

# OPEN DOOR

JUNE 2021



## Reflection: Life as a Christian

Sometimes people called her by her given name, but many called her Sis. She would have been 100 this May, and my family is so grateful to have had her with us until she was 95. Her brother recently said that when someone says, "What is a Christian?", he thinks of her. Although she didn't quote Bible verses or retell the sermon from the previous Sunday, it always seemed evident God was with her.

Sis and I went for many rides together. We would find fields being planted, houses where someone she knew used to live, garden centers where we would choose a new perennial for our flower gardens (hers would always flourish), and of course somewhere to stop for lunch.

And on one wonderful warm day we found that familiar church on a county road.

At the end of May, it was time for the Decoration Day rounds. No matter what was printed on the

calendar, she called it Decoration Day, and it was time to place flowers in the cemetery. One year, amid growing concerns about her driving, I suggested we could take the flowers together.

On our first Decoration Day drive, she was waiting at the open garage door as I parked in the driveway. I looked at the array of potted flowers on the floor of her garage and thought, "we might need a bigger boat." But we successfully got them all in the car and set off to the first of several stops, where I learned that this would involve more than flowers and we seemed to be unprepared. In the following years I would bring garden tools for trimming around the graves, cleaning supplies, small American flags in case the local Boy Scouts had overlooked a veteran, and a supply of bottled water.

### Inside this issue:

Call Committee Update	2
Birthdays and Anniversaries	4
Morning Reflection	5
Sunday School News	6
Council Highlights	7*8
Missionary Update	10
Spring Clean Up Day	11



At our first stop we tended to the graves of her husband (US Navy), both of her sons, and her husband's parents. On the walk to her grandparents' mossy grave in the deep shade under the trees, we discovered there was no small flag on the grave of Charley (4th Ohio Regiment, US Artillery, Civil War, wounded at Gettysburg), so he was added to our annual list.

We left that cemetery and traveled another 16 miles to the next stop where we left flowers at the graves of her other grandparents, aunts, and uncle (US Navy, USS West Virginia, Pearl Harbor). Another 20 miles took us to the next town and the graves of her parents, my parents, and other family and friends.

She seemed tireless, but I was thankful to find someplace with air conditioning and a menu. She ordered coffee (even on hot days), I ordered iced tea (even on cold days), and she shared more memories as we waited for our sandwiches.

I'm so grateful for the time with her, for big stories of service and sacrifice and small stories of everyday moments with family; stories of hardship and struggle, success and celebration, grief and faith. God was there in her telling, evident in how she had dealt with grief and loss, and in how she loved those who had died and those who still lived.

*The two submissions above were provided by HTLC members. 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.*



### A Random Act of Christianity

We're adjusting to cul-de-sac living where our neighbors don't seem to interact unless it is to fuss about over-mowing a property line. A family two doors away sold their home and deposited a mountain of trash at the curb. Trash guys cleared away the rubbish but the toters remained in the street with no one home to pull them to the house.

I moved them the next morning and watched from my Mrs. Kravitz window, as the neighbor drove past his former home and looked surprised. No big deal – but a small effort to make our community a little friendlier.

## CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Call Committee has met several times already and have started working on the Ministry Site Profile. This is a document that potential pastors can view. This is an important document as it provides information about our church. Thanks to everyone who participated and filled out the surveys.

We ask that you continue to keep the Call Committee in your prayers.



## Quilters Could Put Your Spare Sheets to Good Use

The quilting group is in need of nice used sheets. Cotton sheets without stains or rips work the best as we use an entire sheet to make the backs of our quilts. (Make dust cloths from flannel; they are too difficult to use for quilts.) We prefer colors or prints rather than white as the quilts are used mostly for warmth, and remain less stained than a white sheet in the circumstance for which they are used.

You may drop them off at the church anytime.

**Can't get to church?** We will come pick them up. Please call the church office and we will arrange a time with you for pick-up.



Sue Lambert will be leading a discussion class on the Parables. The class will meet 9:30—11:00am, June 3, 10, 17, 24, in the lounge. We will socially distance by having each family/person sit at a separate table. Please bring your Bible to each class. Please sign up by emailing Sue at [sue@golambert.com](mailto:sue@golambert.com)



## LET'S CELEBRATE



### PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

Come, Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts of Your faithful and  
kindle in them the fire of Your love.  
Send forth Your Spirit and they shall  
be created, and You shall renew the  
face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy  
Spirit did instruct the hearts of the  
faithful, grant that by the same Holy  
Spirit, we may be truly wise and  
ever enjoy His consolations.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

#### June Birthdays

- 1 Helen Hicks-Wentholt
- 2 Deidre Bush,  
Harry Ahlersmeyer
- 4 Marilyn Robbins,  
Marcia Wooldridge
- 9 Judy Hahn
- 13 Beverly Hoskins
- 16 Doug Phebus
- 19 Paula Gillespie,  
Greg Phebus,  
Marilyn Chambers
- 23 Kevin Letcher
- 25 T.J. Longdo

#### June Anniversaries

- 1 Karl & Barby Wood  
Walt & Elna Niegabitowski
- 3 Daryl & Paula Gillespie
- 6 Walter Lott & Nita Cunningham
- 7 Jim & Sue Lichtenberger
- 12 Ed Lausch & Peggy Favorite  
Charles & Mary McDonald  
Matt & Amy Brown  
Bob & Barb Everson  
Robert & Donna Montgomery
- 15 Shannon & Pinnie Wallace
- 20 Mac & Bridget Ritchie
- 21 Scott & Lauren Ahlersmeyer
- 27 Scott & Cheri Schwartz

## Nice

Rachel Pine was flying from Los Angeles to New York City. She noticed that the flight crew looked unusually harried.

When the flight attendant came by to see if she had fastened her seatbelt, Rachel reached into her package of Fig Newtons.

"Would you like one?" she asked.

The flight attendant gratefully received the snack. Rachel recalls that she almost seemed on the verge of tears.

A few minutes later the attendant returned. She said to Rachel: "You have no idea what our last flight was like. If just one passenger had been like you, it would have been bearable."

"And by the way," she mentioned to Rachel, "there's an open seat in first class. Would you like to have it?"

Such is the power of one Fig Newton. Actually, such is the power of kindness - of choosing to be nice.

In their slim volume *The Power of Nice*, Linda Kaplan Thaler and Robin Koval acknowledge that "nice has an image problem. Nice gets no respect. To be labeled 'nice' usually means the other person has little else positive to say about you... Let us be clear: Nice is not naïve... In fact, we would argue that nice is the toughest four-letter word you'll ever hear."

Thaler and Koval cite statistics that nice people enjoy longer and stronger relationships. Studies also confirm that for every 2% positive uptick in a company's service climate, there is a 1% increase in revenue.

Research demonstrates that nice people live longer (despite their apparent fondness for Fig Newtons).

And author Malcom Gladwell cites a study



that correlates the niceness of physicians with a lowered likelihood of being sued. Doctors who have never been sued turn out to be those who spend an average of three minutes longer with each patient, compared to doctors who have been sued twice or more. People tend not to want to drag into court people who have been nice to them.

The apostle Paul writes: "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." (Colossians 4:6)

In other words, choose to be kind. Choose to be gracious.

For goodness' sake and God's sake, *be nice*.

You may not end up sitting in first class. But you may be the one person who turns somebody else's lousy day into a hopeful one.



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  
 glenn@glennsreflections.com

## Looks Like Fun! Sunday School Year End Party

The Sunday School youth met and had an "End of the Year" party. We played games outside and had a movie night. It was a great year, even though we mostly met over the computer.



## MAY 2021 COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Zoom Meeting called to order at 6:30 and business began with the approval the May 2021 meeting agenda.

Attendance: Nita Cunningham, Floyd Garrott, Pastor Schroeder, Stan Harlow, Carolyn Claussen, Al Davis, Dave Krueger, Bob Montgomery, Elizabeth White  
Absent: Michele Russell, Kevin Letcher (both excused)

Minutes of the April 2021 Council meeting were approved.

### Reports

Pastor's Report - Pastor Schroeder has been informed of and responded to prayer concerns and pastoral needs and attended the Mutual Ministry Committee meeting. He will continue to serve HTLC as Pastor of Record.

### Treasurer/Financial Secretary Report

#### April 2021

**Summary: Month Four of the Calendar Year 2021 - Target Percent is 33.33%**

**INCOME:** \$21,449

**Current Envelopes:** Income for the month \$21,449 which is \$910 below the monthly need of \$22,000.

**Total Income YTD:** Income is below projection by \$9,806

**EXPENSE:** Contained overall

#### **NET INCOME:**

April:	Gain	\$5,140
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Year-to-Date:	Gain	\$12,679
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#### **CURRENT ASSETS**

Total Balance:	\$379,397
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We are grateful.

Albert Davis, Treasurer



The April 2021 Council Treasurer's Report was approved.

### Old Business

#### Indiana Kentucky Synod Assembly

Elizabeth White and Stan Harlow have agreed to serve as delegates for the IK Synod Assembly on June 11-12.

### Call Committee

The HTLC Call Committee e-mailed a survey to all members. Paper copies will be mailed to those without access to e-mail, and additional paper copies are available at the church. Another survey will be sent soon. Information from surveys provides our Call Committee with valuable information from all HTLC members as they complete the process of Calling a new Pastor.

The Call Committee has asked for guidance on compensation for a new pastor. Council discussion focused on Synod guidelines, examples of base pay, housing allowance, and benefit packages. Pastor Schroeder suggested that statistics about the cost of living in the Lafayette area would also be informative for a prospective pastor. Council discussed the trend of declining contributions and the implications for personnel compensation and building upkeep. Elizabeth White suggested using pledges to help determine a trend in future contributions. Al Davis offered to compile compensation information for the Call Committee and to work on a Stewardship and Pledge event in July.

### In Person Worship

Opening for in person worship has been successful and current safety guidelines have been followed. A number of people still participate in the online service, and both options will continue.

### New Business

#### Parish Administrator

Mary Anderson, Sue Davis, and Sue Lambert have compiled a detailed job description for the Parish Administrator position. A motion was made by Bob Montgomery and seconded by Al Davis to appoint Mary Ander-

## MAY COUNCIL CONTINUED

son, Sue Davis, and Sue Lambert to serve as the operations committee to guide the search for candidates and oversee the Parish Administrator position until a new pastor is hired. At that time, the parish administrator will report to the new pastor. The motion was passed unanimously. The proposed job description was unanimously approved as presented.

The Council thanks Mary Anderson, Sue Davis, and Sue Lambert for their leadership as HTLC seeks to hire a new Parish Administrator.

### Further Reopening of the Building

Discussion focused on opening the building for additional groups and functions. Several church and neighborhood groups have expressed an interest in resuming activities at the church. Some committees have begun to meet in person under current CDC guidelines.

After discussion, Council members expressed an interest in meeting in person. A decision on the room for the meeting will be announced later. Zoom will also be available for those who wish to attend online.

A motion was made Al Davis and seconded by Stan Harlow to reopen for meetings as scheduled and other functions as requested, and that CDC guidelines continue to be followed. The motion passed unanimously.

### Committee Reports

*Committees met in person at church or communicated electronically as needed*

Evangelism –Report submitted.

Christian Education – Report submitted.

Worship/ Music – Report submitted.

Technology – Report submitted.

Property – Report submitted.

Outreach – Report submitted.

Mutual Ministry – Report submitted.

Youth – No meeting.

Stewardship –Report submitted.

*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 adjourned at 8pm, closing in prayer.

### A Message for The Technology Committee

*Early in 2020, we were all faced with the grim reality of a pandemic and the possibility of not being able to gather together safely. We were faced with uncertainty while not being able to take part in worship that sustains us throughout the week. You took on the challenge of providing an alternate way to worship. In a time when some are impatient with any glitch or delay in technology, you still kept working, and you have provided us a wonderful option for worship. We are able to attend the service, take communion, and see the beautiful windows....and we are sustained.*

*To the committee, to those who selected and presented the music, to the pastors, the readers, those who prepared the sanctuary and the bulletins, and those who were there to open the doors and see to all the little details....we are forever grateful.*

Next meeting: Monday, June 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.





## Welcome Giovanni Pacelli

We had a special Pentecost that included water as well as the wind and fire that usually comes along with stories of the Holy Spirit.

Giovanni Pacelli was born in April 25, 2020 to Carmen and Morgan Pacelli, he is also the grandson of Cheri and Scott Schwartz. Sponsors are Megan Greaves and Grant Noah. We welcome our new brother in Christ and pray God's blessings upon him and his family.



## Dear ELCA Missionary Sponsoring Congregation:

I am now in my second semester of teaching online to students at Sekolah Tinggi Theologia (STT) in Pematangsiantar, Indonesia. However, I continue to live and work in Singapore. For a long time, STT was not able to apply for a work visa for me because such visas were not being granted by the Indonesian government due to the pandemic. I anticipate remaining in Singapore through the rest of this year.

I am actually blessed to be in Singapore because this country is doing a superb job of containing the spread of the COVID 19 virus. Early last year,

the government imposed a “circuit breaker” which nearly amounted to a lock down of the whole country of 5.6 million people. But eventually the restrictions were eased with the move to Circuit Breaker Phase II, which allowed more freedom of movement, e.g., dining out in groups of up to 8 people, reopening of sports facilities, and having groups of people in one’s home. Singapore also has a very good electronic tracing system that can be installed as a smart phone app. “Trace Together,” as we call it, simplifies contact tracing when there is an outbreak of infection. Unfortunately, just this week there was an outbreak at one of the large public hospitals here, which resulted in several wards being locked down, staff being quarantined, and much testing of patients, staff, and visitors.

But I do not doubt that Singapore will succeed in managing this outbreak given its good track record so far with the pandemic.

One of the blessings of living in Singapore is that we have been free of pandemic politics. When the government mandated mask wearing, the public cooperated.

People who had contact with infected persons by and large served their “stay at home notices” obediently—with no one claiming to be a victim of political oppression. People gladly practiced social distancing, seeing it as their duty for ensuring the health and safety of all. There is no debate about vaccination; those who want it, get it. Those who prefer not to be vaccinated or cannot be vaccinated don’t get it. There is no second-guessing of the Prime Minister, the Minister of Health, or infectious disease experts. Singaporeans listen to them. Period.

Yes, westerners have long considered Singapore—the so-called “Nanny State” of Asia—a micro-manager of public behavior and attitudes. But it must be admitted that the pandemic is being competently managed here. I would note the low number of “locally transmitted” infections typically recorded each day (for a long time less

than 5!). I consequently wonder whether all the political wrangling and second-guessing in western countries does not in fact contribute to skeptical public attitudes about and inept government management of the pandemic. I wonder whether the poor response to the pandemic in the West does not therefore call into question western democratic ideals and values (e.g., freedom of expression, freedom of choice, suspicion of authority) precisely because these have contributed to a bad pandemic response in the West. Certainly, it is natural for us westerners to be skeptical and wary about a lot things, including pandemics, governments, and government responses to pandemics. But when skepticism about masks, vaccinations, and scientific evidence gets in the way of pandemic management by

**Certainly, as Christians, we think of our neighbors first, even before our own rights and freedoms. This is what it means, in Martin Luther’s words, to be “little Christs” to others.**

causing fear, conflict, and confusion, then it seems that our democratic values have their drawbacks. Accordingly, I ask: Do we

need to be skeptical about our skepticism? Are there times when we should forgo our suspicion of authorities and individual liberties for the good of all society? Certainly, as Christians, we think of our neighbors first, even before our own rights and freedoms. This is what it means, in Martin Luther’s words, to be “little Christs” to others.

I am glad, however, that the pandemic shows signs of improvement in the USA. I hope that with the lifting of restrictions, we will all use our freedom to serve our neighbors.

Thank you for your service to the ELCA through missionary sponsorship. I am delighted to be in partnership with you as we seek to build up our mission partners around the world.

Best regards in the Lord Jesus Christ,

Jeff Truscott

Singapore/Pematangsiantar, Indonesia



## **THANK YOU...**

The Property Committee held a Spring Clean-up Day on May 1st. Worker bees making the place look good were: Don Lambert, Sue Davis, Judy Lokke, Dan Lokke, Walt Cunningham, Bob Montgomery, Kevin Letcher, Wayne Russell, Michele Russell, Stan Harlow and Floyd Garrott.

Some of the things they tackled were:

- Lenten cross removal and storage
- Adopt-a-Spot work in several locations including garden areas the front yard and planting geraniums in urns at the side entrance
- Opened the lounge and restored hospitality space
- Grounds maintenance like honeysuckle removal, winter sticks and growth, edged walks and curbs before finishing the day with mowing.

Special thanks to Mary Anderson for providing a black drape for Good Friday and also Judy Lokke and Michele Russell for cleaning and storing the white and purple linens used during Lente and Easter.



## Transitions

### Baptized

Giovanni Pacelli—May 23, 2021

### Graduated

Charlie Ahlersmeyer  
from Jefferson High School

Tanner Ritchie  
from Ivy Tech

### Entered the Church Triumphant

Franz Frederick—May 26, 2021



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5-9-21

Friends at Holy Trinity—

We thank you all so much for all of your prayers and good wishes and delicious meals over the past few months during Peggy's illness and continued recovery. We have certainly felt your love and support and couldn't be more grateful.

We look forward to the time when Peggy's health will allow her to be with large groups of people. In the meantime we are enjoying watching the Sunday services online.

Blessings to all of you. And thank you so much!

Mike + Peggy Crawford

## Agnus Day

IS THIS ABOUT HOW THE GOSPEL SEEMS INSIGNIFICANT BUT ACTUALLY CHANGES LIVES?

THAT'S PART OF IT.



THE FULL REALITY IS HOW THE DEATH, RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION OF JESUS ENTHRONES HUMANITY AND PREPARES FOR THE FULL RESTORATION OF ALL CREATION!



WELL, JESUS SAYS IT LOOKS LIKE A BIG SHRUB.

I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE WHAT THAT LOOKS LIKE!



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