

OPENDOOR

NOVEMBER 2020

HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Hold on to the Message of Grace

"And now I commend you to God and to the message of his grace, a message that is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all who are sanctified." Acts 20:32

Leaving is never easy. When Paul had finished speaking the words above and many more, he and the Ephesians knelt down and prayed together. *"There was much weeping among them all; they embraced Paul and kissed him."* (Acts 20:36)

Unfortunately, we are limited by social distancing because of the pandemic. We may not be able to kneel down together, but I will remember you in prayer. You see, I don't think the Lord is done with Holy Trinity. I know we have gone through difficult times but I still see God at work among you. Throughout the pandemic you have been faithful, generous, patient, committed and loving. This is a good time to be the Church. And it is a good time to be at Holy Trinity.

I believe the future holds good things for you. God will send you a leader with vision and a passion working together with you. Support them. Pray for them. Love them.

As Cindy and I move to Tustin, I ask for your prayers. We begin a new ministry and we are looking forward to the challenge. We will also enjoy being near family.

So now, with Paul in mind, I say to you hold on to the message of grace. May it build you up, give you strength and courage, and a passion for sharing the Gospel.



Cindy and I love you very much. We will miss you all. Blessings to all of you.

Pastor David & Cindy

Inside this issue:

McDonald Reflection: What an Election Year	2-3
Council Highlights	4-5
Birthdays and Anniversaries	6
Jubilee - Loading up the Santa Express	7
Quilting 2020	9-10
A Chat with Sue Lambert	11-12

What an election year.

“The fate of the nation and of civilization is at stake,” according to the New York Times.

There’s been a surge of white nationalism. The president, stoking an ongoing bitter feud with Congress and saddled with approval ratings below 40%, keeps accusing the media of fake news. The Middle East is torn by war and acts of terror. Civil rights issues remain front and center. The threat of Russian meddling is so concerning that one candidate has declared, “The Kremlin will try to influence the rest of the election by every means conceivable.”

We’re talking, of course, about the election of 1948.

We may feel certain that our trip to the polls will define the soul of America. But as historian A.J. Baime points out in his book *Dewey Defeats Truman*, those were the very words used by Republicans and Democrats 72 years ago to stoke fear and frenzy in the minds of voters.

Harry S Truman was the sitting president, having moved into the White House following the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt three years earlier. New York governor Thomas Dewey, who had almost defeated FDR in 1944, was his Republican challenger.

Truman’s presidency was widely regarded as a disaster. Dewey’s victory, as the Las Vegas betting community might put it, was a stone-cold lead pipe lock. A month before election day, 50 national political writers were asked to predict the outcome. All 50 chose Dewey.



Baime recounts Truman’s astonishing triumph, chiefly remembered by one of history’s most famous premature headlines: *The Chicago Tribune’s* “Dewey Defeats Truman.”

But the most eye-opening impression from the book is that yesterday is today, and today is yesterday. 2020 isn’t the first year that America has experienced a pulse-pounding election.

We may think our nation has never been in such a sorry state when it comes to incivility, divisiveness, and the crass politicizing of every current event. But that’s only because we’re overlooking the no-holds-barred, bitterly contested campaigns of 1800, 1824, 1876, 1960, and 2000.

Every four years we’re breathlessly assured, “This is the most important election in history.” But it’s hard to disagree with Brian Roberts, who wrote in *Relevant* magazine, “Every generation thinks it’s living in the most important moment in history. We’re not, our parents were not, and our children probably won’t be. And that’s OK.”

It’s also a safe bet that no matter who is elected on November 3, we’re not headed for either the Apocalypse or the Millennium.

In recent decades the party occupying the White House has depicted its service to America in

(Continued from page 2)

messianic terms. The party that's been out of power at the same time has typically suggested that the first party's continuance in office would mean nothing less than the end of the world. Political ads swing wildly from glowing promises to threats of democracy's collapse.

The Bible makes it clear that the Millennium and the Apocalypse aren't mere metaphors. They are spiritual realities. But they won't be hastened or thwarted based on voter turnout in Wisconsin.

Is there anything we can know for sure?

We can know that if we're motivated by fear, we're on the wrong road.

People who rail relentlessly about politics don't love their country more than the people they're screaming at. Fear – whether terror of a Wall Street crisis, or Social Security cuts, or a never-ending pandemic – may indeed motivate a slice of the elec-

torate for short periods of time. But fear, in the end, is poisonous to our souls. We're not called to anxiety as a way of life, but to trust.

Which leads us to a second assurance: "God reigns over the nations. He is seated on his holy throne." (Psalm 47:8)

God hasn't resigned his position as director of the cosmos. And he isn't going to be unseated by the electoral college.

Our privilege is to be part of the drama on the first Tuesday of November. We each get to play a role.

Best of all, we can know this:

Before, during, and after that day's events, God will still be God.



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.

"Let the Peace of God
Rule in Your Hearts"
Colossians 3:15



OCTOBER 12, 2020 COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The October 2020 HTLC Council meeting was held online via Zoom.

Meeting began with devotions.

Attendance: Nita Cunningham, Floyd Garrott, Pastor Doane, Stan Harlow, Michele Russell, Carolyn Claussen, Kevin Letcher, Al Davis, Dave Krueger, Bob Montgomery, Paul Widmer
Absent: None

The minutes of the September 2020 Council meeting were approved.



Reports

Pastor's Report - Report Submitted.

Pastor Doane provided the number of in person worshippers and online viewers. The number of in person attendees remains steady, and online views are encouraging. Pastoral care activities were listed, including officiating at four funerals.

Pastor Doane notified the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Council that he has accepted a call by Augustana Lutheran Church in Tustin, Michigan, and as of October 12, 2020, he is resigning as pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. He has contacted the Bishop's office in the Indiana-Kentucky Synod to submit notification of his resignation and a proposed timeline for beginning his ministry at Augustana. This timeline is subject to approval by Bishop Gafkjen and Bishop Satterlee of Northwest Lower Michigan Synod.

An official letter of resignation was submitted as follows:

*Monday, October 12, 2020
To Nita Cunningham, Council Chair; Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Council members; Mutual Ministry Members;*

This letter is to inform you of my resignation as Pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. It is with mixed emotions that Cindy and I leave Holy Trinity and

Lafayette. You welcomed us 12 1/2 years ago as your pastor and it has been an honor to serve as your pastor. We are leaving some good friends in Lafayette. Yet, we are excited about a new ministry opportunity in Michigan and being near family.

I have accepted a call from Augustana Lutheran Church in Tustin, Michigan. Tustin is a small rural community about 10 miles south of Cadillac, Michigan. Thank you for the opportunity to serve at Holy Trinity. I anticipate my last Sunday at Holy Trinity will be Sunday, November 8, 2020.

Blessings to you and your families from God our Father, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. David M Doane

Treasurer/Financial Secretary Report **September 2020**

Summary: Month Nine of the Calendar Year 2020 - Target Percent is 75.00%

Current Envelopes: Income for the month \$19,536 which is \$3,381 below the monthly need of \$22,917.

Total Income YTD: Income is above projection by \$3,755.

EXPENSE: Staff and Property are the main expenditures at this time.

NET INCOME:

September: Loss (\$1,425)

Year-to-Date: Gain \$13,239

CURRENT ASSETS

Total Balance: \$310,284

IN REVIEW:

Pastor Doane has initiated a stewardship sermon series for October as we prepare for budget approval 10/18/2020.

Support continues to flow from the Faithful and we are grateful.

Albert Davis, Treasurer

OCTOBER COUNCIL CONTINUED

The September 2020 Treasurer's Report was approved.

Old Business

Plans are complete for the congregational meeting at 11:00 on Sunday, October 18, 2020. Documents have been sent to all church members by email or regular mail. Technical issues have been addressed to make the meeting accessible to all attendees.

The retirement of Parish Administrator Sue Lambert was discussed. Plans to commemorate her faithful service to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church are being coordinated with Sue Davis and Janell Uerkwitz.

Technical issues related to livestream video and audio systems will be discussed within the technology committee report.

New Business

Discussion centered on the possibility of allowing additional groups to use meeting rooms within the church and included details of scheduling and cleaning rooms after use.

The Council agreed with the goals of saying yes to groups who would like to use the church facility for meetings, for maintaining all COVID-19 safety precautions during use, and for completing approved cleaning after use. The Council was grateful for additional guidance from the reopening task force on additional use of the building.

A motion was made to allow up to three meetings a day to be scheduled by the church office to take place in three separate rooms; and that approved cleaning of those rooms will take place before the rooms are available for use on a subsequent day. The motion was passed unanimously.

Custodial duties and compensation were reviewed.

Committee Reports:

Committees communicated electronically as needed and did not meet in person.

Evangelism –No report submitted.

Technology – Report submitted.

Communication among committee members focused on ideas and concerns to improve the reliability of the live-stream services.

An individual who has set up audio and video equipment and software in other churches for live-stream services provided some advice; a report of his recommendations will be made available in the near future. Following his first recommendations, up-bound ethernet speed was increased by a factor of 4 by upgrading Comcast internet service and replacing the cable box in the basement.

The live-stream service on 11 Oct 2020 went much more smoothly due to the increase in network speed, a new pc, software upgrade, and additional guidance from Tom Cavanaugh.

The Technology Team held a practice session after church on 11 Oct 2020 to prepare for the Zoom communications to be used for the 18 Oct 2020 congregational meeting.

Property – Report submitted.

- Completed required inspection of the elevator for operational safety
- Completed inspection of the building by the fire marshall
- Met with the custodian to review cleaning procedures under COVID-19 guidelines and discuss adjusted salary.
- Scheduled Fall clean up day for November 14 with a rain date of November 21.

Mutual Ministry –The committee has met for discussion; No written report

Christian Education –Report submitted. Diane Longdo has started online Sunday School for children.

Youth – No report

Stewardship –Third Quarter reports are ready. Stewardship has been addressed by Pastor Doane in a series of sermons.

Worship/ Music – No report.

Outreach – No report.

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.

Next meeting: Monday, November 9, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Carolyn Claussen





LET'S CELEBRATE

Happy November Birthday

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

Happy November Anniversary

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

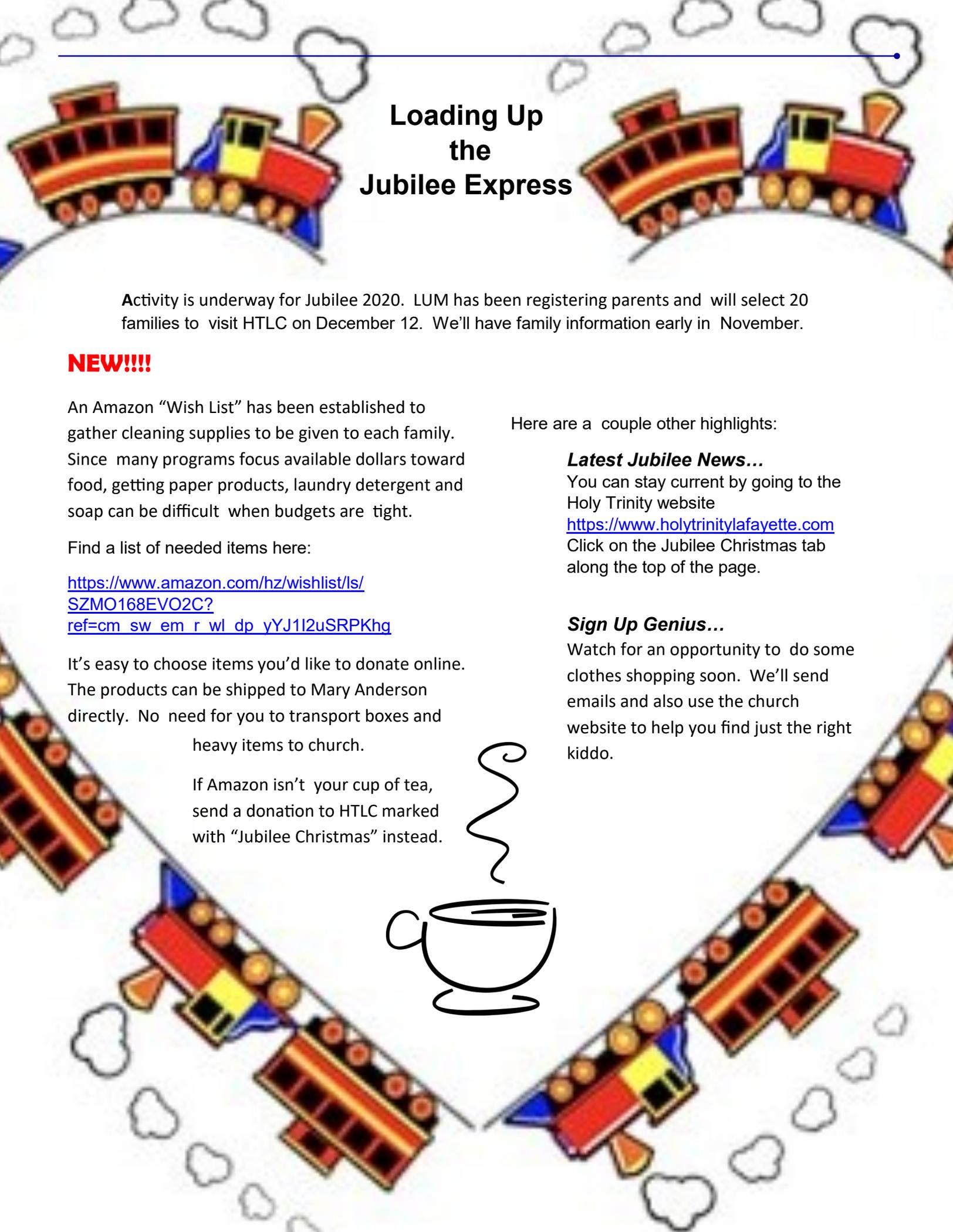


PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

PROVERBS 3:5-6



Loading Up the Jubilee Express

Activity is underway for Jubilee 2020. LUM has been registering parents and will select 20 families to visit HTLC on December 12. We'll have family information early in November.

NEW!!!!

An Amazon "Wish List" has been established to gather cleaning supplies to be given to each family. Since many programs focus available dollars toward food, getting paper products, laundry detergent and soap can be difficult when budgets are tight.

Find a list of needed items here:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/SZMO168EVO2C?ref=cm_sw_em_r_wl_dp_yYJ1I2uSRPKhg

It's easy to choose items you'd like to donate online. The products can be shipped to Mary Anderson directly. No need for you to transport boxes and heavy items to church.

If Amazon isn't your cup of tea, send a donation to HTLC marked with "Jubilee Christmas" instead.

Here are a couple other highlights:

Latest Jubilee News...

You can stay current by going to the Holy Trinity website <https://www.holytrinitylafayette.com> Click on the Jubilee Christmas tab along the top of the page.

Sign Up Genius...

Watch for an opportunity to do some clothes shopping soon. We'll send emails and also use the church website to help you find just the right kiddo.



Transitions

Entering the Church Triumphant

Dorothy Schurr

Accepted Call to Augustana Lutheran Church in Tustin, Michigan

Pastor David Doane and Cindy



Indiana-Kentucky Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

We believe it is our Lord Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, who guides the call process of a pastor or deacon to be in a mutual ministry with the members of a congregation. This process also represents a valuable partnership between God, the calling congregation and the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. An ideal call process builds on trust, openness, and good communication. When the call process results in a good match between the rostered minister and the congregation, the total mission of the church is furthered.

More info: <https://iksynod.org/call-process/>

Appreciation and Thankfulness from Cindy and Pastor!



To everyone who helped make the last few weeks of my knee replacement surgery a bit easier and brighter. The quilters gift of a beautiful lap quilt keeps me warm and comfortable. I've also been reminded of the support of the Holy Trinity church family through the many cards, meals, desserts and trips to physical therapy.

Blessings in Christ's name.

Cindy

Quilters 2020



Quilters Adjust and Thrive

As one of HTLC's core ministries, the Quilters have carefully considered the Covid-19 presence in our community and adapted their practices to keep one another safe while continuing their work.

They have reduced their Monday time together, limited the number of quilters attending their work sessions and adhered to strict sanitizing protocols. Working with the Task Force charged with reopening the church, they have remained in their designated work space and observed the guidelines set forth to protect others in the building.

October 25th blessing of the quilts was a little different too. Notice altar rails and other display areas were used instead of draping the quilts on the pews. After the blessing, each quilt was put into an individual bag to remain protected until they reach their new home.

These pictures of Midge, Kathy, Helen, Bev and Joanne were snapped before Covid-19 struck.

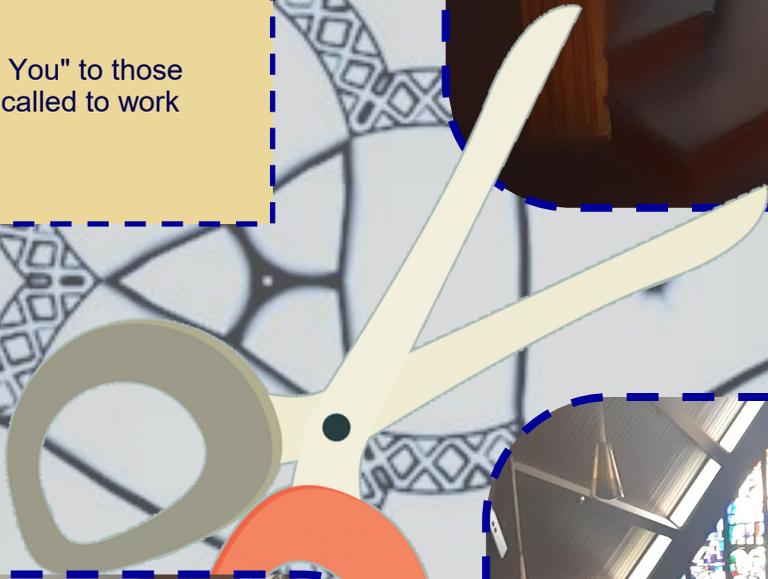
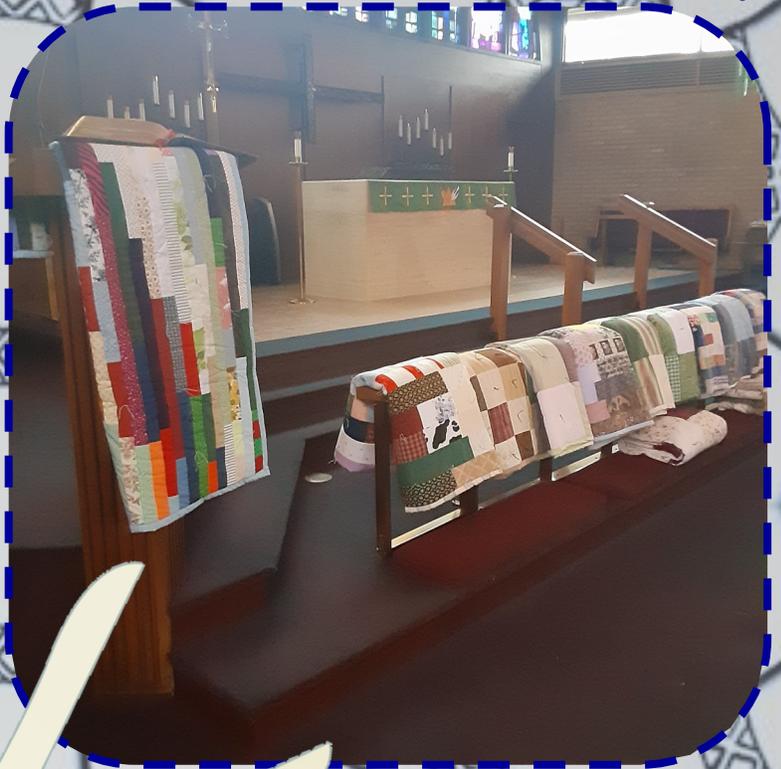


The quilts blessed on Sunday, October 25 will be given to HTLC's Jubilee families.

This year, four quilters at a time worked on Mondays since the end of July. Everyone donned a mask.

Kathy Senft reports, "We also have 46 quilts for Lutheran World Relief but will store them until it is safer to transport them to Valparaiso where they begin their journey to areas in the world where they are needed most. Last year the quilts went to Montenegro, in Southeastern Europe near Croatia."

A special "Thank You" to those who came when called to work each Monday.



A Chat with Sue Lambert



1. Tell us how you became the Parish Administrator please.

In 1999, Pastor Hoffman asked me if I be interested to work parttime, as Bonnie Stephens, the administrator at the time, wanted to reduce her work hours. After Bonnie retired, I went fulltime.

2. What changes have you noticed during your time with HTLC?

Technology has changed part of the office ministry dramatically. When I started, we had a computer dedicated to data collection that used floppy disks (remember those?) As our technology was upgraded, we were able to communicate effectively by email, utilize MemberConnect, then 360Unite, and establish our web presence which was upgraded with the Capstone Project from Purdue. My job, however, has always been about the people—serving Holy Trinity’s members and the community at large.

3. What are your favorite parts of the job?

First, interaction with people! Sometimes, that’s hearing happy news or sharing a funny story. Other times, it’s being there as a listening ear during a troubled time or comforting them in loss. I’ve also loved the creative challenges. Whether it’s developing a solution to a problem, or creating graphics for displays or promotions, those projects are satisfying.

4. Is there an event or moment that just stands out as the best?

Kevin’s Eagle Scout ceremony here, which was a culmination of his work on the gazebo. Holy Trinity was part of our support network as Don and I learned how to parent a child with Asperger’s Syndrome.



5. Have you recognized God’s helping hand as you served in this role?

Recognizing this position as going beyond a job, and focusing on it as a ministry was a shift when I went fulltime. There are frustrating days, and there are days when I go home content that I made a difference.

(Continued from page 11)

6. You have some wonderful talents and gifts – how has God put them to work at HTLC?

Having the opportunity to be creative with projects and challenges, as well as interacting with people of all ages. My work style of having a system with checklists for tasks, the infamous “Alien Abduction” Notebook which kept things from falling through the cracks and kept me sane during Advent and Lent seasons—LOL!

7. What picture do you have in mind of yourself living out a great retirement?

First, I want to leave HTLC in good order so I’ve agreed to stay through the end of December to make the staff changes a little less stressful.

Come January, though, watch out! I have some volunteer plans that include Read to Succeed and Joyful Journey—that are now COVID dependent. I finished a Purdue Global online class on Cybersecurity that was really interesting, and would like to continue learning opportunities—learning Spanish, passing the next level test on my ham radio license, for example. I enjoy crafts and now have a dedicated crafting room at home, so I can make paper crafts, knit and sew in my “She Cave”.

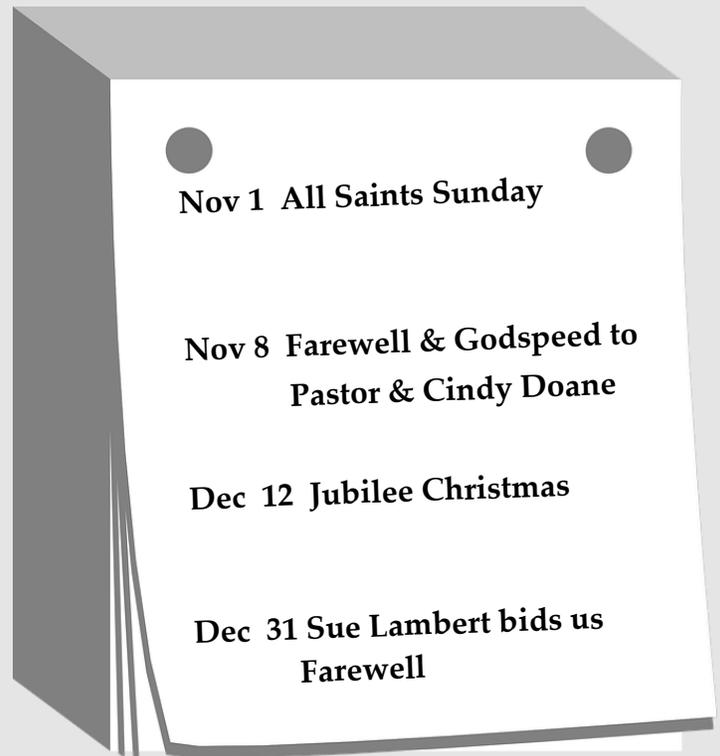
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Agnus Day

EVEN THE **LAWYERS** COULDN'T ARGUE WITH JESUS!



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

YES, THAT'S RIGHT, THE LAWYERS ARE **COMPLETELY SILENCED** BY HIM.



SO... IS THAT JESUS' **SUPERPOWER?**



MATTHEW 22:34-46

ONE OF THEM.



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