



The In Touch

Volume 60, Issue 2

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

Ramblings from the Vestry...

2024 VESTRY REPORT

Senior Warden: Erik Strand
Junior Warden: Jeanne Corrin
Secretary: Molly Pavleck
Member: Jeannie Strand
Member: Sandra Jean
Member: Michele Dahlin
Member: Bill Corrin
Treasurer: Andy Wright

By: Erik Strand, Sr Warden

2024 – A Time to Review

Holy Trinity continues to be a parish of stability and action in our community and the Episcopal Church of MN (ECMN).

Consider when it all began. With the Retirement of Fr. Bob Lyga and our treading along with supply clergy and our search for a full-time rector, the ECMN (Then Diocese of MN) through Steve Shaitgerger and Sandy Holmberg strongly encouraged the Total Ministry concept to serve our Parish for the long term. I believe our first reaction, paraphrased of course, was 'Uff Daa, can we really pull this off?' Plus, we were broke financially, not knowing how we will make it. Then comes Fr. Wayne into our lives and we never looked back. Through Steve guidance he began to show us that Total Ministry needs to be the model to ensure the success of small parishes like ours in rural MN, and Fr Wayne being there as the mentor. The team was ordained on July 8, 2006 and never looked back.

The combination of Total Ministry with their focus ministries and Vestry ensuring our Church home and financial management were properly maintained, makes for an effective way to not just survive, but thrive. ECMN has taken notice, especially with the call to Lee to serve as an ECMN Archdeacon!

The Vestry continues to keep our worship house in-tact and finances in order. Through wonderful financial gifts and financial management, we have the resources to ensure our success well into the future.

Please consider serving on the Vestry. You don't need to be a CPA or have management experience, just the love of Holy Trinity and the desire to devote a modest amount of time to pay forward and provide SYNERGY. Remember synergy? Many hands making for more being accomplished that can be done alone.

So many Thank You's go out to our committed membership for their efforts to make Holy Trinity a great house to worship in!!!

Peace, *Erik*

Total Ministry Team Accomplishments in 2024

- TMT members and technicians authorized **55** worship services on Facebook Live and KCC-TV as outreach on social media. Technical issues occurred on eight dates so the number of views of those services is unknown. Forty- four services attracted 4,382 views with average of 94 views per service. The Facebook services were also separately broadcast over KCC-TV normally the same day were conducted. KCC-TV was off air part of the year.
- TMT members, the Vestry and Small-Town Tech worked to upgraded our virtual live Facebook program for delivering worship services on the Internet.
- TMT clergy and lay members conducted: **52 Holy Eucharist, 3 Morning Prayer, 2 marriages, 1 Burial, 1 Ministration of the Sick at Time of Death, 5 mid-week Lenten, 3 advent moment, ashes to go, 1 Lessons and Carols, 1 palm burning and 10 pastoral care-- services.**
- TMT members conducted and participated in **87** worship services in 2024.
- TMT Priest Reverend Samantha Crossley prepared 46 sermons during 2024.
- TMT **Pastoral Care Commissioner** and her companions made **registered** homebound **visits** to lead prayers and Eucharist 10 times with **27** participants.
- A TMT clergy taught **confirmation class** at First Lutheran Church.
- TMT clergy planned and conducted three summer outdoor worship services at the **Rainy Lake Visitor Center-Voyageurs National Park Picnic Area** with Faith United Church of Christ.
- TMT **Liturgy Commissioner** and members and the Liturgy Committee arranged for inspiring music and **Professional Music Services** with musicians.
- TMT members were active and innovative on the **Liturgy Committee** that planned all liturgies for worship services.
- A TMT member served on the **Altar Guild** that managed sacristy activities.
- A TMT member planned and provided **hospitality refreshments** after worship services inside and outside of the Church.
- A TMT member provided **greeter and usher Services** before worship services.
- TMT members helped prepare the annual **Parochial Report**.
- TMT members organized and regularly participate in a spiritual **Contemplative Knitting Group**.
- A TMT member wrote an article published in the **ECMN Newsletter** about the **Contemplative Knitting of Linda Vance**.
- TMT members actively participated in seasonally decorating the church.
- TMT members, RRCC Nursing Program staff and students and other volunteers planned and conducted **The Kids Christmas Shop Program** for children. It enabled kids to give a free wrapped present to someone in exchange for un-bargaining service to someone. The program was scheduled on six days and about 200 children were served.
- TMT members provided volunteer assistance at **Backus Community Center Programs and Dinners** and **Backus Community Center Café** sponsored activities.
- TMT members served at the **Shrove Tuesday Supper**.
- A TMT clergy organized, promoted and helped conduct Robin Monahan's program, **Vietnam A Distant Memory** for the community at HTEC in September.
- TMT members assisted at **9 Ruby's Pantry** monthly distributions. An average of over 180 guests attended monthly.
- A TMT member has a leadership role at **Ruby's Pantry Program**.
- TMT clergy members prepared news releases to support Ruby's program in International Falls.
- TMT members organized within community and out of community rides for patients to receive medical services in Duluth and Virginia and other needed assistance.
- A TMT member has a leadership role at **Servants of Shelter** for the homeless in the community.
- TMT members helped organize and conduct the 2024 **International Pride Event**.

- A TMT member serves on a committee organizing and conducting the Rotary Club of **International Falls Welcoming Community Initiative**.
- A TMT member has sustained membership in the women's **Benedictine Sacred Orders Program** in Minnesota.
- TMT members participated in Zoom meetings with ECMN staff, laity, clergy, Missioners, deans and Bishop Loya to stay connected to the latest updates relevant to faith communities and to engage in formation together.
- TMT clergy organized opportunities for youth involvement in weekly worship services.
- A TMT clergy organized and conducted the Sunday School program.
- TMT members conducted monthly planning meetings with mentor Reverend Andy Berry from Littlefork Lutheran Church.
- TMT members prepared and distributed team meeting agendas prior to meetings and kept written notes of meeting discussions.
- TMT clergy planned and participated in five midweek Lenten Worship Services on Wednesday evenings at Zion Lutheran which were conducted live on Facebook.
- TMT members wrote articles for **"IN Touch"** the monthly newsletter.
- TMT members attended **ECMN Northeast and Northwest Mission Area** Zoom and in person meetings and served as officers.
- TMT members and a lay representative participated in **ECMN 2024 Annual Convention** activities.
- A TMT clergy read the Gospel and served at the Eucharistic Table at the 2024 ECMN Convention.
- TMT members participated in **ECMN 2024 Annual Clergy Conference**.
- A TMT clergy organized and conducted a deacon's meeting at clergy conference.
- A TMT clergy served as an ECMN officer on the three member Archdeacon Team in partnership with Bishop Loya.
- A TMT member served as Bishop Loya's chaplain at four northern parishes the bishop visited in 2024.
- TMT members maintained frequent communication with Northern Missionary Dean Reverend Rick Swendson about HTEC liturgical activities.
- TMT clergy invited Northern Mission Area Dean Reverend Rick Swendson to conduct a Sunday Eucharist and meet with members of the parish, team and vestry.
- A TMT clergy served as a representative to the **ECMN Council**.
- A TMT clergy served on the **ECMN Council on Deacons**
- A TMT clergy helped plan and conduct the 2024 ECMN Deacon's Call Day at St. Mark's Cathedral in Minneapolis, MN.
- A TMT clergy planned the operation of the ECMN Deacons Display Table at the ECMN Convention.
- A TMT clergy was awarded the ECMN Whipple's Cross at the ECMN 2024 Convention.
- TMT clergy helped plan, finance and conduct the Community Poverty Workshop held at the Elks Lodge in August.
- TMT deacons wrote their annual letters to Bishop Loya concerning their 2024 actions as his representatives at HTEC, within our community and ECMN.
- TMT clergy helped plan and conduct the Blue Christmas worship service at Faith United Church on 12/19/2024.
- A TMT clergy conducted the **Blessing of the Animals Service** in conduction with the Borderland Humane Society held in October.
- A TMT clergy provided **Blessing of Health Care Givers Hands Services** for local health care providers.
- TMT clergy distributed ashes in the community on Ash Wednesday.
- TMT clergy participated in the annual **Cancer Walk** in October and donated HTEC discretionary funds.
- TMT clergy and parishioners organized and conducted a **Total Ministry Summit** at HTEC with leaders and priest of St. John Anglican Church of Fort Frances, Ontario, CA in February. The purpose of the meeting was to explain how we developed and sustains our TM program.

The TMT shall have authority over funds designated to be a **Clergy Discretionary Fund** as required under the Canons of the Episcopal Church and ECMN. TMT clergy are accountable to God and to the Church for how discretionary funds are managed and dispersed to meet requests. The fund provides short-term assistance to individuals in legitimate need. Persons helped by the discretionary funds may be within the Church or those outside of HTEC who come to us for assistance. Distributions shall be made for specific purposes consistent with Christian charity and the church's mission, as determined in the discretion of the TMT.

- **The HTEC TMT Discretionary Fund received donations of \$907.91 in 2024 and dispersed \$833 into our community during 2024. There was a \$349.20 fund balance on December 31, 2024.** The vestry has annually budgeted \$500 for the TMT Discretionary Fund, aside from any special gifts that may be made to that fund. We request those budgeted funds from the Vestry in 2025 and are grateful for vestry support of the TMT discretionary fund outreach.

Type of Distribution	Date	Amount
○ Program reimbursement expenses	2/10/24	\$103
○ Youth Convention Expenses	3/17/24	\$80
○ Poverty Simulation Program	6/2/24	\$250
○ Bruce Wilson Heart/Lung Transplant Relief	6/25/24	\$50
○ Falls Cancer Walk donation	10/7/24	\$200
○ Mortenson Cancer Relief	10/15/24	\$150
Total		6 \$833

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Leland H. Grim, Deacon

Total Ministry Team of HTEC



Feb 1-28 ~ Morgan Rud
 ~ Neve Oettinger
 ~ Jessie Ottem
 ~ Carolyn Davison
 ~ Grace O'Kane



2/9 ~ Dean Tveit
2/12 ~ Dacota Lehman
2/23 ~ Jim Davison

Watch Holy Trinity Livestream On Facebook

Service bulletin is on our website: www.ifhtec.org

Sundays @ 10:00 am

Services can also be viewed on KCC-TV


February '25 Sunday Service Lay Responsibilities

Dates	Celebrants	Acolytes	Lectors & Lessons	
2 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Presentation of Jesus in Temple	Rev. Dr. Samantha Crossley Deacons: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen	Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen	Wrights	
6 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Bishop/Confirmation	Rt. Rev. Craig W. Loya Rev. Dr. Samantha Crossley Deacons: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen	Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen		
9 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 5th Sunday after Epiphany	Rev. Dr. Samantha Crossley Deacons: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen	Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen	Tricia	
16 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 6th Sunday after Epiphany	Rev. Dr. Samantha Crossley Deacons: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen	Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen	Molly Pavleck	
23 Holy Eucharist 10:00 am 7th Sunday after Epiphany	Rev. Dr. Samantha Crossley Deacons: Lee Grim or Melanie Mattsen	Lee Grim Or Melanie Mattsen	Jeanne Corrin	



FEBRUARY 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Altar Guild
						Tricia
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Altar Guild
 <p>Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.</p>				Bishop Here Confirmation/ Reception Service 7:00pm		Tricia
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00a.m.	Ruby's Pantry 5:00 - 6:30					Donna & Karen
16	17	18	19	20	21	22 Altar Guild
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.			Newsletter Deadline (Sam)			Donna & Karen
23	24	25	26	27	28	
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.						

