



The In Touch

Volume 56, Issue 6

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

Ramblings from the Deacon Lee Grim...

How Have We Coped with the Covid-19 Pandemic?

May 16, 2021

People have recently asked me how Holy Trinity Episcopal Church has coped throughout the past year's covid pandemic. Please contemplate about what you would say to someone who asked you that question. Each of us associated with HTEC would probably respond differently with a variety of answers. That is because we come from different perspectives and degrees of involvement within our church.

I had to think back over the year's events in order to answer that question. Helpful are portions from the sermon by Dan Edwards, the retired Bishop of Nevada that Erik Strand read on Mother's Day. Those pieces are filled with reasons I think we were able to cope as a congregation under very trying circumstances during the pandemic.

Hear what Jesus said in John's Gospel. "I have told you of my love for you so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. I no longer call you servants. I call you my beloved friends." We are close friends at HTEC.

Friends enjoy each other. We enjoy watching our friends be who they are. And our friends enjoy us. Other friends delight in who we are. We are a friendly congregation.

"We see God in the face of Jesus. And Jesus shows us a very different way to connect with God. He calls us *friends and that is* good news for us and good news about us. There is no one-up position in this relationship. Jesus has stepped onto our level to look us in the eye," wrote Bishop Edwards.

He also said, "Some may think of God as *a higher power* dominating us. But there can't be much intimacy in a relationship based on power. Jesus does not want a relationship of subservience. He wants intimacy, trust, mutual respect, caring. Going both ways, right? Jesus wants all those things in our relationship with him, and he has them to offer. And that makes us look differently at ourselves." It makes us work together as a total ministry parish in our community.

Our ECMN Bishop Loya also outlined four priorities to help shape our life together as a congregation during the pandemic. He asked us to follow Jesus daily as a whole way of life.

He said, "Discipleship should be our core business and deeply grounding ourselves in discipleship bears fruit through-- 1. faithful innovation, 2. justice by joining the Holy Spirit in becoming the beloved community and 3. vitality by growing our faith community." Bishop Loya challenged us, "The question before you is clear: will you, will each one of you, join what the Holy Spirit is doing among and around us?" I believe we coped by attempting to integrate his priorities into our parish life and seeking what the Holy Spirit was doing among and around us?"

Adapting to declining numbers and Covid-19 restrictions, we began using new models of gathering to grow our vitality. Ten months in June before the pandemic hit, we averaged 20-25 attendees per service. We initiated a virtual worship program on Facebook. Then the pandemic hit, our Canadian members and professional musicians became isolated by border closings and the church closed.

But our technologically savvy members and their professional friends modified our Facebook program to include them. Our wonderful talented youth became integrally involved in service prayers, music and managing the computer equipment. Our services are also rebroadcast on local KCC-TV from the Backus Community Center. We began reaching new worshipers not attending our in-church services. Facebook views averaged 136 per service in 2020. We conducted over 60 worship services and managed to marry and bury people safely. HTEC, Faith United, Zion, First and Littlefork Lutheran Churches planned and conducted weekly Advent and Lenten Ecumenical services on Facebook live. Our worship outreach to others has significantly grown.

Isolation locally and throughout ECMN was somewhat overcome using Zoom. However we missed singing, hugging during the peace, coffee hour and meetings face to face in a room. Luckily our church secretary and treasurer were able to keep us on the straight and narrow path. We were able to meet our financial obligations locally and through our fair share payments to ECMN.

We still need to have an annual meeting and elect vestry members and delegates. Thanks to retiring vestry members who extended their terms to make business work. The pastoral care and liturgy team checked on homebound members and planned our liturgy. Building management volunteers stepped up to monitor the safety and condition of the church. Vestry, Total Ministry Team and parish members made significant community outreach efforts outside of our church walls. HTEC made a significant contribution in time and money to complete the window replacement project at the Servants of Shelter House for the homeless.

We have now reopened our building to worship together again under safe conditions. We will continue our virtual ministry too. We are able to daily monitor the extent of Covid infection in Koochiching County using the Covidactnow.org website. We prepared a comprehensive Statement of Intent to reopen the church and submitted it to the ECMN Building Use Task Force for their approval. After a revision and a resubmittal they granted us permission to reopen the church for worship because of proper planning and careful monitoring.

Bishop Loya's messages on May 15 were first, despite the absence of a state mandate, it seems important that we all continue to mask at any church event to continue to protect unvaccinated members of our communities, including children who are not yet eligible to be vaccinated. This recommendation particularly applies to any indoor gathering. Second, the task force and I will be intentionally shifting away from publishing rules everyone must follow toward guidelines and best practices that help local leaders make the best decisions for their communities.

That is how I would answer the question--How did Holy Trinity Episcopal Church cope throughout the past year's covid pandemic? We coped because members dedicated themselves to make things work. We met Bishop Loya's challenge by joining what the Holy Spirit was doing among and around us! We believed what Jesus said, "I have told you of my love for you so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. I no longer call you servants. I call you my beloved friends." Thanks to Jesus we are close friends at HTEC.

Deacon Lee Grim



***Voyageurs Park Service Dates Will Be:
July 18th, Aug. 1st & 15th***

Need 1 or 2 Volunteers

To learn Tech Procedures to Run the Equipment to Livestream Services on Facebook

***Church is now open following restrictions
& we will Continue the
Holy Trinity Services Livestream
On Facebook
Sundays @ 10:00 am***

2021 Annual Meeting

***Will be postponed till Covid restrictions allow
We will need Vestry members***



- 6/1 ~ **Caryn Noland**
- 6/2 ~ **Shane Mattsen** (son Melanie & Randy Mattsen)
- 6/3 ~ **Edith Jenkinson**
- 6/6 ~ **Riley Wright** (daughter Alan & Kate, granddaughter of Georgeann & Andy)
- 6/8 ~ **Christine Kent**
- 6/9 ~ **Connor Weir** (son of Tara Rud, grandson Cindy Cassibo)
- 6/11 ~ **Erik Strand**
- 6/21 ~ **Mark Grim** (son Lee & Carol)
- 6/23 ~ **Tara Johnson** (daughter of Byrne & Carole)
- 6/24 ~ **Carly Toder** (granddaughter Olga Reuter)
- 6/25 ~ **John Klatt** (son Brittany & Joe, grandson Jeanne & Bill Corrin)
- 6/27 ~ **Jeannie Strand**
- 6/27 ~ **Jon Reuter** (son Olga Reuter)
- 6/28 ~ **Glenn Walls** (son Bill & Karen, grandson Donna Day)



- 6/11 ~ **Diana Russiff** (Day)
- 6/16 ~ **Laura Smith** (Menefee)
- 6/24 ~ **Clayton Rasmussen**
- 6/24 ~ **Addison Strand**



- 6/10 ~ **Dr. Samantha Crossley & Jim Yount**
- 6/21 ~ **Ladd & Lucy Corrin**
- 6/22 ~ **Cindy & Bruce Cassibo**
- 6/25 ~ **Brent & Lisa Schlieff**
- 6/26 ~ **Sara & Dale Kennedy**

June '21 Sunday Service Lay Responsibilities

Dates	Celebrants	Acolytes	Lectors & Lessons	Greeters
6 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 2nd Sunday after Pentecost	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 after Pentecost	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 pm 4th Sunday after Pentecost	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 5th Sunday after Pentecost	Rev. Samantha Crossley Deacon: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen	Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen	Gavia Yount or Linnaea Yount Lee Grim	



JUNE 2021



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5 Altar Guild
						Tricia
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.			Vestry 7:30 pm			Donna & Karen
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.	 <i>Ruby's Pantry</i> 4:30 - 6:30					Donna & Karen
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 Altar Guild
 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.		Newsletter Deadline (Mel)				Georgeann
27	28	29	30			
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.						

