Evangelism – Report submitted.

Christian Education – Report Submitted.

Worship/ Music – Report submitted.

Technology – Report submitted.

Property – Report submitted.

Outreach – No new report at this time. LUM has been contacted and the committee is awaiting an answer.

Mutual Ministry – Report Submitted

Youth – No new report

Stewardship – No new 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.

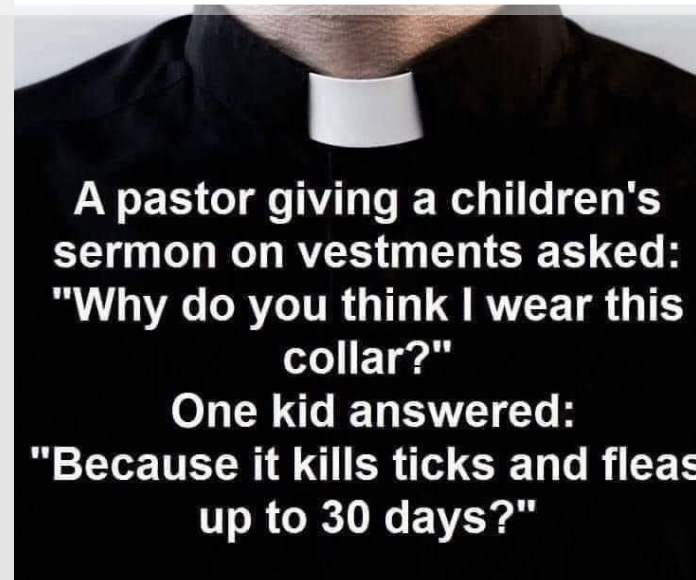
The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm, closing in prayer.

Next meeting: Monday, April 12, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
Submitted by Carolyn Claussen



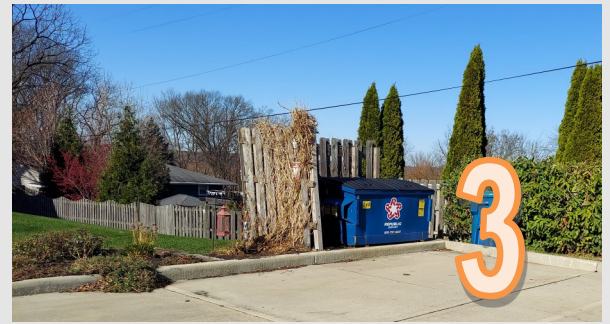
Thanks

Some special folks have helped with keeping our church operations humming. The interim Parish Administrator has regularly relied on Sue Lambert, Judy Lokke, Mike and Mary Anderson as well as Michele and Wayne Russell.



ADOPT A SPOTS AVAILABLE

1. Tree front lawn East of building
2. Tree front N/E lawn of building
3. Area South of dumpster screen/blind
4. Area at the gas meter South of drive.
5. Area at entry to North doors of fellowship hall.
6. Garden East of the gazebo
7. Area at the N/E corner of parking lot North side mid-way to garage



Got your eye on one of these fine pieces of real estate?

Claim your stake at the new bulletin board display that the Sunday School kids mounted in the hallway leading to the Education Wing.

Wayne Russell is also familiar with the location of water, availability of mulch and other useful information for a new HTLC gardener.



Prayers for the People

In the shadow of a pandemic, we have maintained our ties to one another through worship and prayer. Our prayers each Sunday morning attest to this basic need.

As we return to in-person church services, the “prayer sheet” will again be available in the narthex near the glass doors leading to the sanctuary. (Sanitized pens will be provided.) We will gather the names of those we wish to bring before the Lord for

healing or comfort during the worship service. Those names will also appear in the weekly Epistle.

For worshippers joining us via Livestream, please continue forwarding names to

the church office that you wish to add to the prayer list via email or by leaving a telephone message.

After Easter

We will continue to pray for everyone currently on the list through Easter (unless you ask to remove someone you named to it.)

On April 11, a new list will begin. Names written on the prayer sheet before that morning worship service will be included as well as names submitted by Wednesday April 7.

Unless you tell the office that the person has been through their surgery or had some resolution to their issue, we will continue asking the congregation to pray for them for four weeks.

If you believe the person is still in a critical situation after four weeks, you may renew the request for corporate prayer on their behalf.



The Search Continues...

The search for a new office administrator continues! Sue Lambert, Sue Davis and Mary Anderson are working on a job description, expectations and qualifications for the new hire. We all need to realize that the new office person may NOT be a member of HTLC – although if you know of a member who might be interested, please let one of us know! We have had non-members as our office person before and it can work quite well; it does, however, mean a few adjustments on our part.

The new position will most likely be part time – about 20 hours a week with the possibility of expanding those hours. This means that when you call the church office, you may need to leave a message. Bulletins are another area where there may be changes.

The new administrator may not be around on Sunday morning, and may not (for a while) know how to direct your questions. Our committees are ready to be back in action so please direct concerns and comments to the committee in charge: worship, property, outreach, evangelism, Christian Education, finance. So let's all commit to letting the office person settle in and get familiar with our routines before we bombard them with questions and comments.

Until a new pastor is onboard, that individual will be the lead contact for emergencies, hospitalizations, etc., and will get that information to our Pastor of Record, Rev. Randy Schroeder, who is handling pastoral concerns.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in the position, please contact Sue Lambert, Sue Davis or Mary Anderson. We know the right person is out there somewhere!

Congregational Council

Nita Cunningham, President
 Kevin Letcher, Vice President
 Carolyn Claussen, Council Secretary
 Floyd Garrott, Financial Secretary
 Al Davis, Treasurer
 Bob Montgomery Stan Harlow
 David Krueger Michele Russell
 Elizabeth White

Christian Education Committee

Sue Lambert Carolyn Claussen
 Diane Longdo

Mutual Ministry Committee

Mary Anderson Al Davis
 Kevin Letcher Pastor Schroeder

Worship & Music Committee

Michele Russell Peg Wright
 Sue Lambert Laverne Glick
 Sue Phebus Carol Letcher

Outreach & Human Needs Committee

Bob Montgomery Nita Cunningham
 Sandie Donahue Cheryl Schrier

Youth Committee

TJ Longdo David Krueger
 Diane Longdo

Property Committee

Wayne Russell Kevin Letcher
 Bob Montgomery Floyd Garrott
 Bob Everson Dan Lokke
 Don Lambert Arlan Stavnheim
 Daryl Gillespie

Technology Committee

Stan Harlow Tom Cavanaugh
 Don Lambert Bill Hillery
 Morgen Benner

Finance and Stewardship Committee

Floyd Garrott Al Davis
 Mike Anderson

Evangelism Committee

Nita Cunningham Wayne Russell
 Kevin Letcher



SPEAK UP

START NOW. END SEXUAL VIOLENCE.

This Spring, the Ivy Tech- Lafayette Office of Student Life in conjunction with the Speak Up Series & various Greater Lafayette community partners will be building to their **7th Annual Take Back the Night** event to be held virtually this semester! Take Back the Night is an international event with the mission of ending sexual, relationship, and domestic violence in all forms. Hundreds of events are held in over 30 countries annually including at Ivy Tech Community College- Lafayette.

The Speak Up program is now accepting registrants! Speak Up is rooted in the power of storytelling and real-world narratives. This 60 minute virtual experience is an interactive online training and awareness program that uses true stories told by survivors of sexual violence to help participants understand the issues of sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, bystander intervention, and support.

You are invited to register at this Ivy Tech site:

<https://ivytech.edu/submitter/form/collectsubmitteridentity/fa2b0491-adce-4452-af06-0982027c2ee1>



If you successfully complete the Speak Up virtual experience, you will receive a Take Back the Night event shirt.

Registrants will receive follow-up communication granting them online access to the program prior to the March 14 program start date.





The Diversity Round Table's 10th Biennial

DIVERSITY SUMMIT

TURNING CONVERSATION INTO ACTION

➤➤ Saturday April 10, 2021 ◀◀

10:00A.M. - 3:00P.M. | Virtually Via Zoom*

FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKER KENYETTA DOTSON

Bring your experiences & leave with an action plan.



SCAN ME

ALL ARE WELCOME to register for this FREE Virtual Conference & find more information at: <http://bit.ly/DiversitySummit2021>

*No Computer No Problem - Resources are Available

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

1005 North 21st Street
Lafayette, IN 47904-2296
Phone: 765-447-4205

E-mail: office@htlcweb.org
Website: www.htlcweb.org
Open Door Editor: Susan Davis



337 Columbia Street
Lafayette, IN 47901



Agnus Day

