

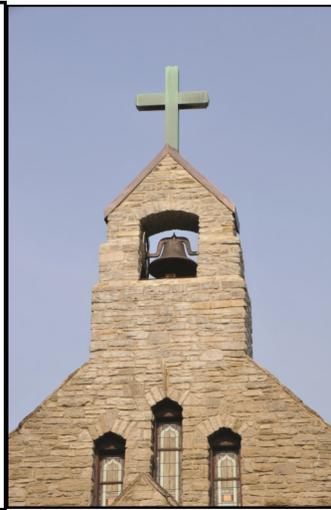
**HOLY TRINITY**

**LUTHERAN CHURCH**

535 S 14th St  
New Castle, IN 47362  
htlc2421@sbcglobal.net  
**765-529-2421**

holytrinitync.org

The Rev. Matthew Masko



**NOVEMBER 2020**



Faith Formation: 9:45 a.m.

Worship: 10:30 a.m.



**All Saints Sunday**

On **Sunday, Nov. 1st** we will remember and honor those sisters and brothers who have joined the church triumphant. We will invite worshipers to name their loved ones who have gone to their eternal rest.



Like us on  
**Facebook**

## ATTENDANCE FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER

2019  
Sunday, Oct. 6: 58  
Sunday, Oct. 13: 44  
Sunday, Oct. 20: 50  
Sunday, Oct. 27: 53

2020  
Sunday, Oct. 4: 24  
Sunday, Oct. 11: 34  
Sunday, Oct. 18: 44  
Sunday, Oct. 25:



Faith formation is happening! On Sunday mornings at 9:45am we have 2 groups meeting. The adult class is meeting in the front of the sanctuary and are studying the Bible books of 1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus. A multi-age class is being held in Luther Hall that is studying one of the Bible readings from that week's worship service. As with all activities held in person at church currently, wearing face masks and social distancing is required. We hope that you will consider joining us.



Because of the faithful work of Holy Trinity's Dorcas Circle, 31 quilts were completed and delivered to a Lutheran World Relief in-gathering in Ft. Wayne on Saturday, October 17, 2020. LWR quilts are given to people in need throughout the world. Thanks to Lisa, Bonnie, Margo, Anna and Patty for all the hours spent cutting, assembling and knotting the quilts!

With this LWR quilt project completed, sewing will continue on lap robes for local nursing homes, baby blankets for the Henry County Pregnancy Care Center and quilts for Wenle Youth and Family Treatment Center in Richmond, IN.

Holy Trinity's Dorcas Circle needs bed sheets (to back quilts) and sewing machines. New or used bed sheets can be placed in Mable's Corner in Luther Hall. Please talk to Anna Yanos if you have a sewing machine that you would consider donating.

The Dorcas sewers meet on the second Thursday of the month from 9 am-2 pm in Luther Hall. Helping to cut quilt blocks, sew lap robes and quilt tops and knotting can also be done at home, if you are interested in helping in that way.

**NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2020**  
**11:45AM EST**  
**HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**NEW CASTLE, INDIANA**

Dear Siblings in Christ,

A meeting of the congregation of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church for the purposes of adopting the FY2021 operating budget will be held on Sunday, November 8, 2020, beginning at 11:45am EST. All voting members of this congregation are strongly urged to attend.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the HTLC council has made provisions to attend this meeting both in person and via Zoom. For those who will be attending the meeting in person, please remember that COVID protocols remain in effect. Following social distancing guidelines and wearing a face covering is expected at all times.

For those of you planning on joining via Zoom, the Zoom invitation is included with this notice. You can join this Zoom meeting via computer, tablet, or smartphone. If that is not possible, you can even join the meeting via telephone by calling the phone number included below and entering the meeting ID and password at the prompts. It is super simple. I would be happy to answer any questions and/or provide a tutorial to anyone who would like to join in this way. We are also making provisions for those of you joining via Zoom to vote electronically.

Please note that, due to Indiana state laws and restrictions in the HTLC constitution, voting by proxy (mail-in ballots, having someone else vote for you, etc.) is not allowed.

Copies of the proposed budget for FY2021 can be picked up at the welcome desk in the narthex. You can also email Nancy at church ([htlc2421@sbcglobal.net](mailto:htlc2421@sbcglobal.net)) and she will be happy to send you an electronic copy.

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Matthew Masko is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

**Topic: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Congregational Budget Meeting**  
**Time: Nov 8, 2020 11:45 AM America/Indiana/Indianapolis**

Join Zoom Meeting (via computer):  
<http://bit.ly/HTLCCNC2020>

Join Zoom Meeting (via telephone):  
(312)-626-6799  
Meeting ID: 828 7699 5282  
Passcode: 562848



THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

My cherry tomato plants that were growing in a burlap bag on my deck this year, outdid themselves. They produced a lot of tasty tomatoes. The seed came from Randolph, Wisconsin, and was a new product for them, so only 10 seeds were included in the packet. I saved three plants for myself and gave the rest away. I kept thinking, "I need to tell the nursery thanks for the great plants", but haven't done that so far. How often do we forget or put off saying "thank you"?

This is the time of the year, in a traditional year, we would celebrate giving thanks on a special Sunday, but we are not doing that this year. That doesn't mean we can't say thanks for all our blessings.

This year's theme for the Women of the ELCA's Thankoffering Service is "Light the way for Justice, Light the way for Love. In the Fall edition of "Interchange-Leadership News for Women of the ELCA" Audry Novak Riley tells us to "Give thanks all day, every day, even when life is different." She goes on to say life is different this year. Because of the global pandemic, every expression of our women's organization has had to postpone or even cancel meetings and gatherings. Many of us can't gather with our families, left alone with our friends in our circles or congregations as we have always loved to do. It's really hard.

But as the apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Rome so many years ago, "...neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord: (8:38-39). And I take that "anything else in all creation" to include the coronavirus, don't you? Not even a global pandemic can separate us from the love of God in Christ. And to that we say, "Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!"

Lutheran women have a time-honored way of giving thanks for blessings received—Thankofferings. Some women keep the practice of setting aside daily Thankofferings throughout the year, and then holding a Thankoffering service near the end of the year. Joining our daily offerings with those of other women throughout our church and throughout our history—well it's powerful.

So, instead of our traditional Sunday Thankoffering Service, gives thanks every day, but send your offering to the church office by Wednesday, November 18th. Make your checks out to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, designate WOMEN'S THANKOFFERING. Our offering will then be sent to the national headquarters of the WOMEN of the ELCA.

Finally, when life is different, remember Paul's instructions to the Thessalonians in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you".

~Blessings, Lois



Siblings in Christ,

As our calendars turn to November, yet another Election Day is upon us. So, I offer up this brief reflection by writer, musician, and teacher Emma Higgs.

Is the message of Jesus political?

The gospel lesson from Sunday, October 18, 2020 (Matthew 22:15-22), clearly illustrates that we cannot separate our lives into different realms. We live in only one reality: the reality of a world created by God. The realities of our world shape our lives of faith, and, hopefully, our lives of faith shape the realities of the world. Both of these statements are simultaneously true.

Is the message of Jesus political? This is the question that Emma asks.

You bet it is. But, it's not about one country or another. It's not about one party or another. Rather, the gospel of Jesus Christ challenges us who use our power to destroy rather than using our power to build up. Jesus Christ shows us that there is, in the words of Emma, a better way, and calls us to be this better way in our life together as human beings in a world that God so loves.

By the way, Emma is British, so you may find some unique spellings throughout. I have preserved her original text.

Your Partner in the Gospel,

Pastor Matt

P.S. Election Day is November 3. Please vote.

### **Is the message of Jesus political?**

For a long time my answer would have been an emphatic 'no'. The gospel message was about our eternal destiny – making sure people believed in Jesus so they could go to heaven when they died. Politics may have been important, but it didn't seem relevant to Christianity.

My understanding began to shift when I was given insight into the cultural, political and religious context of the Gospels – something I had never really been taught to consider. As it turns out, context changes everything.

The message of Jesus once seemed to be a call to leave this world behind. To spend this life persuading those around us to sign up and secure their ticket to heaven. The words are the same but the gospel I understand is now very different. The message seems far more dirty, radically inclusive and unmistakably *political*.

Let me explain by exploring the meaning of a few words and phrases central to the Jesus story.

**Son of God, Lord:** In the Roman world, the 'Son of God' was the emperor. By claiming divinity, the Roman emperor could assert his absolute authority and crush opposition. Similarly, 'Lord' was a title given to the emperor (coins across the Roman empire were inscribed with the words 'Caesar is Lord'). By claiming these names for himself, Jesus was directly challenging the authority of Caesar and the Roman empire.



**Kingdom of God:** Nowadays we associate the word 'kingdom' with fairy stories more than politics, so it's not surprising that we tend to assume that when Jesus talked about the Kingdom of God (sometimes Kingdom of Heaven), he was referring to another, 'spiritual' world. In the first century, kingdom was much more a political term than it is now. By announcing that the Kingdom of God was at hand, Jesus was openly opposing the oppressive political regime of his day. He was teaching people a better way to live in the world, which would have sounded like a direct threat to powerful, authoritarian Roman rulers.

**Gospel:** This was a Roman military term meaning victory in battle. Good news! We have invaded and violently conquered another city. Yet another example of Jesus using political language to provoke and challenge the Roman authorities.

**Crucifixion:** This was a form of execution dreamed up by the Romans to crush anyone who was seen as a political threat. It was designed to cause the most amount of pain possible before death, and to make sure everyone in the vicinity knew exactly what would happen to them if they dared oppose the regime. It was the ultimate symbol of the empire's power – victory through violence and domination. Jesus got what was coming to him. You could only oppose the Roman empire for so long before being silenced in the most public, horrifying way.

So you see, Jesus' message was undoubtedly a political one. He opposed the regime, and yet he wasn't trying to overthrow the emperor. Instead he was challenging the very nature of power itself. Rome was the ultimate symbol of violence and domination, and Jesus subverted it constantly. He challenged the social structures, raising up the weakest and lowest in society and confronting those who used their power to exploit others. He promoted non-violent resistance, even to the point of submitting to torture and death. In allowing Rome to crucify him, Jesus was undermining the whole toxic system of violence, domination and power, and showing the world once and for all that **there is a better way**.

To be a follower of Jesus in today's political climate is unfortunately not as simple as voting for the 'Christian party'. Neither can we get away with being disengaged and disinterested in the way our nation is run.

To follow Jesus today means to care deeply about how the lowest, weakest, poorest people in our society and our world are treated, and to use our own unique skills and influence to make a difference.

It means challenging the dominant, oppressive power structures and systems of our time, and promoting love, justice, inclusion and equality.

It means doing the difficult, tedious, dirty work of standing up for the downtrodden and marginalised, and speaking out on behalf of those who have no voice. It means living upside down, refusing to conform to the destructive patterns of this world, fuelled by a vision of a brighter future.

And it means engaging with the endlessly complex, ever-changing world of politics, using whatever influence we have to promote love and justice for the poorest among us.

(Emma Higgs, "Uncovering the Political Heart of the Gospel" Patheos.com, <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/emmahiggs/2018/10/uncovering-the-political-heart-of-the-gospel> (accessed October 21, 2020).)



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting--September 17, 2020

Present: Pastor Masko, Dan Helms, Teresa Gray, Lee Ann Kitchell, Marti Allen, Tom Fisher, Bethany Phillips, Patty Wenning, Mark Wenning

Absent: David McAllister

Meeting called to order by Mark Wenning at 6:33pm.

Dan shared the devotions from Megan Phelps-Roper: "Hope in Present Day", Romans 15:13 (May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit)

Minutes from August were viewed. Mark Wenning made a motion to approve, and Patty Wenning seconded. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor discussed how many views on Facebook there have been since our first service back at Holy Trinity (June 14th)--online views have been 179, 187, 249, 285, 148, 219, 138, 173, 200, 175, 146, 120! As always, Pastor Matt encouraged us to "share" our service on social media. He also mentioned that he is working on a multi-faceted research project that is currently in the germination period. He will let us know when the time is right.

**Finance Report:** After viewing and discussing the proposed budget for 2021, Dan Helms made a motion to approve the 2021 alternative budget. Marti Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed for the alternative budget. We need to bring the alternative budget to the congregation for approval. Lee Ann Kitchell asked if we would even have a quorum to vote at a Sunday service due to the low attendance right now. Pastor Matt will place a notice in the October scroll that there will be a Zoom call that church members can vote at the exact same time that the members present at the church can vote simultaneously, as all members need to vote at the same time. The vote for the 2021 budget will happen on November 8th at the Congregational Meeting.

**Christian Ed Report:** Patty Wenning shared that the Faith Foundation is getting started. For now the adult class will be in the courtyard, and a multi-generational class will be held in the fellowship hall. This will begin at 9:45a and end at 10:15a. Women's bible study is being held on Monday evenings at 7p.

**Property Report:** Tom Fisher discussed a couple of things with council--we have recently had abnormally high water bills. There is a steady drip from the sink in the Sacristy, so Tom will check with Taylor Construction to see if they can evaluate it. Mark Wenning has changed faucets before, so he offered to see if he can change the faucet himself. Theresa and Carlos Gray have been keeping an eye on the property to check for things needs that may need to be fixed. The church lawn is not looking very good, as it needs some weed removal and basic maintenance. Tom Fisher will check around for different quotes/costs for a company to service the lawn. He will check with the Endowment Committee for assistance.

**Evangelism Report:** The Little Food Pantry is still being utilized/emptied about every 3rd day, per Marti Allen. Cash and food donations are continuing to be brought in. Evangelism will continue for now, as long as there is a need.

**Hospitality Report:** Mark Wenning mentioned the snacks are still available after each church service. These will still be on the small tables. The possibility of having the Trunk or Treat this year as well as the congregational Thanksgiving dinner will be happening. As much as we enjoy these two activities, we probably will not have these until 2021.

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Worship and Music Report: Theresa Gray reported that the Worship and Music committee will be meeting a week after this council meeting. She does not know if we will be having the outdoor service this year.

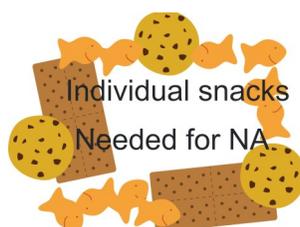
Old Business: Dan Helms discussed Slack Accounts. He did create one. It is probably too sophisticated for Holy Trinity to use at this time for what we need. Pastor Matt posts the actual bulletin on Facebook and on our Holy Trinity website for all to view.

New Business: Change in building steward for December--Lee Ann will take this over from Teresa.

Devotions for October: Marti Allen

Building Steward for October: Mark Wenning

Dan Helms made a motion to adjourn at 8:19p, and Marti seconded.



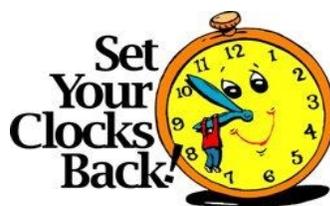
### NA SNACKS

NA groups are now currently meeting at Holy Trinity in Luther Hall. Previously, snacks were provided for them to show hospitality and our support. We are going to begin offering individualized snacks again and your help is needed.

Please donate candy, chips, cookies, granola bars, etc. that can be set out for their meetings. A clearly marked tote will be left in the coat closet for your donations.

Thank you!

Your Evangelism Team



**Don't forget!** On Saturday, **November 1st**, you will want to set your clock(s) back one hour before going to bed as daylight savings time ends at **2:00 a.m. on October 31, 2020.**