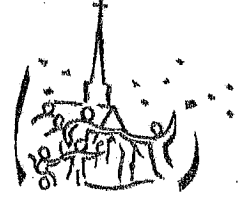




The Trinity Times

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

January 2020



Greetings and Happy New Year!

Most of us are now tying up the loose ends of Christmas. The Christmas Tree and decorations are either already down or soon will be; and many of us are putting everything away for another year. 2020 is a new slate for us on the calendar. However, the Church year is revolving into another season. The Season of Epiphany.

On January 6, we will begin the Celebration of Epiphany. "Epiphany means 'manifestation.' On this day we celebrated the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi's adoration of the Christ child, Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the greatest epiphany of God's grace and mercy." (Sundays and Seasons)

That brings to mind a quote from Mother Teresa that I often read...

Do It Anyway

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered;

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;

Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;

Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;

Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;

Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;

Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis,

It is between you and God;

It was never between you and them anyway. So this Epiphany, ... maybe we can add to our New Year Resolutions how we can be the best neighbor to all remembering that in the end "it is between you and God;" -

May the Lord Bless You and Keep you, Pastor Caryl



THE GIVING TREE

This year, our Giving Tree blessed four separate families with gifts for Christmas. We also adopted a special family that needed some extra help during the holidays. We were able to provide Thanksgiving dinner to this family, as well as gifts for the 3 children and their mother. What was an enormous blessing was the amount of gift cards that you provided for them—over \$250 worth of gas cards and over \$250 worth of Safeway cards. This family was extremely thankful and it warmed my heart that we were able to provide for them. THANK YOU HOLY TRINITY!! We are so blessed to have so many people who stepped up and gave!!! This is truly what Christmas is all about!!

Sunday School will start back up on Sunday, January 5th at 10:30 am following our morning worship!!

Stop and Smell the Roses

Much of the world is in a hurry, always rushing; yet very few people even know where they are going in life. People rush to get to yet another event that has no real meaning for them, or that they really don't even want to attend. We hurry so much we finally come to the place where we cannot slow down.

I can remember the days when I worked so hard and hurried so much that even if I took a vacation, it was almost over by the time I geared down enough to actually rest. Constantly hurrying definitely inhibited me from having peace in my life, and it still can if I do not stay alert to its pressure. Life is too precious to rush through it.

I find at times that a day has gone by in a blur; and at the conclusion of it, I know I was very busy all day yet cannot really remember enjoying much, if any of it.

I have committed to learn to do things in God's rhythm, not the world's pace.

Jesus was never in a hurry when He was here on earth, and God is absolutely not in a hurry now. Ecclesiastes 3:1 states, "To every thing there is a season, and a time for every matter or purpose under heaven..."

We should let each thing in our lives have its season, and realize we can enjoy that season without rushing into the next one.

Our pace of living affects the quality of our lives. When we eat too fast, we don't properly digest our food; when we rush through life, we don't properly digest it either. God has given life to us as a gift and what a pitiful shame to do nothing but rush through each day and never, as they say, "stop and smell the roses." Each thing we do in life has a sweet fragrance, and we should learn to take it in and enjoy the aroma.

Are you in a hurry? If you want to be at peace with yourself and enjoy life, you must stop rushing all the time. Trust God to give you the grace, the energy, and the time to do everything you need to do at a pace that allows you to enjoy the journey.

Yours in Christ
Gretchen Emerson
Congregational Care Director



Un-Decorating Time!!

All good things must come to an end! We will be un-decorating the church on Monday night Jan. 13th at 5:30 pm. Those who would like to come help take decorations down, just pop by the church that evening. It usually just takes about an hour.

New Financial Secretary

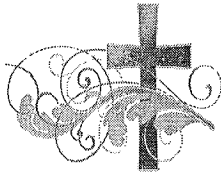
We are happy to announce that Deana Winkelman will be taking over the duties of our Financial Secretary following Stephene Bowan's departure to move to Laramie. She has already begun her duties and will be a welcome addition to our staff!



Thank you to the council and congregation for the generous bonus both Dean and I received this year. Holy Trinity is our family, and we are happy to be a part of it!

~Dean & Nancy Gipfert

Women of the Cross
 Women of the cross will be meeting in the Trinity Center on January 8th at 5:30 pm. All women of the church are invited to attend!



Young at Heart will meet in December on Wednesday January 14th at 1:30 for dessert, devotions and cards.



Bingo January 27th
2:00 pm at Sloan's estate.




Caring and Sharing will meet on Wed., January 21st at 8:30 am at Grandma Jo's. This is a group for those who have lost their spouses. Join them for fellowship and breakfast. All are welcome!



TABLE OF GRACE FOOD PANTRY

With the help of donations from our congregation and with our Noisy Offering, we were able to present a check to the Table of Grace for \$5,000!! This amount when added to all the donations made from our community, helped boost the amount collected to over \$26,000!!! Bell Lumber and Pole will be matching up to \$20,000. WOW! Great work to our community and to our congregation for their help in reaching that goal!!





ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

ANNUAL MEETING:

Committee reports for the Annual Meeting in January are due by January 10th. Please drop off to the church office or email to htlcsecretary@outlook.com.

The Annual Meeting will be January 26th, 2020.



Children's Christmas Program and Live Nativity

Presidents Report

Happy New Year!

I sincerely hope everyone had a spirit filled Christmas Holiday Season!

This New Year will see a new Pastor join our Holy Trinity Lutheran Church family. The call committee has interviewed a candidate and has given it's recommendation to council for consideration. An interview is planned for January in Sidney with council and candidate . We on council are excited to be moving forward with the call process. A great big thanks goes out to the call committee for serving our church in this extensive process.

This fall Craig Brauer submitted a grant application to the Nebraska Synod. Synod Mission Fund Grants are available to qualifying congregations of up to \$10,000. We were granted a \$7,500 matching grant that has already been matched! Truly God's work in action. We still have a long way to go to meet our overall goal in upgrading our service broadcast abilities. This is one part of our Community Outreach program that we have as a priority here at HTLC. We are live streaming our services so members that are homebound or away from Sidney can still enjoy our services. We are excited that the numbers of people that are watching us is growing every week. The first step will be to upgrade the lighting in the sanctuary to greatly enhance the quality of our live service to those watching.

A great big thanks to Pastors Wayne and Caryl for leading us in our pastoral transition. Pastor Caryl has led us in the restart of our Sunday School program. A big thanks to all of the people that help out every Sunday. The Sunday School Christmas Program was wonderful again and I hope everyone got a chance to see the live Nativity scene this year.

Sidney's food pantry / Table of Grace has not been associated with HTLC for a few years but we still are very generous in our giving to it. This year Bell Lumber and Pole Co. has offered a matching grant of \$20,000 to the community of Sidney for the Table of Grace. HTLC has given the Table of Grace \$5,000 this year and that has put the amount matched from Sidney to over \$27,000! It is remarkable that our community has come forward to help out those in need.

Thank You again to those that serve each and every Sunday and during the week to make our worship experience wonderful and uplifting. Please don't be shy about asking to help out. We would love to share that feeling you get from helping out with everyone.

2020 will see a lot of changes in Sidney and the surrounding communities. We at HTLC will be here for everyone as we pray that good fortune will follow those that have faith in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Steve Miller, Council President