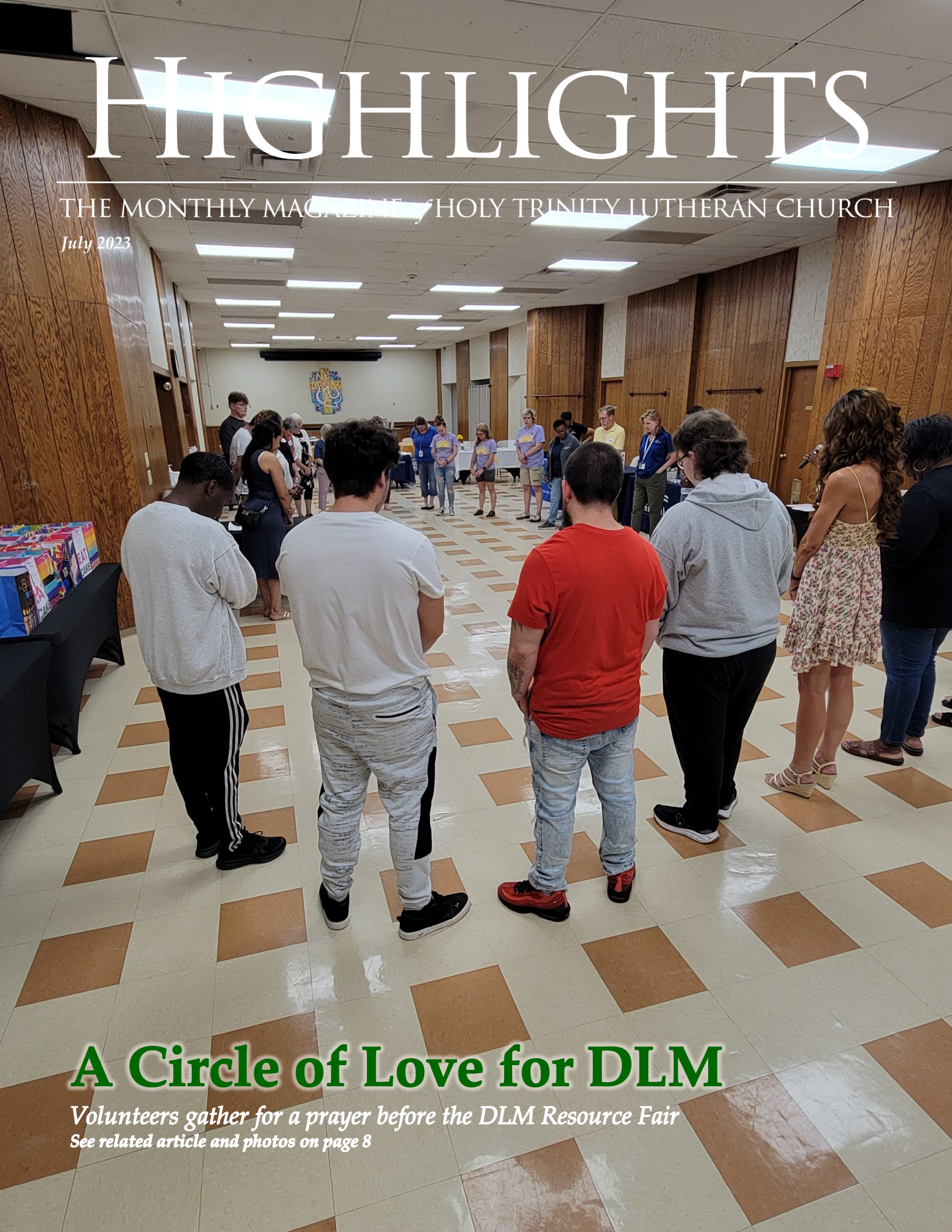


HIGHLIGHTS

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 2023



A Circle of Love for DLM

*Volunteers gather for a prayer before the DLM Resource Fair
See related article and photos on page 8*

Sabbath Month Daily Devotions



During the month of July, you are encouraged to use the following for daily devotions. You may pick-up a hard copy at the church and follow us on Facebook for daily posts.

Words to Build On

Words of Scripture for Remembrance & Reflection

30 passages of scripture from the Old and New Testaments, and a question for reflection.

This resource is a collection of God's promises of love, hope, and encouragement as we seek to live out our faith both individually and in community. Passages are from the NRSV translation, and some verses have been edited for inclusivity. As the foundation for our lives as Christians, the words of scripture are meant to build upon. While only a few verses are shared at a time, we know that scripture does not stand alone—it is always a part of a larger context. When needed, feel free to expand on the context of passages or give them in a more complete setting. +

Slowing Down is Important

So there is still a Sabbath rest for God's people.

God rested from his work.

Those who enjoy God's rest also rest from their works.

So let us make every effort to enjoy that rest.

(Hebrews 4:9 NIRV)



Pastor Becki Verbridge

You may remember that, last August, we joined other congregations across our synod in observing a month-long sabbath. After receiving Bishop Barbins' invitation to do so again this summer, our Church Council has designated the month of July as HTLC's congregational sabbath. Routine committee and ministry team business meetings will be suspended to allow time for our leaders to rest.

God's people need to remember that slowing down to rest is as important as work. As Donna Schaper says in her book, *Sabbath Keeping*:

"I am keenly aware of the need for sabbath keeping because everywhere I go people urge me to go faster, to do more. Keeping sabbath keeps me sane. I walk, pray, sing, garden, worship – and do so with a discipline and vigor that keeps play and praise in my life. God is good to me. Sabbath keeping is a spiritual strategy: it is a kind of judo. The world's commands are heavy; we respond with light moves. The world says work; we play. The world says go fast; we go slow. These light moves carry sabbath into our days, and God into our lives.

*"Our culture urges us to think we need more of just about everything. In fact, we need less. Keeping sabbath is a conscious choice to restrict input. It is a decision not to work in all the available time, but rather intentionally to play in some of the time we have. Keeping sabbath is a method for focus, rest, and play in a life otherwise dominated and tyrannized by scattered-ness, fatigue, and work. Keeping sabbath allows us to say **yes** to a life that is grounded in God's grace, and then to receive more than we could ever have imagined of rest and play. For sabbath keeping allows us time to love, and thus restores to us the joy of our salvation."*

Although morning devotions on Facebook Live will be suspended for the month of July, a special on-line daily devotional will be made available.

May our sabbath month provide those who so faithfully lead our congregation the refreshment they need as we prepare for a new season of ministry in Jesus' name! †

Blessings!

Pastor Becki



Fellowship time

Throughout the summer months, the various church Ministry Teams are hosting fellowship after worship. We're sure you don't want to miss this opportunity to enjoy some scrumptious treats and spend time meeting visitors, connecting with people you haven't seen in a while and spending time with those you see often. Fellowship is in the Chapel Lounge following worship ... JOIN US!

Sunday, July 2

Faith Formation Ministry Team

Sunday, July 9

Church Council

Sunday, July 16

Invite Welcome Connect Ministry Team

Sunday, July 23

Outreach & Social Concerns Ministry Team

Sunday, July 30

@ Akron Family Restaurant

Sunday, August 6

Property Ministry Team

Sunday, August 13

Personnel Ministry Team

Sunday, August 20

Finance Ministry Team

Sunday, August 27

@ Akron Family Restaurant †



The Stewardship Team is Excited and Hopes You Are, Too!

The Stewardship Team is forming, and you are invited to be a part of it! The first task is to answer two questions.

The first question is, **"Self, what are the current ministries of Holy Trinity that excite me the most?"** This is an opportunity for you to evaluate what Holy Trinity is doing now and what it will take to assure the sustainability of these ministries to have them grow.

The second question is, **"Self, if there was no restriction on funding, what new ministry excites me so much that I can't wait to volunteer to support it?"** Jesus says in Matthew: 6:12 - *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* What new ministry that serves our members or the community is worthy of your time and treasure?

Throughout the month of June, Rachel Núñez, Director of Faith Formation, asked us to tell our personal faith stories. So, what is your story? Why are you a Lutheran? Why are you a member of this congregation? What do you want your family and friends to be inspired by your faith? Who most influenced you to help you grow in Christ? Take time to write your story and that of your family and share it with Rachel or Jack Harig. The Stewardship Team will also work closely with Sandy DeLuca and the new Invite Welcome Connect Ministry Team in terms of how we can best share our stories with others.

We want you personally to be connected with the Stewardship Team. This will help assure the sustainable ministries of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, and we have quite a few ministries that do impactful work for children, families and the community. We must create a vision for the future that will honor our founding members' vision. Please call or email Jack Harig to share your ideas about how we can have **Stewardship for All Seasons.** †

Jack Harig

Phone: 330-644-9862

Email Jack.Harig@gmail.com



Breakfast at Akron Family Restaurant on June 25, pictured from lower left: Gene Thrall, Velma Ponrenke, Deborah Marks, Joan Derrig, Tom Bouton, Gloria Woodford, Darcel Zuller, Judy Coffman, Donna Carroll, Joanne Aller, Marcy Nagy, Caroline and Ray Mason, Tom Baumgardner, Sophia Morton, Dottie Wise, Frederica Cohen Gregg Loesch and Becky Adkins.



Pictured from left: Rachel Núñez, Mary Kay Wilson, her granddaughter, Maya, and Pastor Becki Verbridge.



Dear Friends,

Words cannot express the thanks and appreciation for all the prayers, cards, hugs, food, visitation and moral support during this. Duane and I are truly blessed with friends and our church family. I sincerely appreciate all the love that surrounded us during his stay in the care facility and the warmth and caring at his Celebration Service.

~ Joanne Aller

ARTS @ HOLY TRINITY

Have you heard?! **Arts @ Holy Trinity is celebrating it's 40th Anniversary!** That's 40 years of free concerts for our community featuring internationally acclaimed organists, vocalists and other instrumentalists.

As with any milestone anniversary, Holy Trinity will be celebrating it big! More details will follow, but here are some of the events and activities being planned throughout the upcoming anniversary concert season:

- **'40 Years of Music' Exhibition** in the Chapel Lounge
- **Luther Fest**—beer and hymns in the fall 2023 at a local brewery
- **Food & Music Fest**—to include food trucks and local musicians in the spring 2024

We invite you to join us, and be sure to bring others as well! More details will be forthcoming.

The organ has been the focal instrument for the majority of the concerts held over the past 40 years. To help ensure it's around for another 40 years, we are inviting folks to **SPONSOR A PIPE** for a donation of \$40 or **SPONSOR AN OCTAVE OF PIPES** for a donation of \$480. There are 4,551 pipes in our organ, so you are invited to sponsor as many as you like! This special opportunity will be rolled out in July ... watch for details.

The full 2023-2024 concert schedule will be included in the August issue. Plan to join us throughout this season as we celebrate 40 years of great music! More information can be found at artsholytrinity.org. †

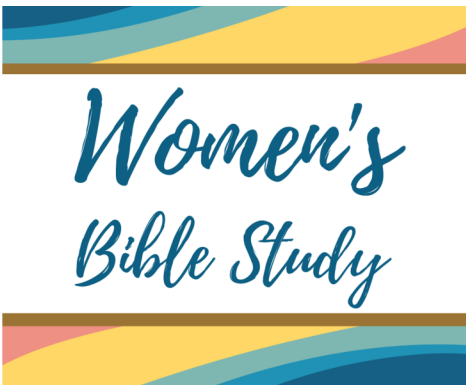
FAITH FORMATION



Weekly Check-In & Prayer

Fridays @ 9 a.m. via Zoom

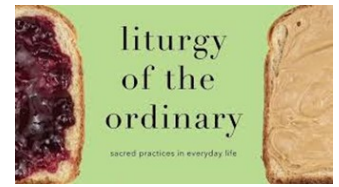
We gather via Zoom for a time of sharing, scripture reading, talking, prayer, and blessing. Contact Rachel Núñez, Director of Faith Formation for meeting instructions, rnunez@holyltrinityakron.org, call/text (330) 634-6597. †



Saturday, July 15 @ 9 a.m.

Panera Bread

790 Arlington Ridge, #201, Akron



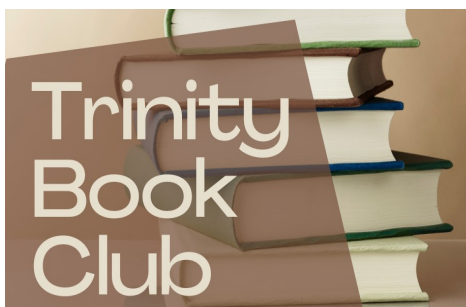
We continue our study of the book "Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life" by Tish Harrison Warren. Books are available in the church office. We will discuss chapters three and four at this meeting. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Rachel Núñez, Director of Faith Formation. Call/Text (330) 634-6597 or email rnunez@holyltrinityakron.org. †



Saturday, July 15, 9 a.m.

Main Office Meeting Area, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Yes, Men's Bible Study is back! Krispy Kreme donuts and coffee will be provided. This time together will involve a study and discussion, as well as looking at a schedule moving forward. Tom Baumgardner & Jack Harig are serving as the facilitators. All men and guests are welcome! For more information, you can contact Rachel Núñez, Director of Faith Formation. †



Sunday, July 16, 1 p.m. — LATER START TIME

at the home of Jacquie Wert, 2052 19th Street, Cuyahoga Falls

The group will discuss *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* by Judy Blume and watch the recent movie. Join the conversation! All are welcome ... bring a bag lunch if you like. Questions? Contact Amy Indorf or Diane Chambers for more information. †



Morning Devotions via Facebook LIVE is taking a break during the month of July. They will resume in August. †



Saturday, July 29 @ 9 a.m.
F.A. Seiberling Nature Realm,
1828 Smith Road, Fairlawn

We will gather near the Nature Realm for a brief devotion and then hike this trail together or you may go at your own pace. After 30 minutes, we rejoin each other for a prayer & blessing. Please wear appropriate clothing and shoes for the weather. If you have any questions, please call/text Rachel Núñez, Director of Faith Formation at (330) 634-6597. †

Looking Ahead

Second Sundays begin Sunday, September 10 @ 4 p.m. A time of informal worship, storytelling, and eating together. Look for more information in the August Highlights. †

WAYS TO SERVE



Mr. Hower's Neighborhood Walking Tour



What a wonderful opportunity to introduce Holy Trinity to people! BTW, John Hower was a founding member of Holy Trinity ... a perfect connection to be involved! **Being held Sunday, July 9, the Walking Tour begins at Holy Trinity at**

1 p.m. ... NEW START! After departing, the group will stop at various sites along the walking route.

WANT TO SERVE? Volunteers are needed to greet those on the walking tour, serve as tour guides as they explore and learn about the Sanctuary, and provide light refreshments and packets of information. Sign up at the Welcome Center. †

Food & Fellowship at Akron Family Restaurant

This has become a monthly faith formation outing that includes delicious food and wonderful fellowship. Come join us!

We meet after worship at the Akron Family

Restaurant on the last Sunday each month at around 11 a.m. We gather in the restaurant's back room for fellowship time together. We have had nearly 40 people come the last couple of months, and there's plenty of room for more!

Mark Sunday, July 30 on your calendar and plan to join us, and be sure to come hungry!! †



DLM by the Numbers

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, DLM Food & Resources has continued to operate and provide food boxes, personal care items along with cleaning supplies, and laundry items to those families involved with Project RISE and others who are in need. Clothing is given to those who inquire.

During the month of June, DLM served the following ...



168 Families



459 Individuals



231 Children



DLM

FOOD AND RESOURCES



Families and individuals visit with the vendors at the DLM Resource Fair.



DLM Resource Fair

Friday, June 23 was extra busy at DLM Food & Resources. In addition to getting food and shopping for clothing and shoes, families were able to visit vendors at the first DLM Resource Fair. Held in conjunction with the Re-Entry Program of Summit County Court of Common Pleas, the Fair provided the opportunity for individuals to visit with vendors that included Shelter Care, Hope Behavioral Health, the License Bureau, Kent State University, and several others. Many of the volunteers were from the Re-Entry Program. *Pictured below: Volunteers gather in a circle for prayer.*

More than 50 families came to the event. There was April who was visiting DLM for the first time. There was a family of six who need the extra support of food, clothing and personal care items that DLM offers. It truly was a privilege to serve those who attended. †





Pictured above: DLM Director Darlene Katz gives instructions to Holy Trinity members.



Volunteers from the Re-Entry Program.



Pictured top left, above right and above: Volunteers help families with getting food and personal care items.

Pictured right: A woman selects a pair of shoes.

Pictured left: A family picks up resource information.



Kind words
are like honey--
sweet to the soul
and healthy
for the body.

-Proverbs 16:24



The Origins of a Favorite Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the God of creation!
My heart is longing to offer up sweet adoration.
Melody make; dulcimer, harp, now awake.
Sound forth your praise, ev'ry nation.

Praise the Almighty, o'er all life so wondrously reigning,
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen? All that is needful has been
sent by God's gracious ordaining.

Praise the Almighty, who prospers your work and defends you;
see from the heavens the showers of mercy God sends you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do;
Infinite Love here befriends you.

Praise the Almighty! In wonder my spirit is soaring!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises outpouring.
Let the amen sound from God's people again,
gladly forever adoring.



Joachim Neander

- Joachim Neander, tr. composite © Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net #A-702599.

As a student in Bremen, Germany, Joachim Neander lived a godless life. Though both his father and grandfather were Lutheran ministers, Joachim wasted his life in immorality. Then, when Neander was twenty, a preacher named Under-Eyke came to Bremen. Neander went to the meeting intending to ridicule the preacher, but instead he was converted.

Four years later he became headmaster of a school in Düsseldorf, and during his time there he wrote more than sixty hymns. Because of his strong Christian views and his evangelistic activities, he displeased the authorities and was eventually removed from his position.

Despite the tensions, he wrote many hymns of praise. He often wandered through the valleys and hills near Düsseldorf, communing with his Lord. After losing his position at the school, he lived for a time in a cave and continued to write hymns. He died very young, at the age of thirty, but he left behind him a legacy of praise to God. †

From: [The One Year Book of Hymns](#) compiled and edited by Robert K. Brown and Mark R. Norton © 1995. Devotions written by William J. Petersen and Randy Petersen. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved.



We Give Thanks to Our Music-Makers

We give thanks to God and all Holy Trinity's music-makers for their faithful contributions to our worship this choir season. As weekly leaders take a well-deserved break, we will enjoy the melodious offerings of soloists and small ensembles until choirs resume their roles after Labor Day. A hearty "Thank you!" to one and all. †

Ernie Liska Memorial Scholarships Awarded

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is pleased to announce that graduating Seniors Tyshiea Johnson from Firestone Community Learning Center (CLC), Haura Sairi from Buchtel Community Learning Center (CLC), and Nicholas Kohut from Akron Early College are recipients of the 2023 Ernie Liska Memorial Scholarship. Each will receive \$1,000.



Pictured from left: Council President John Guran, Scholarship recipients Tyshiea Johnson, Haura Sairi and Nicholas Kohut along with Elizabeth Liska.

In memory of Ernest (Ernie) W. Liska and his devotion to God, country and service to others, Holy Trinity established The Ernie Liska Memorial Scholarship in 2019 to provide financial assistance to high school Seniors graduating from any Akron Public Schools who plan to earn a college degree or become certified in a vocational/building trade.

Tyshiea Johnson (photo included) graduated from Firestone CLC and plans to attend Kent State University to major in Nursing. Tyshiea was a member of National Honor Society and volunteered in numerous activities. Her teachers describe her as "... kind, dependable, and responsible, a natural born leader who is willing to lend a helping hand. She shows great attention to detail, has an eagerness for learning, and handles responsibility well." When asked what receiving the Ernie Liska Memorial Scholarship means to her, Tyshiea replied, "I'm very honored to receive this scholarship. It will certainly help me reach my goals of being a nurse."

Haura Sairi (photo included) graduated from Buchtel CLC and has been accepted at The University of Akron where she has been awarded a Presidential Scholarship. Currently, she is planning to obtain a dual major in Statistics and Computer Science. While in high school, Haura participated in DECA, which prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. Her activities included National Honor Society, the school yearbook, and serving as Secretary for her Senior class. In addition, she is a talented artist. Haura commented, "Receiving this scholarship means so much because it's enabling me to continue my education which will help me achieve my future endeavors."

In one of Haura's letters of recommendation, her English teacher stated, "Haura serves as a role model, volunteering as a math tutor and technology mentor for other students. She is organized, eager to learn, and determined to succeed."

Nicholas Kohut (photo included) graduated from Akron Early College High School and is planning to attend The University of Akron to major in Computer Science. Students at Akron Early College take college courses as part of their academic studies. Nicholas began taking one course each semester starting in his freshman year and continued to increase his course load, becoming a full-time college student his junior year. Nicholas was named Valedictorian of his class with a 4.49 weighted GPA. He graduated not only from Akron Early College, but also from The University of

Continued on next page ...

... continued from previous page

Akron with an Associates of Arts degree with more than 60 hours of college credit.

Not only has Nicholas excelled academically, but his resume also includes many extracurricular activities, including National Honor Society, student leadership (mentoring), as well as participation in running, weight lifting, and tennis. Nicholas shared, "Going to college is such an incredible gift, one that I don't take for granted. This scholarship is allowing me to continue on my journey, and I am so grateful."

Ernie Liska was drafted during the Vietnam War, starting his Army career at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. While in Vietnam, he was assigned to an artillery unit and then sent to Germany, serving at a Nike missile base. Achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, he later continued his military reserves. Ernie was employed at the Pentagon where he worked in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Throughout a career spanning 26 years, Ernie was respected for his knowledge and ability to relate to others.

"Ernie was a kind and giving man who touched and impacted the lives of so many," commented his wife, Elizabeth Liska, and a member of the Scholarship Committee. "Whether taking people to the doctor, grocery store or church to visiting people in nursing homes and feeding the homeless, he was always giving. Because serving others was such a large part of his life, including a volunteer and service component to the scholarship was very important."

As a way to memorialize Ernie Liska and ensure funding continues for The Ernie Liska Memorial Scholarship, donations are appreciated and welcome. To give online, please visit holytrinityakron.org/liska-scholarship. Checks, payable to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (memo line – Liska Scholarship), can be mailed to 50 N. Prospect Street, Akron, Ohio 44304. †



8th Year of Supporting Robinson CLC



It may be the middle of summer, but Holy Trinity is busily preparing for back-to-school as it commits to partnering with and supporting the students, staff and families at Robinson Community Learning Center. For the 8th consecutive school year, Holy Trinity will again provide the important school supplies they need to be prepared learners and effective instructors. And, YOUR HELP is needed!

SAVE THE DATE ... Sunday, August 20, 11 a.m. in Room 202. Your help is needed to pack teacher supplies. Join us, and bring a friend, to help serve our important partner, Robinson CLC. †



Hike & Seek

The weather was perfect for the Hike & Seek event at the Akron Zoo on June 23, and those who attended had an incredibly wonderful time! And, we were joined by two families from Robinson Community Learning Center as well. †

Pictured above (from left): Ridgway family from Robinson CLC, Pastor Becki with her two grandsons, Stefan and Darlene Katz, Rachel Núñez, Darcel Zuller with her granddaughter, Jacinto Núñez, Diane Chambers, Deborah Marks, Rich Williams, Amy Indorf, Joanne Aller and the Taylor family from Robinson CLC.



Pictured above: The Taylor family from Robinson CLC.

Pictured below: The Ridgway family from Robinson CLC.



Pastor Becki with her grandsons, Bradley and Jimmy.



Rich Williams and Amy Indorf look at the penguin exhibit.



Darcel Zuller and her granddaughter look at Clawdia, the blue lobster.

Pictured at right: Jacinto Núñez watches Rachel as she feeds a goat.

Pictured bottom right: Joanne Aller and Deborah Marks see their reflection as they look at the bald eagle exhibit.

Pictured below: DLM Director Darlene Katz and DLM Operations Manager Stefan Katz pose in front of Clawdia, the blue lobster.

Thank you to the Faith Formation Ministry Team for providing goodie bags for the children.



July Birthdays

'Happy Birthday' to the following members who are celebrating birthdays this month!!

- July 1 – Jacinto Núñez
- July 2 – Josephine Ameling
- July 4 – Elliott Esworthy
- July 4 – Tom Parry
- July 7 – Adeline Anacki
- July 7 – Graham Jones
- July 7 – Mary K. Wilson
- July 8 – Colin Richenbacher
- July 13 – Linda Vowles
- July 15 – David Erickson
- July 15 – Diana Shanafelt
- July 16 – Stephanie Andrews
- July 16 – Emily Wolverton
- July 17 – Katherine Archbold
- July 18 – Ryan Bader
- July 20 – Julia Seiberling
- July 21 – Joseph Hancock
- July 22 – Lily Gosorn
- July 22 – Emma Oberdorfer
- July 28 – Elizabeth Liska
- July 29 – Adeline Andrews
- July 30 – Alexander Kauntz
- July 30 – Patricia Keller
- July 30 – Mara Lakins

Worship Stewards

Date	Readers	Assisting Ministers
Sunday, July 2 9:30 a.m.	Bob Nagle	Linda Vowles
Sunday, July 9 9:30 a.m.	Tom Baumgardner	Frederica Cohen
Sunday, July 16 9:30 a.m.	John Guran	Mike Ameling
Sunday, July 23 9:30 a.m.	Manny Núñez	Rachel Núñez
Sunday, July 30 9:30 a.m.	Abby Mormino	Deb Ickes

*If you want to include your birthday in a future issue of the Highlights, please contact Annmarie Demko at (330) 376-5154.
NOTE: This list only includes known birthdays.*

Trinity Highlights

50 N. Prospect Street
Akron, OH 44304-1273
330-376-5154

Periodical Postage Paid

Akron, Ohio 44309

Trinity Highlights is published monthly, January through December. Periodical Postage Paid at Akron, Ohio.

Postmaster: Send address change to
Trinity Highlights
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Praising. Loving. Serving in Jesus' name.

Mission Statement:

The mission of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is to bring Jesus to people through love and the word of God.

Vision Statement:

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is a faith community grounded in God's word, called to worship and committed to serve as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Address & Phone:

50 N. Prospect Street
Akron, Ohio 44304-1273
(330) 376-5154 holytrinityakron.org

Groups & Activities

- Altar Guild - Deborah Ickes
- Archives - Ricki Ethington
- Book Club - Diane Chambers & Amy Indorf
- Communion Assistants - Deborah Ickes & Marcy Nagy
- Family Promise & OPEN M - Gregg Loesch
- Memorial Garden - Sonya Nagle
- Men's Bible Study - Tom Baumgardner & Jack Harig
- Parish Nurse Ministry - Sally Richenbacher
- Prayer Chain - Sally Richenbacher
- Renaissance Team - Bob Keener
- Readers - Nan Riemenschneider
- Robinson CLC/FRC - Sandy DeLuca
- Live Stream Team - Sandy DeLuca
- Ushers - Gregg Loesch
- Women's Bible Study - Velma Pomrenke

2023 Cabinet

- Care & Fellowship - Rachel Núñez
- Faith Formation - Amanda Archbold
- Finance - Lesli Eisenhart
- Outreach & Social Concerns - Gregg Loesch
- Personnel - John Stefanik
- Property - Kevin Heckel
- Invite Welcome Connect - Sandy DeLuca
- Worship & Music - Frederica Cohen & Ron Nockengost
- Council Liaison - Linda Vowles

2023 Church Council

- President, John Guran
- Vice President, Linda Vowles
- Secretary, Valerie Clark
- Treasurer, Lesli Eisenhart
- Frederica Cohen
- Jack Harig
- Bob Hoskins
- Gary Radanof
- Pastor Becki Verbridge

Holy Trinity Staff

- Interim Senior Pastor, Becki Verbridge
- Director of Faith Formation, Rachel Núñez
- Director of Music Ministries, Deacon Ruth Anderson
- Parish Secretary, Annmarie Demko
- Financial Secretary, Jim Minisall
- Communications Coordinator, Sandy DeLuca
- DLM Director, Darlene Katz
- DLM Operations Manager & Technology Production Coordinator, Stefan Katz
- Maintenance Coordinator, Bruce Mansour
- Sexton, Vince Simmons

Highlights is a publication of:

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
E-mail: highlights@holytrinityakron.org
Editors: Annmarie Demko and Sandy DeLuca.
Mailing: TTT's & Annmarie Demko