



The In Touch

Volume 55, Issue 12

Our Mission: To Seek, Know, Love and Serve Christ in all Persons and in all Creation

Ramblings from the Deacon.....

HTEC December 2020 Newsletter Article

The 15th Annual Christmas Day Dinner

Deacon Lee Grim

Desmond Tutu, in his *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* wrote, “*To choose hope is to step firmly into the howling wind, baring one’s chest to the elements, knowing that, in time, the storm will pass.*”

Another South African, Nelson Mandela penned the, *Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela* and said, “*We have not taken the final step of our journey, but the first step on a longer and even more difficult road.*”

In 1 Timothy 4:10 (NIV) the author wrote, “*That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.*”

The wisdom, hope and strength I am wishing for this Christmas season is to take another step on the continuing journey toward the 15th Annual Christmas Day Dinner in International Falls. Graciously, many new volunteers stepped forward last year to plan and conduct the dinner. They have recruited more volunteers to sustain the annual dinner this year. We will make food available to all who eat.

This year however, we have a new howling wind to face with the COVID-19 pandemic and we must take different steps on a more difficult road to achieving the community dinner that started in 2006. We will prepare Christmas Day meals for the community at the Elks Lodge, but there will be no sit-down meals inside. All meals must be delivered or picked up by drive by recipients. No inside community camaraderie, food, desserts, music and hustle and bustle with large unmasked closely spaced groups will come to pass. Therefore, we need to renew our approach, commitment and energy to meet the challenges of this new unexpected journey. Social distancing, handwashing and mask wearing will be required by the Elks Lodge and Government guidelines. New procedures for conducting drive by meal pickup in front of the Elks will need to be developed.

Holy Trinity has been at the forefront of establishing, promoting and sustaining the dinner since its beginning. Our main purpose has always been to spread the Gospel of the love and peace of Jesus Christ outside the walls of the church. It is also a means for each of us to act on and carry out our baptismal covenant at Christmas time. That is to proclaim by example the Good News of God in Christ, strive for justice and peace among all people, respect the dignity of every human being, seek and serve Christ in all persons and loving our neighbors as ourselves.

We need to make special efforts to act this year to garner the support needed to complete a successful dinner. That means spreading the word throughout the community that there will be a dinner, volunteering to work on Christmas Day and donating money in the name of the Christmas Day Dinner to the Falls Hunger Coalition. The Total Ministry Team has already donated to the FHC from the discretionary fund & Holy Trinity's Vestry also donated outreach funds to the Dinner. We need to encourage people to sign up for meal delivery to their homes on Christmas Day or to drive to the Elks to pick up dinners on Christmas Day.

It is always a joy to watch all of the volunteers working together around Christmas Day. Here is a snapshot of how things go. A large crew takes trucks and vans to the grocery stores and picks up all of the food for the meal and delivers it to the Elks on Christmas eve day. The cooking crew of six has been working for two days to make a splendid dinner. Those packing up and delivering meals show up early and are warmly greeting one another, working efficiently and joyfully sharing the same goal of providing food for our community members. The telephone is constantly ringing off the hook with calls requesting meal delivery- who, where how many? The delivery coordinator efficiently organizes instructions for how many hot food meals in Styrofoam containers should be put into a multitude of big boxes for delivery. They are geographically organized. People are waiting in the hallway for a load to take out into town. Quickly out the door they go into vans and cars. Once delivered, drivers return for another load and that continues until the food is gone.

Then comes the cleanup: taking out the garbage, washing the dishes, pots and pans and scrubbing the floor. Put the tables and chairs in storage. No one complains. All are joyful about what has been accomplished. The big questions are always-how many meals did we serve and how much money was donated? Was that better than last year? Since 2006 over \$50,000 has been donated to the FHC by community members as a result of Christmas Day Dinners. Turn out the lights and be thankful for the food, volunteers, community and Elks Lodge- another successful event.

Holy Trinity lets work hard to make this 15th Annual Christmas Day Dinner effort a great success again. O God, grant us the courage to choose hope with our hearts and with the work of our hands. Lord, grant us the strength and wisdom we need to continue on a journey of creating a community with hope and justice for all.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

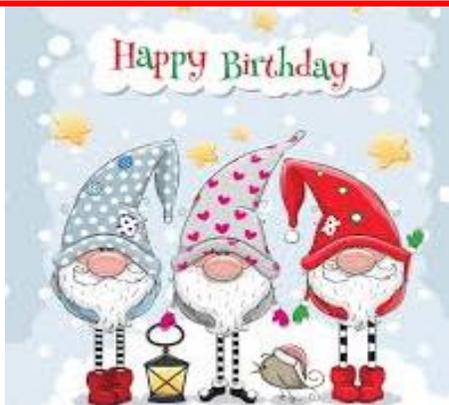




Christmas Kid's Shop By Appointment Only

Kids - come shop at Holy Trinity (820 4th Street)

Monday	Nov. 30 th	Wednesday	Dec. 9 th
Tuesday	Dec. 1 st	Thursday	Dec. 10 th
Thursday	Dec. 3 rd	Saturday	Dec. 12 th
Saturday	Dec. 5 th		



12/19 ~ Alan Wright (son of Andy & Georgeann)

12/20 ~ Nora Karlstad

12/20 ~ Byrne Johnson

12/28 ~ Sara Kennedy

12/31 ~ Ladd Corrin

12/31 ~ Flossie Knutson



12/2 ~ Brent Schlieff (son George Schlieff)

12/7 ~ Charlie Klatt (son of Brittany & Joe, grandson of Bill & Jeanne Corrin)

12/13 ~ Alexander Kennedy (son of Dale & Sara, grandson of George Schlieff)

12/15 ~ Bill Bertram

12/15 ~ Jim Davison (son of Carolyn)

12/14 ~ Dixie Juel (Day)

12/30 ~ Mark Grim

*During our Shelter in Place Order
Watch Holy Trinity Services Livestream
Service bulletin is on our website: www.ifhtec.org*

On Facebook: Sundays @ 10:00 am



Christmas donation envelopes can be mailed to Holy Trinity, P.O.Box 170, Int'l Falls MN 56649

Dec. '20 Sunday Service Lay Responsibilities

Dates	Celebrants	Acolytes	Lectors & Lessons	Greeters
6 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 2nd Sunday in Advent	Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacons: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen	Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen	Gavia Yount or Linnaea Yount Lee Grim	
13 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 3rd Sunday in Advent	Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacons: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen	Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen	Gavia Yount or Linnaea Yount Lee Grim	
20 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 4th Sunday in Advent	Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen	Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen	Gavia Yount or Linnaea Yount Lee Grim	
24  Holy Eucharist 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen	Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen	Gavia Yount or Linnaea Yount Lee Grim	
27 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Christ the King	Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen	Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen	Gavia Yount or Linnaea Yount Lee Grim	



December 2020



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5 Altar Guild
	<i>Nov 30th</i> Kids Christmas shop	Kids Christmas shop		Kids Christmas shop		Carolyn & Molly Kids Christmas shop
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.		Vestry 5:00 pm	Kids Christmas shop	Kids Christmas shop		Tricia Kids Christmas shop
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.	<i>Ruby's Pantry 4:30 - 6:30</i>					Tricia
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.		Newsletter Deadline (Melanie)		 Christmas Eve 4:00 Service		Donna & Karen
27	28	29	30	31		
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.						

