



## A Call to Go Deep

6/1/2020 Morning Reflection devotion by Glenn McDonald

It's an old Sunday School trick.

When given the assignment of memorizing any verse of the Bible, a number of kids (OK, we're talking about the boys) happily settle for one of the short ones.

Some of the diminutive verses in scripture aren't particularly life-altering.

- There's Job 3:2: "And Job said."
- And Luke 17:32: "Remember Lot's wife."
- And I Chronicles 1:25, which happens to be right in the middle of a genealogy: "Eber, Peleg, Reu."
- Others pack a serious punch, like Deuteronomy 5:17: "You shall not murder," and Deuteronomy 5:19: "You shall not steal."
- There are short verses we can spend our entire lives trying to live out, such as I Thessalonians 5:16: "Rejoice always," and the verse that immediately follows it: "Pray without ceasing." (5:17)

But for sheer power, elegance, and the capacity to transform the way we think about God, it's hard to top the two words of John 11:35: "Jesus wept."

In the eleventh chapter of John, Jesus is weeping in a cemetery, mourning the loss of a friend. In Luke 19 we see Jesus crying over the city of Jerusalem, heartbroken by the spiritual blindness of his own nation.



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We may presume that Jesus has been shedding real tears over our nation this spring.

We are in the midst of four crises. Any of them has the capacity to shake us. Incredibly, we are facing them simultaneously.

**First**, nearly 104,000 of our fellow citizens have died from COVID-19. That total exceeds the combined U.S. deaths from every military conflict since the end of World War II: Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, Afghanistan, and Iraq. All in less than four months, with no end in sight.

**Second**, more than 40 million Americans have filed for unemployment. We are fast approaching a jobless rate comparable to the Great Depression. Tens of thousands of businesses may not survive.

**Third**, our major cities are being torn apart by anger and violence, sparked by the outrageous killing of an unarmed black man named George Floyd at the hands of a police officer. Peaceful protests are being fueled by the searing memories of other deaths where justice has not been served. Other people, "who just want to see the world burn," are escalating the chaos.

**Fourth**, our political landscape feels like a wilderness. Civility is dead. Few elected leaders speak of the common good. Attention is focused on a divide-and-conquer struggle to elevate Our Side and demonize The Others. Tragically, even when legislators occasionally dare to reflect on the weaknesses of their own position and seek to understand opposing views, members of their own parties threaten them with political extinction.



Glenn McDonald is the Director of Mission Integration for the Ascension Ministry Service Center in Indianapolis, Indiana, a role in which he serves as the workplace mission leader for 1,000 associates in the healthcare industry.

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. He and his wife are the parents of four grown children and enjoy living on a small farm.

### ***No wonder God's heart is broken.***

Of what value is it to know that Jesus weeps? That short verse means that God is not on the sidelines. God is not watching from a distance. God is intimately involved in history as it unfolds. It also means that followers of Jesus cannot remain on the sidelines, either.

### ***What shall we do?***

Grab hold of those short verses and make them your own. Pray without ceasing - because the world needs supernatural power. Rejoice always - because God, in the end, is going to set everything right, even when the present moment seems painful.

Work for justice. Comfort the grieving. Remain in the public square, demonstrating how all of us can work for the common good.

Should we go Left? Or go Right?

***Our real call is to go Deep*** - deep into the teachings of the One who weeps in the cemetery and cries over the brokenness of our cities.

A Bible verse doesn't have to be long or complex to change the world.

Just two words can change everything. Including us.

## JUNE 8, 2020 COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

*In compliance with directives of the ELCA and state and local government, the June 2020 HTLC Council meeting as well as all committee meetings were held electronically.*

After devotions, the June 2020 meeting agenda was approved.



Attendance: Nita Cunningham, Floyd Garrott, Pastor Doane, Stan Harlow, Michele Russell, Carolyn Claussen, Kevin Letcher, Al Davis, Dave Krueger, Bob Montgomery

Absent: Paul Widmer

Quorum was established

The May meeting Minutes were approved.

### Reports

Pastor's Report - Report Submitted.

Pastor Doane discussed the recent issues with online streaming technology, the number of views of online services, and the difficulty in drawing any conclusions from this data.

He announced a technology grant was awarded to HTLC. This grant will help with purchasing updated equipment for live streaming when these items become available from suppliers.

Treasurer/Financial Secretary Report

**Summary: Month Five of the Calendar Year 2020 - Target Percent is 41.67%**

**INCOME:** \$22,296

Current Envelopes: Income for the month \$22,276 which is \$641 below monthly need of \$22,917

Total Income YTD: Income is above projection by \$10,570

**EXPENSE:** Contained overall

### NET INCOME:

May: Loss (\$7,386)

Year-to-Date: Gain \$8,832

### CURRENT ASSETS

Total Balance: \$306,038

. In Review:

- Advertising still postponed
- Custodian contract been restored
- Upgrading of technology for improved recording/broadcasting of worship services: HT has applied for a grant
- COVID-19 Food Distribution expenditures have totaled \$14,255 through June 2020

As stated last month, it is a comfort that no time has been dedicated pleading for contributions!

May God grant us the wisdom to be prudent and truly recognize the abundance in which we live.

Albert Davis, Treasurer

A discrepancy in the monthly budget for utilities was identified, causing the budget in that line to be underestimated. Further investigation showed the annual budget approved by the congregation and all monthly expenditures to be correct. The monthly budget will be corrected.

A Motion was made to approve the May 2020 Treasurer's Report with the correction.

Old Business none

### New Business

Reopening in person worship at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Pastor Doane presented the proposal from the Reopen Task Force. A summary of key recommendations included in the proposal is provided by Pastor Doane on page 5.

### Discussion of HTLC Council:

Alternate methods for communion were discussed. Dave Krueger presented an option for individually packaged elements. The task force had reviewed similar options and decided to not offer communion at the beginning of reopening. Pastor Doane will look at the new option as discussion of communion options continue. The goal is to make communion available as soon as possible.



## JUNE COUNCIL CONTINUED

Additional meetings at church were discussed. Concern was expressed about the lack of bible study for children and adults and the unavailability of other fellowship within the church building. The task force recommends no additional meetings be held until the decrease in infection rate meets CDC guidelines.

Live streaming was discussed. Stan Harlow presented concerns about intermittent technical difficulties and the possibility that online attendance may discourage in person church attendance in the future. He expressed willingness to help with online streaming and other technology projects.

Concerns with the upgrades to plumbing fixtures were discussed. These concerns included the cost of initial installment, the cost of maintenance of the fixtures, and the possible timeline for installment.

Al Davis presented an amendment to the task force motion that plumbing fixtures in the finance room bathroom and Pastor's private restroom be omitted at this time. The amendment passed unanimously.

A vote on the task force motion and proposal, amended as stated in the previous paragraph, passed with one dissent.

### Committee Reports:

Evangelism – Did not meet

Technology – Report submitted. Stan Harlow will pursue the possibility of helping with online streaming

Property – Report submitted.

Mutual Ministry – Met June 3, 2020 to discuss the work of reopening task force.

Christian Education – No report submitted. Virtual Bible School in progress.

Youth – No report submitted.

Stewardship – We are blessed with people who continue to give generously at this difficult time.

Worship/ Music – No new report.

Outreach – Report submitted. It was announced that Marilyn Weber will be moving to Colorado to be near her family. Her tireless work on this committee will be missed. The committee would like to continue to support LUM, Transitional Housing, and Family Promise as they have in the past. A new Family Promise Coordinator is needed to continue HTLC support for this ministry.

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 HTLC submitted a resolution of appreciation of Marilyn Weber, and wishes her God's blessings in her new home. A Resolution recognizing Marilyn Weber is printed on page 7.

The meeting was adjourned and closed in prayer.

Next meeting: Monday, July 13, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Carolyn Claussen

## Agnus Day

HAVE YOU LOOKED AT THE  
**NEWS LATELY?**  
I WISH I COULD SEE  
MORE **EVIDENCE** OF THE  
(KINGDOM OF GOD!)



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

THE REIGN OF  
GOD IS WHEREVER  
JESUS IS.



OH **YEAH!?** WELL,  
WHERE IS JESUS THEN?  
'CAUSE HE NEEDS TO  
COME AND **KNOCK**  
**SOME HEADS!**



NO. JESUS IS  
WHEREVER  
THERE IS  
**COMPASSION.**



MATTHEW 9:35-10:8

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## Pastor Doane July Update

### Summary of the Return to In-Person Worship Taskforce Presented to Church Council June 8, 2020

Council will meet in July to assess moving forward and a possible date for a return to in-person worship. It is important to understand that a return to in-person worship does not mean we will return to things the way they were before the pandemic.

- New cleaning and sanitizing protocols are recommended. (Some have already been put into action.)
- When we return to in-person services, we will begin with one service on Sunday at 9:30 A.M. and possibly a noon Wednesday service.
- Livestream worship will continue on Sunday morning.
- Coffee hour will be suspended for the time being.
- Activity will be limited to the Sanctuary and first floor restrooms for the time being.
- Other areas of the church have been sanitized and should not be used.
- Facemasks covering nose and mouth are to be worn by everyone in the church.
- Avoiding physical contact will be encouraged (no handshaking, fist bumps, elbow bumps etc.)
- As recommended by the CDC, in the beginning there will be no singing because singing potentially projects oral spray beyond the 6 foot distance to be maintained between people. For this reason, all hymnals have been removed from the pews for the time being.
- Preludes, Postludes, and other instrumental music will be included in worship.
- Children will stay with their parents throughout worship.
- No group meetings should be held at the church for the time being.
- Resumption of In-person services will be evaluated at next Council Meeting – July 13. More information will be disseminated at that time.

Council reviewed the task force recommendations and supported many safeguards and precautions. When we return to worship, we can expect these guidelines to be followed for some time as we transition back to group interactions. It is imperative that we follow CDC guidelines for social distancing. That includes wearing masks and maintaining a 6 foot distance between people. That is generally accepted as two arm lengths.

We know that everyone is anxious to “come back” to worship at Holy Trinity. We, your leaders are anxious as well. But the last week has seen a significant surge in new COVID-19 cases. So far, Tippecanoe County has experienced a steady decline in infections. Hopefully, that will continue but caution is still needed.

The safety of all members of our congregation is our primary concern. We share your frustrations, but now is a time to come together in faith, caring and love. You have been so good in your support and prayers. Holy Trinity is a congregation of loving, faithful people.

Thank you. Pastor Doane



## A sneak peek at preparations underway for return to in-person worship



### Task Force for Return to In-Person Worship

Pastor David Doane

Nita Cunningham

Sue Lambert

Deb Pohlenz

Kevin Letcher

Wayne Russell





HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

## **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION**

**MARILYN WEBER**



**WHEREAS**, Marilyn Weber has advanced the mission and agenda of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church through her 21 years of steadfast advocacy, passionate commitment and service as God's hands and feet; and

**WHEREAS**, Marilyn's tireless engaging of the entire Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in outreach efforts including Family Promise, Food Banks, Shoe Drives, Clothing Drives, Jubilee Christmas and Trunk or Treat; and

**WHEREAS**, Marilyn has participated in the Stephen Ministry and Great Banquet, using these as springboards to help congregants and the community build spiritual awareness; and

**WHEREAS**, Marilyn has emulated being a true servant of Christ by virtue of her compassion for the poor, concern and spending time with the lonely, and uplifting the weary and down-trodden; and

**WHEREAS**, future generations will benefit from Marilyn's contributions, ideas, organizational skills and work ethic;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Council highly commends and thanks Marilyn Weber for her leadership, counsel and innovative contributions.



Abraham speaks

- Bible Heroes—Daniel, Abraham, Moses visited with us.
- Heard about today's heroes who shaped some of our church members.
- Had fun with singing songs, showing our craft and playing some games.



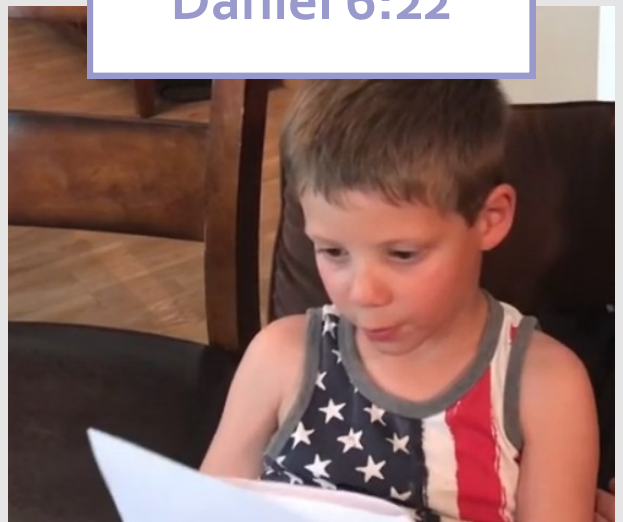
Moses tells about leading his people

Reading stories of Bible Heroes



Daniel talks about listening to God

Daniel 6:22





## Some Heroes Shaping Lives at Holy Trinity— Can you match them?

Check to see if you guessed right on page 15.

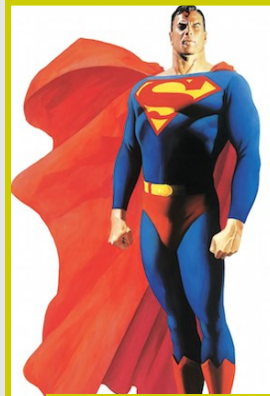
Pastor Doane's heroes?



A. My kids



B. Superman!



Mary Anderson's heroes?



D. My spouse



C. My Grandma



Kevin Letcher's heroes?



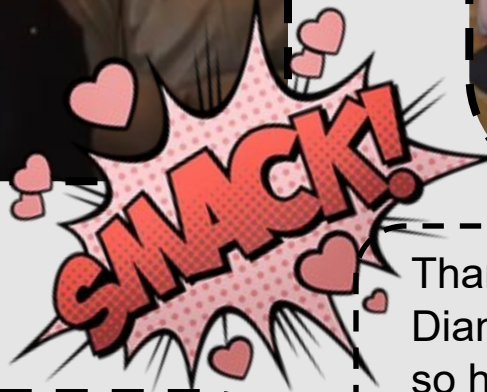
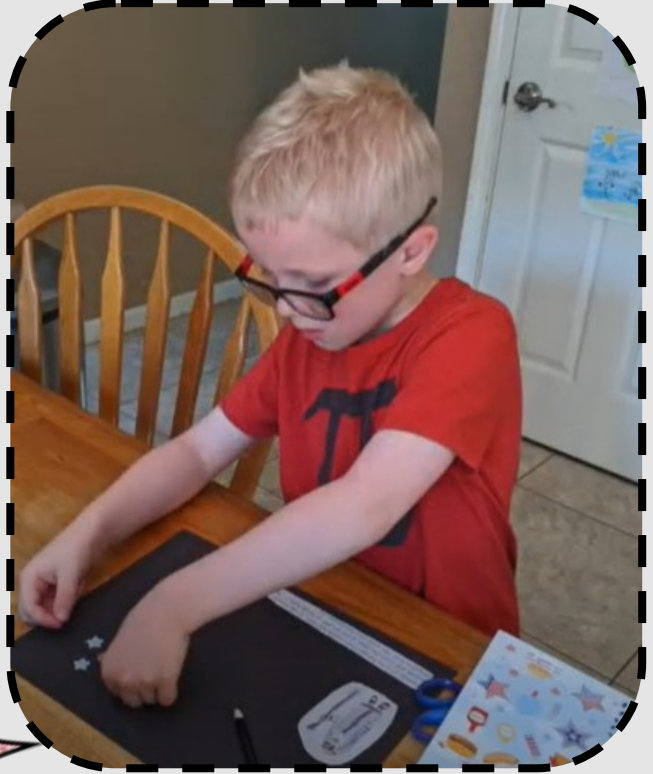
F. Eleanor Roosevelt



E. President Carter



## VBS Sharing Time: Crafts and Songs and Games



Thanks to some terrific heroes like Diane and TJ Longdo who worked so hard to make Vacation Bible School special this year.







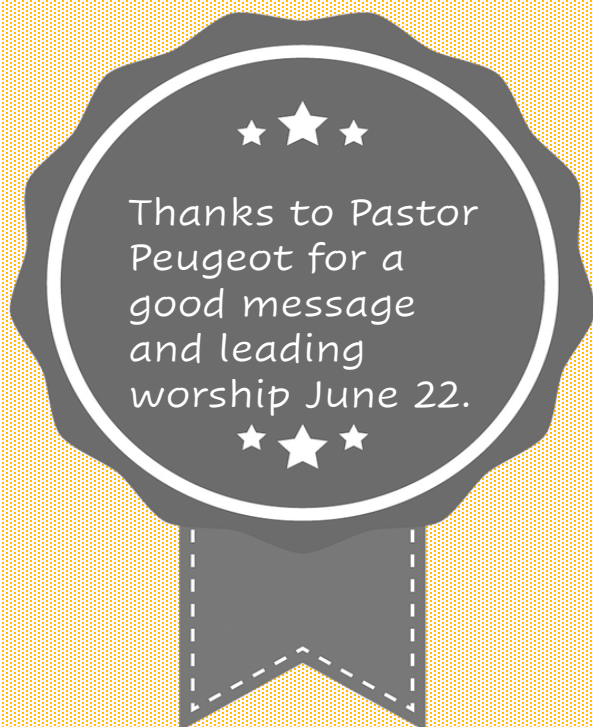
## LET'S CELEBRATE

### July Birthdays

- 1 Scott Ahlersmeyer
- 2 Judy Allen
- 9 Laura McDonald, Rick Wellner
- 11 Ashley Widmer
- 13 Jason Smith
- 15 Kim Whiteaker, Kaylee Brown
- 17 Karl Wood
- 18 Jeff Robertson, Judy Lokke,  
Barb Everson
- 20 Duane McDonald
- 21 Karen Harlow, Lucas Greeley
- 23 Shannon Zachary
- 24 Anna Stabala, Erica Krueger,  
Carolyn Shriver
- 25 Mike Anderson, Kelly Widmer
- 28 Jeanne Griffith
- 30 Alexis Wallace

### July Anniversaries

- 1 Paul & Linda Widmer
- 2 James & Sherry Holmes
- 7 Dustin & Courtney Johnson,  
T.J. & Diane Longdo
- 26 Steve & Judy Hahn
- 28 Dorothy & Rich Sisken,  
Matt & Christine Buck



Gracious God,

When life is disturbed, disrupted, and threatened by the novel coronavirus, we pray to you, God of life.

Grant us the compassion, humility and self-discipline to value, care about and protect each life.

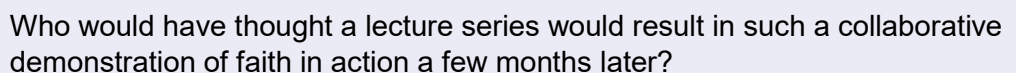
We pray for an early end to the transmission of the virus that is harming all, and for life, health and peace, through your mercy, grace and loving care.

Amen.

## PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH







## Bishop Gafkjen's June Letter

Dear People of God across the Indiana-Kentucky Mission Territory,

As I open my laptop to write this pastoral letter the evening news is telling us that COVID-19 is surging in almost half of the United States. Dr. Anthony Fauci and other medical experts are referring to this as a “disturbing surge” and are reminding us that it’s crucial we continue to avoid large crowds and wear facemasks in order to protect ourselves and others. At the same time, protests and debates about racism and racial justice are rising up among us, demanding our attention and action to combat racism and dismantle white supremacy.

This wilderness journey has been long and arduous, the insidious coronavirus wilderness, certainly, but also the much longer and pernicious wilderness of racism. Despite some hopeful signs here and there, we will not emerge from either wilderness anytime soon. It is essential that we keep moving forward patiently, hopefully, diligently, and together. We will move forward with fits and starts, meanderings and missteps along the way, for sure, but we can and will entrust ourselves and one another to the promised presence, forgiveness, grace, and hope of God in Christ as we find and follow the way toward God’s promised future as a church that witnesses to the Spirit of Christ, loves and serves our neighbors, and works toward a just, truthful, and peaceful community for all.

us have found our voice and committed ourselves in new ways to addressing racism – in ourselves, in our faith communities, and in civic life. These, and so many other experiences, are evidence that God is doing new things around, among, and through us, making life, joy, peace, and hope lived realities, even in the wilderness.

I give thanks for this new life. I give thanks for you, who have been willing to take some risks, try new things, keep the good of our neighbor at the fore, and honor and forgive one another along the way. It’s important to look for and listen deeply to what we have learned and continue to learn. What we learn will light the way through the wilderness and help us to lay foundations for the future.

Listening and learning together can also help us to be patient, diligent, and committed to the common good as we make decisions about the many important concerns before us these days, including the why, when, and how of in-person worship and other gatherings. This is a time for us to listen deeply, think creatively, and act boldly...together.

Because each local faith community needs to engage this discernment about how to conduct their ministry moving forward, including whether, when, and how to gather in-person, significant differences in process, timing, and practice are emerging among congregations across the synod and in local communities. This is healthy and good, as local context is crucial. But, it can also lead to misunderstandings, divisions, and criticism between members of congregations and their leaders, between congregations, or between ministers and leaders in a conference or community.

The witness of our wilderness-wandering forebears in faith attests to this. In a recently published and commendable short e-book entitled, “Leadership for a Time of Pandemic,” Tod Bolinger reminds us that just six weeks after the miracle of the Red Sea, “The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron” (Exodus 16). Caught up in an understandable sense of loss of the past and anxiety about the future, the people turned on each other and their leaders.



We have learned – and continue to learn – new things about ourselves and what it means to be the body of Christ. We have tried new ways of worshipping God, being fed spiritually, caring for one another, and serving our neighbors. We have let go of some things that just six months ago we thought were really important. Many of



*If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name... [Philippians 2:1-9]*

Please make space for your deacons, pastors, ministers, and leaders to take some time off and encourage them to go with Jesus to the quiet place of rest and renewal for a time. They will return happier and healthier, more focused and fueled. The time of absence will empower them to be fully present for you and for the ministry entrusted to you together for the long haul ahead.

Listen deeply. Think creatively. Act boldly. Together. Loving God. Serving neighbor. Finding and making the path forward by walking it. For the love of Jesus. For the sake of the world. By the grace of God.

Peace be with you,

William O. Lybbjorn

The Rev. Dr. William O. Gafkjen, Bishop







## Hero Match

From page 9

VBS guests each mentioned several heroes who have helped shape their lives. We had room for just two each.

*Did you guess correctly ?*

### **Pastor Doane's heroes:**

- \* Superman
- \* President Carter

### **Mary Anderson's heroes:**

- \* Her grandma (and mom)
- \* Eleanor Roosevelt

### **Kevin Letcher's heroes:**

- \* His wife
- \* His children

## **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**

1005 North 21st Street

Lafayette, IN 47904-2296

Phone: 765-447-4205

E-mail: [office@htlcweb.org](mailto:office@htlcweb.org)

Website: [www.htlcweb.org](http://www.htlcweb.org)

Open Door Editor: Susan Davis

## Marilyn Weber

Here are a few words describing Marilyn—contributed by friends who worked closely with her.

