



JANUARY 2020

FROM OUR PRIEST-IN-CHARGE THE REV. DR. ROB CAVANNA

A HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR TO EACH OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

"WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?"

I hope that you had a very Happy Christmas and that you're enjoying the 12 Days of Christmas leading up to the Feast of the Epiphany which we'll celebrate on January 3, 2021. At the same time I would imagine that you aren't lamenting the loss of 2020. It has been a year of **tremendous upheaval for all of us** - from distance learning to online worship to limited social contacts and in some cases social isolation. **Yet you carried on, adapting, changing and adjusting life as you knew it to life as it is now.**

For me personally I have missed being with you and gathering in worship every Sunday to praise God and receive the bread and wine of Christ together in the Eucharist. I have missed the social interactions, activities and the ministries we did together such as Feed My Starving Children. That's why I'd like to focus this month on trying to get a better understanding of all that's happened over this past year.

**"Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven."**

"Normal will never return. I hope not." A friend of mine said this to me recently. She was speaking about the experience of injustice and suffering that has been so poignantly exposed during the coronavirus pandemic: the strains and inequities in healthcare, the economic disparity, the hijacking of hope and trust, the infectious cynicism and divisiveness, the splay of racism. We have right now both the need and the opportunity to make meaningful changes in how we live and share life together. **How and where to begin?**

"Out of the death of the old the new arises," Paul Tillich writes. "The new is created not out of the old, not out of the best of the old, but out of the *death* of the old." What is it that needs to die to open the space for the new to arise? This is a very difficult and yet very liberating question to ask on both the societal and individual level. **Allow the current crisis to illuminate the way forward.** A crisis is invariably enlightening. It oftentimes exposes what we have taken for granted, what we have assumed in privilege, what we have presumed we can control. **Look around you: what do you *now* know that you did not know before this pandemic crisis began?**

The prophets of old promised a new thing that God wants to happen. Make peace with your past first to make space for your future. Here are three ways ahead to consider:

Put to rest what is dead or deadly. Laying to rest those presumptions and practices that are not retrievable, sustainable, or equitable helps make space for the **new thing that God wants to happen in and through YOUR life.**

- What has died? A relationship, an ability, a privilege? You might be clinging to some desire or presumption that is on a ventilator, and it needs to be laid to rest. Conversely, you might need to let go of some positive life practice or experience that has helped get you to this point but which no longer has a place in your life. Think about it.

- For what do you need to repent; where did you get it wrong? Does your repentance need to be expressed in some way or to someone?

Uncover the good. What do you know to be important as you look ahead, as you participate in *God's* future? What have you discovered about life and about yourself? The English word "discover" has a fascinating Latin etymology: *dis* "opposite of" + *cooperire* "to cover up, cover over, bury." A discovery is the opposite of a cover up. What has been unearthed or exposed in your soul coming out of this crisis? What good is coming out of it for you?

I'm not in any way denying the suffering or terror of the ongoing pandemic; however I *am* saying there may be good coming out of the bad. Bad is bad; **however bad may not be the last word.** Is there good that has been revealed or can be redeemed from the bad as you lean into God's future? One grace you may be in touch with is gratitude - how grateful you are for so much and so many. Take much less for granted in life and you will find only more good for which to be grateful.

Claim your calling. All of us are missionaries with a distinct set of gifts and abilities - with unique accesses to specific people and places. What are you being called to do or be as you live into God's future? **Our portfolio in life changes.** What your life was about 5, or 15, or 50 years ago may be quite different from now!

The fact that God has extended your life into this day is a sign of your vocation, your calling, that God has for you a mission that only you can fulfill. **If you find yourself immobilized, overwhelmed by the extent of the need that surrounds you on every side, you have overextended your reach.** You must be YOU: who, and what, and where you are. Your calling is within your scope. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Be a bush if you can't be a tree. If you can't be a highway, just be a trail. If you can't be a sun, be a star. For it isn't by size that you win or fail. **Be the best of whatever you are.**" We never retire from our vocation; **our vocation simply changes with the passages of life.**

We have an innate, God-given craving for a meaningful life. Meaning-making happens in the context of life as it is - not as it was, or could be or as we may think it should be but in life as it is now and in the present time. **The dawning of each new day brings a fresh invitation to co-operate with God's intentions for that new thing God is doing in your life.** In Psalm 85 (v. 10-11), the psalmist prays:

Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

You're probably asking yourself - "where do I go from here?" Whatever struggles the days ahead in 2021 may hold, you will find meaning by playing your own part within God's future.

I know that most of you are acquainted with the **Serenity Prayer**. Make it your prayer in this **New Year** and pray it everyday for guidance and direction as well as tranquility and peace.

The Serenity Prayer
by Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971)

God, grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time,
 enjoying one moment at a time,
 accepting hardship as a pathway to peace;
 taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is,
 not as I would have it;
 trusting that you will make all things right,
 if I surrender to your will;
 so that I may be reasonably happy in this life,
 and supremely happy
 with You forever in the next. Amen.



My prayer for you and me in 2021 is that **God will change us** in ways unimaginable, during and after the pandemic, to be more compassionate and loving persons. I think we also have a unique opportunity to renew and re-energize our faith in 2021 and to impact all those in our lives who don't yet know the true love of Jesus.

In closing, thank you so very much for keeping up your 2020 Pledges and giving of your time and talents during these last 9 months or so. Thank you also for your 2021 Pledge given in "faithful generosity" as we continue to look for ways to "stay connected" and at the same time do God's work in the world. If you may have forgotten your 2021 Pledge, please send it or bring it to the office any Wednesday, 10 am to 4 pm. We believe that it is by virtue of our baptism that we are called to the **ministry of stewardship** all year long. Your generous response to the special Christmas appeal is very much appreciated too.

Thank you again and **please join me and your fellow Trinitarians** every Sunday at 10:00 am and every Thursday at 8:00 pm as we join hands virtually in thanking God for all the blessings of this life and especially for the faith/family community of our beloved Holy Trinity! I've missed many of you at worship!

Stay well, be good of heart and let go, let God! Make 2021 a year of **renewal of your baptismal covenant** and a New Year of fresh relationships both with Jesus and to all whom you know as family and friends!

Yours in the Holy Name of Jesus,
 Fr. Rob+



Each year, more than 600 volunteers share their time and talents at CAER!
 Be sure to check out some ideas below for 'at-home' volunteer opportunities.

At-Home Volunteer Opportunity Ideas

Have extra fabric? Make face masks for CAER clients. Donations can be dropped off 9am to 2pm. Monday/Wednesday/Friday or 5:30-7pm. Thursday at the back door. Or, you could make tote bags!

Do a fundraiser for CAER. GiveMN has an easy portal to get started (just click fundraise, setup your fundraiser and spread the word!): <https://www.givemn.org/organization/Community-Aid-Of-Elk-River>
 Do you have an idea for an 'at-home' volunteer opportunity you would like to propose? Email info@caerfoodshelf.org

Spread the word on social media! Let people know about CAER and encourage them to follow CAER on Facebook and Twitter - @CAERFoodShelf.

Be an online CAER ambassador. Spread the word about CAER - you can find all the details to share for those seeking assistance, interested in donating, and more here, on our website.

Thank you for your continued support and well wishes as we navigate these uncertain times. We appreciate it.

JR. WARDEN

GARY WEDL

Not much new going on. We decided now would be a good time to get the carpets cleaned at the church. ZEROEZ contacted me awhile back, and offered us an excellent deal to clean ALL the carpet in the church, so that was done a few weeks ago. They ended up doing all of the carpet for free, due to missed appointments.

We contracted for snow removal with the same company we have used the last two years. They have done a good job for us in the past, and gave us the same price quote as the previous years.

I am looking forward to the day we can all get back together again.

Gary



SERVICE

DICK ANDERSON

I hope everyone had a nice Christmas. My hope for everyone in 2021 is that we can celebrate Christmas and new years with our families. Have a safe New Years. God bless.

Dick

PASTORAL CARE

SANDY SISSON

I sent out 134 birthday cards to all Trinitarians on their birthdays. If you're new to Holy Trinity, please be sure the office has the birthdates for all family members that attend. This is just one concrete way we connect with each of you as part of Holy Trinity's mission to build and strengthen lasting relationships with you. "You're not just a number at Holy Trinity!" It may sound corny but it's true - you're not just a number among thousands in a mega environment where you barely know the name of the person who's sitting in the pew next to you!!

I also write Get Well cards to those who are sick for long periods of time or for people who are in the hospital or transitional care. Please tell me if you know of a fellow Trinitarian who is very sick and recovering. My Email address is quinwood@gmail.com.

A Prayer Chain is available at Holy Trinity. It provides prayer for those with urgent needs. (Such as illness or a personal problem). Each person on the prayer chain will pray and let the next person on the chain know about the prayer request. Prayer will continue for 1-2 weeks unless requested longer. To activate the prayer chain, my phone number is 320-743-7791 or email: quinwood@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Sisson



It has been a busy and strange season for our students and families. With the Pandemic changing everything, I am proud of our Holy Trinity Family's resilience! These kids have had to navigate in-person, hybrid, and fully distance learning... some even switching between modes of learning multiple times. Their parents have likewise had to navigate parenting and facilitating their children's learning in unique circumstances. Please keep them all in your prayers as even on the best days this is stressful and not ideal. I have done my best to send out a weekly email with resources to everyone with teens and children. It usually includes a Preschool/Elementary lesson, a devotion guide appropriate to the season, something for the teens, and an easy craft or meditative coloring page. If I have overlooked you, please let me know by emailing (babybear729@msn.com) or calling (208)413-0619.

I am happy to share that several of our teens participated in the MN-Teens Encounter Christ retreat and really enjoyed the connection with other teens across the state. Emily Schroeder and I also attended Bishop Loya's Parent Summit where we were able to connect with other Episcopal parents and receive much needed encouragement. The Bishop plans to offer this virtual summit again, so let me know if you would like to attend. Below is a link to the Zoom recording of Bishop Loya's Summit and a Feedback Survey. Please take time to fill out the survey, even if you didn't attend. It helps our MN church know how best to support us during this time.

Feedback Survey: Bishop's Summit for ECMN Parents & Caregivers

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdgjNvuRIngHxuQb0m9v9xryIWUPNuSkcO6OgaQZ_AryqCYKQ/viewform

Zoom Recording: Watch the Bishop's Summit from December 6 on Vimeo

<https://vimeo.com/488235931>

In closing, I am happy to belong to such a warm and caring home church!

Sincerely,

Megan O. Campbell "Mo"
Director of Education



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN MINISTRY DAY
SATURDAY, February 6, 2021; 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

Won't you join with other Trinitarians to pack food for starving children around the world?

Please sign up by sending an Email to the office - office@holytrinityelkriver.org

Volunteer group size is limited to five (5) people. We're signed up for two groups.

Please note that you will not be socially distanced from anyone you choose to sign up with.

You will be socially distanced from any other groups in the packing room.

Please go to www.FMSC.org to see a complete list of Covid-19 precautions currently in place for packing groups.

WHAT DOES LOVE DO? **Living the Way of Love during Pandemic**

In every season of life and every situation — especially in times of crisis, uncertainty, and loss — we return to Jesus and his Way of Love in order to stay centered on God and live with hope, compassion, and wisdom. The principles and practices below may help you to follow the Way of Love in the difficult days we now face.

What Does Love Do?

In John 21, Jesus comes alongside Peter and asks, “Do you love me more than these?” Peter insists, “Lord, you know that I do.” Jesus then tells him what love does. Love feeds all who are hungry and tends the neighbor’s pain. Love calls us to take care and take risks. Love allows us to fail and rise up with grace. Love invites us to be in love with God and to follow Jesus. Regularly ask yourself, “What does love do?” In every situation, how do you or could you practice Jesus’s Way of Love – Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, and Rest?

Inspire All, Imperil None

Followers of Jesus seek to do that which inspires people to love God, our neighbors, ourselves, and the earth. If one path imperils you or others and the other is more life-giving (even if it is more costly), the Spirit guides us toward life.

Walk Together

Make the most of limits on public gatherings by meeting in small circles – either online or with those who share your home. The early church had it right: intentional small groups are essential as we seek to pray, study scripture, reflect, worship, love, and grow as disciples of Jesus.

Love TURNS

Love chooses to turn and trust in God, who grants us freedom in the midst of adversity, uncertainty, selfishness, and fear.

Love LEARNS

Love seeks guidance from the life and teachings of Jesus and notices God’s story unfolding in the world around us.

Love PRAYS

Love offers up concerns, thanksgivings, and intercessions, and listens for the voice of God in every situation and season of life.

Love WORSHIPS

Love gathers with community to pray, sing, replenish strength, and celebrate the goodness of God wherever possible — online, in homes, in small groups, in creation, and in congregations.

Love BLESSES

Love practices generosity and compassion rather than scarcity and division, unselfishly sharing whatever we have: our faith, our care, our stories, our resources, and our time.

Love GOES

Love stands in solidarity with the most vulnerable and oppressed, sacrificing ease and seeking the other’s well-being.

Love RESTS

Love trusts in God’s gracious call to rest, releasing control into the hands of the One who abides and will not let us go.





HOLY COMMUNION

If you'd like to receive Holy Communion, call Fr. Rob beforehand to schedule for any Wednesday between 10 am and 4 pm. It will be bread only - a host in particular and given to you from the Reserved Sacrament. I am both masked and gloved.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Day - January 18, 2021



Volunteering

We are committed to providing a quality program and experience for both our volunteers and youth. We want our volunteers to find a "good match"- whether that means

managing the clothing closet, keeping inventories of donations, doing office tasks, or working directly with the young people. Please note that a background check will be required of all volunteers working directly with the youth. For some volunteer roles, you must be 21 or older.

All volunteers will receive training appropriate for the role in which you volunteer. For all volunteer positions, a period of "shadowing" is provided until you are comfortable. Ongoing training and education are being provided as the need or opportunity arises.

All volunteers receive a Policy and Procedures Manual and are asked to sign the Confidentiality Agreement.

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

Clothing Closet

In this role, most of your time will be spent working in the downstairs clothing closet. Your time spent directly with youth is very limited.

Typical tasks include: sorting and hanging donated clothing, tagging clothes with sizing tags, "weeding out" clothes at the turn of the seasons, the general organization of clothing

Time Shift: 2:30-4:30 (this is flexible), Monday-Friday

Office Hours position

For this position, your time will be spent doing office tasks during our office hours, prior to youth hours. You will not have direct contact with youth. Staff members are in the center at this time but could be in meetings or working in their offices.

Typical tasks include: answering the phone, receiving donations that may be brought in, basic word processing, filing, preparing mailings

Time Shift: 12:00-2:00, Monday-Friday

Youth Assistant position

In this role, you will spend your time working directly with youth that visits the center. At times when no youth are in the center, you could be asked to help with other work around the center.

Typical tasks include: welcome youth to the center, assist youth by preparing/ordering, food, assist youth with food shelf items, weighing and recording, assist youth with hygiene items, weighing and recording, accompany youth to clothing closet, recording clothing, visit with youth, playing games, art projects, assist youth with basic case management, such as budgeting, applying for a job, or tutoring

Time Shift: 2:00-4:00 or 4:00-6:00, Monday-Friday

Your Vestry continues to meet monthly, via Zoom, during this time of the pandemic. The Vestry authorized purchasing a subscription to Zoom which allows for unlimited time rather than the free 40 minutes we had been using previously.

Bishop Loya invited parishes to apply for grants up to \$5,000 for adaptations during this time of quarantine. Fr. Rob solicited suggestions from Vestry members to include in his list including the Zoom subscription and submitted a proposal.

The Bylaws committee submitted a draft of recommended Holy Trinity Bylaws updates for their review. The committee has consulted with Chancellor Franzen from ECMN to make sure updates were in compliance with current Canons of ECMN. After review and approval, the Vestry will submit the proposed updated bylaws to the Parish members for your approval at the All Parish Meeting in 2021.

The Prayer Shawl committee has stopped meeting in person until the meeting restrictions are lifted. This has not stopped members from continuing to create prayer shawls and lap robes and getting them delivered.

Although we were unable to have a fall bazaar this year, Rosemary Sobalvarro and Kate Hansen set up items from Guatemala for sale, along with a few other items that parishioners could purchase on Wednesdays when the Parish Hall and church is open.

It's been amazing to see the bonds of caring and love grow during this time of separation. We owe a special thanks to Fr. Rob for his many efforts on Facebook, Twitter, online Services, Compline and newsletters as well as reading and discussing books that keep us in touch. Those efforts somehow, have strengthened this faith community. Also, thanks to Deacon Georgia who set up the "Circles of Care" as a way to call each other during this time of quarantine. This has strengthened and deepened friendships within our community.

We all look forward to the New Year and the time when we can gather together and celebrate this very special, loving, faith community.

Joyce



Feast Days in January

- 1st The Holy Name of Jesus
- 6th The Epiphany
- 18th The Confession of St. Peter the Apostle
- 25th The Confession of St. Paul the Apostle

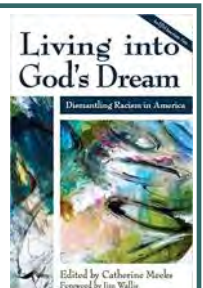
Looking Ahead: February

- 2nd The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple
- 5th The Martyrs of Japan, 1597
- 6th Titus, Bishop and Confessor, 1st Century
- 10th Scholastica, Virgin and First Benedictine Nun, 543
- 13th Absalom Jones, Priest 1818
- 24th St. Matthias, the Apostle

Racial Justice—3rd All Parish Read

Living Into God's Dream: Dismantling Racism in America

GROUP DISCUSSION, Wednesday, January 20, 2021, 1:30 pm in place of the Zoom "Get Together." All are welcome to participate in a discussion on this book by Dr. Catherine Meeks!





Special Blessings to all our
January Birthday Trinitarians!

01 – Kylie Scheck
08 – AP Hopper
12 – Ben Bastyr

13 – Mikayla Warner
14 – Deacon Georgia Steele
17 – Sherry Tyler

22 – Dan Krieger
26 – Stephanie Krieger
27 – Marilyn Bina
30 – Tammy Whiteoak



165th All Parish Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 21, 2020
Watch for details!

Holy Trinity Happenings

Sundays 10:00am **Online Sunday Worship —Facebook Live.**
Wednesdays 2:00pm **Zoom "Get Together"** Look for link in your email Wednesday morning.
Thursdays 8:00pm **Evening Service of Hope and Peace. Compline Service—Facebook Live.**



HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH			HTEC VESTRY MEMBERS		
Priest-in-Charge:	Fr. Rob Cavanna	320-339-4852	Senior Warden:	Sue Nagorski	612-868-9263 C
Deacon:	The Rev. Georgia Steele	651-338-2946	Junior Warden:	Gary Wedl	763-427-0776
Parish Admin:	Jen Haag	763-441-5482	Service:	Dick Anderson	612-812-2581 C
Director of Music:	Bea Bastyr	763-441-4068	Liturgy:	Daryl Herrmann	269-580-9040
Head Usher:	Dan Krieger	763-441-7072	Education:	Megan Campbell	208-413-0619
Altar Guild Chair:	Gail Weber	612-850-4250	Evangelism:	Nancy Lloyd	763-370-9598 C
Women's Group Co-chairs:	Linda Krieger Pauline Hoffine	763-441-7072 763-688-4540	Pastoral Care:	Sandy Sisson	763-267-7623
Men's Group Chair:	Ben Bastyr	763-441-4068	Treasurer:	Jon Lloyd	612-434-3295 C
Youth/Sunday School:	Megan Campbell	208-413-0619	Vestry Clerk:	Joyce LeClaire	763-263-7740 C



Our Mission Statement

Holy Trinity is a diverse, multi-cultural, growing, dynamic faith community rich in liturgy and music that serves Christ in all persons and does God's work in the world.

How to Reach Us			
Address	1326 4th St., PO Box 65, Elk River, MN 55330	Phone	763-441-5482
Office Hours	Wednesdays 10:00am-4:00pm	Church proper is open for YOU!	
E-mail	office@holytrinityelkriver.org	Website	Holytrinityelkriver.org
Twitter	Robert Cavanna	Facebook	www.facebook.com/HolyTrinityElkRiver/