

HIGHLIGHTS

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE *of* HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2021

Affirmation of Baptism

For Abigail Mormino and Luke Nagle

See more photos on page 7

ARTS @ HOLY TRINITY

Procession of Advent Lessons & Carols



Friday, December 3, 7:30 p.m.

Holy Trinity's choirs join musical forces with vocal and instrumental musicians from St. Sebastian Catholic Church for this annual event. We hear the powerful story of salvation — from Bible readings, anthems and hymns — that moves us from darkness to light, Advent to Christmas. In lieu of a festive reception during pandemic times, we will offer take-home treats to those who attend the concert in person.

WATCH THE LIVE STREAM
artsholytrinity.org

ATTEND IN-PERSON
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
50 N. Prospect Street, Akron

Doors open 30 minutes prior.

For details and updated safety guidelines, please visit artsholytrinity.org.



**HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

artsholytrinity.org

We Aren't Climbing Jacob's Ladder

I probably learned it in Sunday School or Vacation Bible School. But I'm sure we sang it at church camp. Maybe you did, too. "We are climbing Jacob's ladder"... sung three times and followed by "soldiers of the cross." I remember a campfire and a lot of earnest junior high kids wanting to do the right thing, to believe the right thing, to become what God wanted them to be. And honestly, that kind of piety and devotion should never be mocked. I still strive to be what God wants me to be when I grow up, and I hope you do, too.



Pastor David

But somewhere along the way, I figured out that the ladder to heaven was a lot longer and scarier than I was able to handle. "Every round goes higher, higher..." turned out to be well beyond my reach. I was good, really good, at missing steps and sliding back down that ladder...my life full of the splinters to prove it. It's enough to make a person give up on the whole "believing in Jesus" project after a while and to direct one's attention instead on something easier like just focusing on church stuff rather than God stuff or walking away all together. I know plenty of folks who have chosen one or the other of those.

But just being religious (rather than faithful) or walking away completely aren't the only choices. And Christmas is perhaps the best time of year to remember that.

Dr. Timothy Wengert, former professor at the Philadelphia Seminary and now retired, referred often to "ladder theology" in his explanations of how God is at work among us. He was quick to point out that the ladder was a real thing, but that our sense of traffic flow on said ladder was backwards. The ladder never works and was never intended for upward mobility. Rather, it was always there for God to make the move from heaven to earth. We don't go up. God comes down.

"For unto us a child is born," sings the prophet. "And they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, God is with us," the angel reminds an anxious Joseph. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you," another angel promises a startled Mary. "He was in the world, and the world came into being through him," sings John the Evangelist. Again and again we are reminded in Holy Scripture that God makes the first move...that God is the one on whatever ladder there is that connects heaven to earth, and that we are by that divine movement the recipients of a stunning grace.

So what is our part in all this?

Simple. Receive in gratitude the gift of our own salvation. And share with joy the announcement of that gift with those who have yet to hear it. Let the One who is our Savior move into this world and into us so that we might, in a sense, become ladders ourselves...bearers of Love and the Word of God to the world that God loves so much.

Dear ones, we aren't climbing Jacob's ladder. There's a better way to exhibit our true and earnest devotion...and that is to receive with joy the astounding gift that comes to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. Merry Christmas, indeed! †



Holy Trinity has been offering something new each week ... Coffee & Conversation! Every Tuesday and Wednesday morning, Rachel Nunez and Pastor David are at Panera Bread for a conversation, for a prayer, or just to say hello. Come by for a visit ... there's always an open seat! †

Join Rachel Núñez at Panera Bread
1059 Graham Road, Stow
Each Tuesday, 7:30-9 a.m.

Join Pastor David at Panera Bread
2855 W. Market Street, Fairlawn
Each Wednesday, 8:30-10 a.m.

The Property Team is asking for your help. The maintenance of our church buildings, grounds, and equipment is never-ending and expensive. We strive to find more effective/less costly techniques for preserving our unique "gothic cathedral."

If you would like to help with this and become a member of the Property Team, please call Dan Detwiler at 330-814-1795. Even if you aren't ready to join the team, we hope that you'll let Dan know if you have suggestions or expertise that could be helpful. †



Christmas Poinsettias

Order a Christmas poinsettia to help decorate Holy Trinity's chancel this Christmas Eve! Fill out the form below and place in the offering plate or mail it to the Church. Make your check out to *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* and mark "poinsettia" on the memo line. **All orders must be placed by noon on Monday, December 20.** Thank you for this offering! You may pickup your poinsettia immediately following the 9:30 a.m. service on Saturday, December 25. The remaining poinsettias will be delivered by our Friendly Visitors to Trinity Members who are shut-in, hospitalized or recovering in their homes from a hospital stay. For more information, please contact Debbie Ickes at (678) 353-7444. †

Order Form

I would like to order _____ Christmas Poinsettias priced at \$15 each.

NOTE: All poinsettias will be white.

Name _____

Phone _____

Envelope # _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Please check one of the following and print clearly. I give my poinsettia(s):

_____ in memory of _____

_____ in honor of _____

_____ to the glory of God.



O Come, Let Us Adore Him!

Christmas is a time to celebrate God's coming among us in Jesus, the Word Made Flesh. It's also the perfect time to share that good news with our friends and neighbors. Christmas is the one Christian holy day that folks are tuned into or at least aware of...even if they aren't people of faith.

So we encourage you to not just come to Christmas worship, but to bring others with you. And there are a number of opportunities for making that happen.

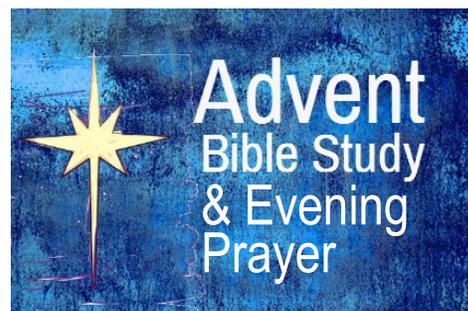
Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. ... This family-oriented service includes readings from Scripture, favorite carols, and a special story for children.

Christmas Eve at 10 p.m. ... Our traditional liturgy featuring vocal and instrumental music (beginning at 9:30 p.m.), Scripture, carols, candlelight, and Holy Communion.

Christmas Day at 9:30 a.m. ... A more quiet and contemplative service of carols and Holy Communion that invites us to consider how God's Word dwells among us.

The First Sunday of Christmas at 9:30 a.m. ... The celebration continues on Sunday, December 26, as we hear of Jesus in his Father's house, as we join together in carols and Holy Communion.

All services are available for in-person attendance. See current in-person safety guidelines at holytrinitakron.org. They will also be available by live-stream. Perhaps this is the year to throw a Christmas worship viewing party with friends and family! Whatever you choose, we hope you and your loved ones will be with us as we share the good news that "unto us a Child is born!" †



Join us on Wednesdays, December 1, 8, and 15, for a special Bible study and midweek worship opportunity during the Advent season.

Waiting for the Shepherd is the title of our Bible study. It will be offered via Zoom at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, December 1, 8, and 15. Our focus will be on Psalm 23 within the context of this waiting season. The study link will be available on the website, in MidWeek Word, or by contacting Pr. David.

Advent Evening Prayer, a brief service to close the day, will be offered at 8:15pm on Wednesday, December 1, 8, and 15. Look for us on the website, on YouTube, or on Facebook Live.

We hope you and your friends will join us as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's coming among us. †

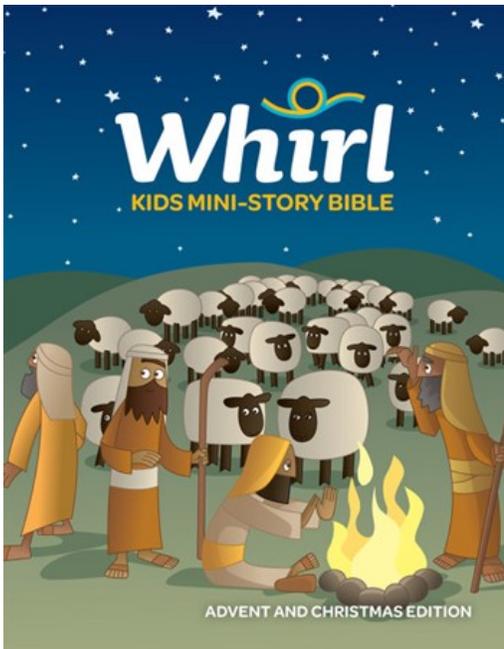
Advent/Christmas/Epiphany Faith Kits

The Faith Formation Ministry Team is sending faith kits to all families for the upcoming Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons.

If you would like extra kits for grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or neighbors, please contact Rachel Núñez, Director of Faith Formation at rnunez@holytrinityakron.org. †



Faith Formation



Advent/Christmas Story Time with Miss Rachel

Sunday @ 7 p.m. via Facebook Live

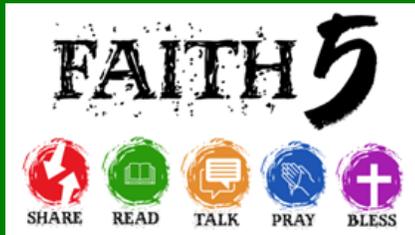
Join Miss Rachel on Sunday Evenings at 7 p.m. on Facebook Live to hear the Bible Stories of Advent & Christmas. If you would like a copy of your own Whirl Kids Mini-Story Bible: Advent and Christmas Edition and other materials to celebrate the season, please contact the church office at 330-376-5154 and we will mail one to you. †

- December 5 – Announcing a Baby (Matthew 1: 18-25; Luke 1: 26-38)
- December 12 – Mary Visits Elizabeth (Luke 1: 39-55)
- December 19 – Jesus Is Born (Luke 2: 1-20)
- December 26 – Simeon and Anna (Luke 2: 22-40) & The Wise Men (Matthew 2: 1-12)



Members Stay Connected and Serve One Another

Pictured left: Members gathered virtually on November 5 for Friday Check-In. Pictured clockwise from top left: Norm and Sally Richenbacher, Rachel Núñez, Joan Derrig, Velma Pomrenke, Sylvioa Hackbarth, LJ Kimble, Diane Chambers, Deb Ickes and in the middle, Becky Adkins. Pictured right: Women's Bible Study provided a meal for DLM staff and volunteers on November 5. Pictured (from left): Stefan Katz, Amanda Smith from Project Rise, Diane Chambers, Darlene Katz, Velma Pomrenke and Jacquie Wert.

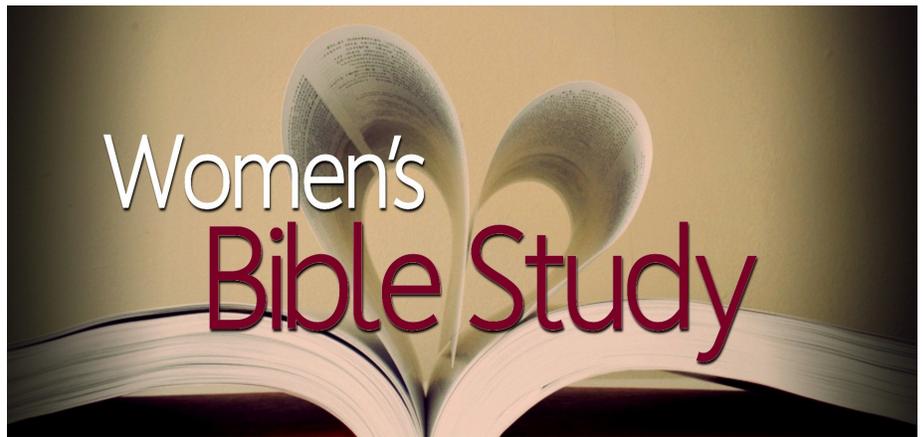


Weekly Check-in during COVID-19

Fridays @ 9 a.m. via Zoom

We gather via Zoom for a time of sharing, scripture reading, talking, prayer, and blessing. Email Rachel Núñez, Director of Faith Formation, for a copy of the text and Zoom access at rnunez@holytrinityakron.org †

NOTE: There will be no gatherings on Friday, December 24 and December 31.

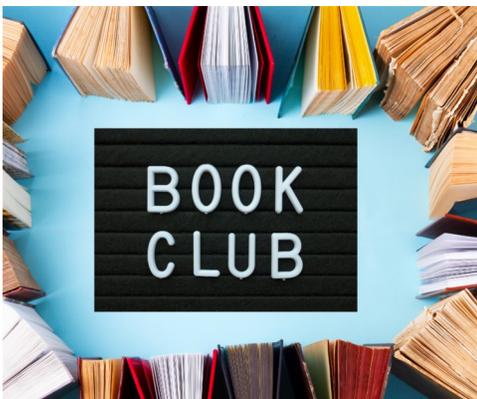


Saturday, December 18 @ 9 a.m.

Our Host & Facilitator is Velma Pomrenke

We will gather for breakfast and study at Rockynol Independent Living Apartments, 1148 W. Market Street, Akron

Our Study will be *Women of Advent: We draw strength from our spiritual grandmothers* by Lindsay Hardin Freeman. This study is found in Gather Magazine November/December 2021 issue. If you have any questions or need a copy of the study, call/text Rachel Núñez at (330) 634-6597 or email rnunez@holytrinityakron.org. †



Holy Trinity Book Club

The next meeting of the Holy Trinity Book Club is

Sunday, January 9 following worship in the Scharf Library

We will be discussing *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune.

All are invited to join us for the discussion. Please contact Diane Chambers or Amy Indorf with any questions. †



Saturday, December 11 @ 9 a.m.

Lock 29 Trailhead in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park
1648 Mill Street, Peninsula

We will gather at the start of the trail for a short devotional reading before walking the trail (at your own pace). We regather after 35 minutes for a brief discussion and blessing.

Questions? Contact Rachel Núñez, Director of Faith Formation, call/text (330) 634-6597 or email rnunez@holytrinityakron.org. †



Last month's hikers included (from left): Amy Indorf, Ken Maybaum, Rich Williams, Manny Núñez, LJ Kimble and Jacinto Núñez in the foreground.

GIVING TUESDAY

Give to DLM on November 30

Food. It's one of our basic needs. But not everyone in our community can get food. Due to a myriad of issues, situations and circumstances, many individuals and families, including children, find themselves without enough food each month. That's where **DLM Food & Resources** comes in.

DLM was a choice food pantry prior to COVID. This meant that people were able to come and choose the food they wanted for their families. Then the pandemic hit and everything shut down. Not so for DLM. In April 2020,

DLM quickly changed its processes and started preparing and delivering food boxes to people. This enabled more families to get the help they urgently needed. DLM was and still is the only food pantry in Summit County to make this type of change.

The 'DLM Box Experience' (what it's become known as) is more than a box of free food for someone. It's an experience that is filled with love and

care as each box is filled and somewhat customized to meet a family's needs. It's an opportunity to serve our neighbors and show them the dignity and respect they so rightfully deserve. It's a moment of hope, joy and thankfulness from families when a food box is delivered to their doorsteps. Yes, DLM is so much more.

DLM stands for 'Dare to Love More.' **On Giving Tuesday, November 30, we encourage you, even dare you, to love more and give to DLM. Our goal is to raise \$50,000.** It's a large number but achievable with your help. Every financial contribution, big and small, will truly make a difference in the lives of thousands of individuals right here in Summit County. Online donations may be made at dlmakron.org. †



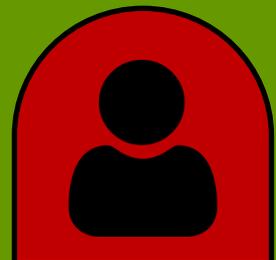
DLM by the Numbers

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.

In November, DLM served the following ...



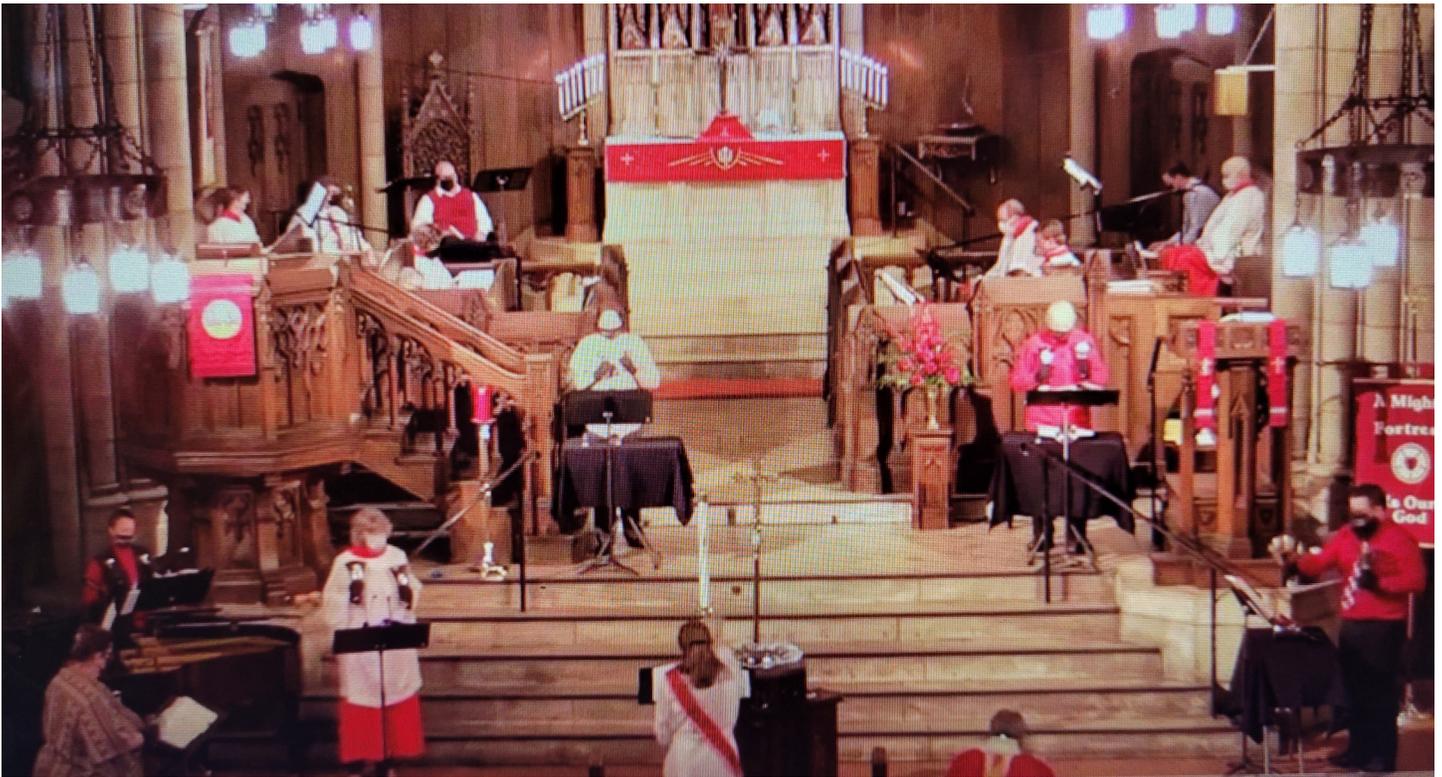
202 Families



799 Individuals



394 Children



Reformation Sunday

Red was certainly the color of the day on Sunday, October 31. And the music was outstanding with brass, percussion, bells and a vocal ensemble. †

Pictured left: Manny and Jacinto Núñez play the trombone.

Pictured right: Members of the choir singing during worship.



It is always busy for staff and volunteers on DLM food box delivery day! And, a shout-out to new drivers Bob Keener and John Guran. †

Pictured far left: Stefan Katz with veteran driver Brother Ron Goodman. He's been delivering food boxes for the past year.

Pictured left: DLM Director Darlene Katz with Bob Keener.



Twin sisters Elizabeth Hall (l) and Emily Hall perform the final number together at the concert held November 14.



The Meet-the-Artists Meal was attended by nearly 45 people.

Prism Percussion Concert

What a phenomenal concert! From start to finish, it was a joy to see all the different instruments and hear the beautiful sounds they made. All the artists are to be commended for an outstanding performance! †

Pictured right (from left): Divesh Karamchandani, Elizabeth Hall, Emily Hall and Nicholas Paokovic.

Pictured bottom right: Elizabeth and Divesh show that your own hands can be used to make music.

Pictured bottom: Prism Percussion conducted a master class for students at The University of Akron the day after the concert.





Pictured above (from left): New members Brad Crock, Beverly Palmer, John Guran and Laurel Heath.



Pictured left: Isla Mormino.



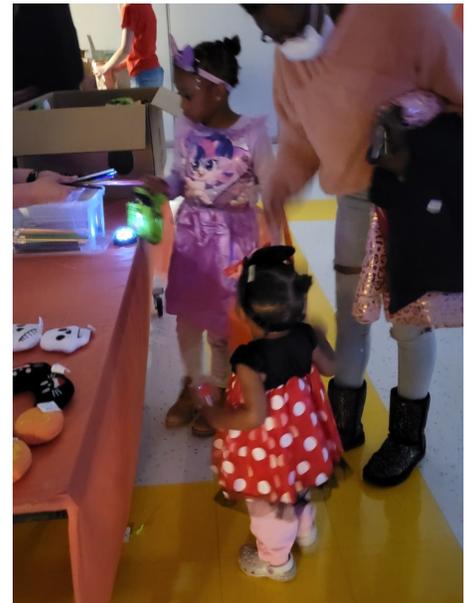
Pictured below right: The families of Abigail and Luke participated in the laying on of hands.

All Saints Sunday ... Special Day for Many

All Saints Sunday, celebrated November 7, was the day we honored those who have passed away over the last year by lighting candles. Those included: Robert Spannbauer, Joan Kull, Stephanie Hilton, Robert Leddon, Werner Britsch, Joan Baumgardner, Mary Eagle, Charles Bond, John Wilkinson, and Patrick Hinman.

Also celebrated this day were the affirmations of baptism of Abigail Mormino and Luke Nagle. And, Isla Mormino received communion for the first time. †





Halloween Spooktacular at Robinson CLC

On October 28, Robinson CLC was transformed into a 'spooky schoolhouse' with haunted music, scary costumes, eerie pumpkins and more! Children dressed in costume and made their way from station to station for some special learning tricks and tasty treats. Holy Trinity provided each child with a tasty treat bag and ghoulish stuffed animals. †

Pictured top left and right: Families stop by the Holy Trinity booth to pick up their treat bag.

Pictured left: Can you tell who they are? Dressed in costume (from left) are Rachel and Manny Núñez and Gregg Loesch.

Pictured bottom left: Even SpongeBob SquarePants stopped by the Holy Trinity table!

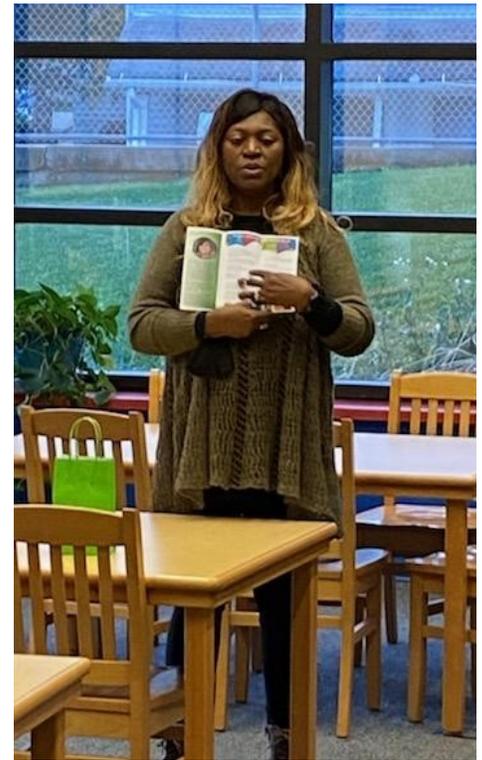


★ HAPPY ★ BIRTHDAY!

Marion Spannbauer celebrated her 95th birthday on October 24. Your family at Holy Trinity hope you enjoyed your special day!

Pictured is Marion (l) with Velma Pomrenke.





Pictured above and right: DLM Director Darlene Katz speaks to Robinson families about DLM.



On meal prep duty were (from left): Gregg Loesch, Sandy DeLuca and Rev. Lor Breyley.

Busy Month at Robinson CLC

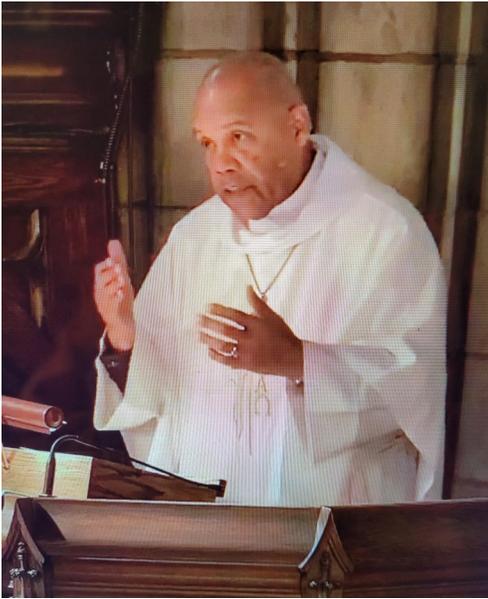
Holy Trinity hosted its second parent engagement event on November 11, Muffins for Moms. DLM Director Darlene Katz was the guest speaker. She provided each family with special information bag about DLM program. And a week later, Holy Trinity was back at the school this time helping the Family Resource Center pack 40 individual Thanksgiving meals for families. These were distributed at their Family Fun Night. †



Pictured right: Doesn't this make you hungry? A total of 40 meals were packaged for families.



Pictured left: This event was hosted by the Robinson Family Resource Center. Coordinator Sha'Qeria Hunter (seated in red) colors with one of the families.



Christ the King Sunday

The church year came to an end on November 21, and it was celebrated in musical style. †

Pictured above: Former Bishop Abraham Allende served as the guest preacher.

Pictured below: John Stefanik (l) plays the timpani and ringers Cathy Snelson (r) and Lesli Eisenhart chime in.

Pictured bottom: The Núñez family singing.



Trinity Book Club Enjoys the Outdoors

Trinity Book Club held their October gathering at the home of Diane Chambers and Don Parisson and enjoyed a lively discussion around a roaring fire. It doesn't get any better than this! The next gathering of the Trinity Book Club is Sunday, January 9 following worship in the Scharf Library. All are invited!! †

Worship Stewards

Date	Readers	Livestream
Sunday, December 5 9:30 a.m.	Valerie Clark	Ann Lawson
Sunday, December 12 9:30 a.m.	Tom Baumgardner	Ann Lawson
Sunday, December 19 9:30 a.m.	Rachel Nunez	Bob Foutty
Christmas Eve— Early Friday, December 24 7 p.m.	TBA	Alex DeLuca
Christmas Eve— Late Friday, December 24 10 p.m.	TBA	Bob Foutty
Christmas Day Saturday, December 25 9:30 a.m.	TBA	TBA
Sunday, December 26 9:30 a.m.	Frederica Cohen	Bob Foutty



December Birthdays

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

- December 1 – Kurt Seiberling
- December 2 – Justin Bader
- December 4 – Joan Amon
- December 4 – Nancy Chancey
- December 5 – Thomas Bouton
- December 5- Dorothy Creed
- December 8 – Julie Sanders
- December 9 – Dennis Dick
- December 9 – Logan Seiberling
- December 11 – Dorothy Shoemaker
- December 12 – Kenneth Burkins
- December 12 – Gregory Mitchhart
- December 14 – Valerie Clark
- December 16 – Gilliam Godding
- December 16 – Ella Izenour
- December 16 – Samantha Lupo
- December 16 – Marcy Nagy
- December 18 – Deborah Ickes
- December 18 – Andrew Snowball
- December 19 – Paul Anacki
- December 19 – Carole Bader
- December 19 – Bob Nagle
- December 21 – Jennifer Bennage
- December 21 – Alex DeLuca
- December 21 – Ryan Giffels
- December 22 – Natalie Spencer
- December 24 – Lor Breyley
- December 25 – Jacob Isenhardt
- December 25 – LJ Kimble
- December 26 – Jordyn Rogers
- December 27 – Jacob Padget
- December 28 – Matthew Vowles
- December 29 – Jim Feeman
- December 29 – Samuel Forbes
- December 29 – Debbie Schramm
- December 30 – Dan Detwiler
- December 30 – Sandra Plummer
- December 31 – Tim Laybourne

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.



Storytime with Miss Rachel

Sunday, 7 p.m. Facebook LIVE



Weekdays, 8 a.m. | Facebook LIVE



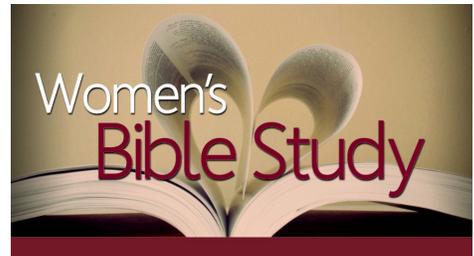
Tuesday @ 1 p.m.
Facebook LIVE



Study at 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. via Zoom
Prayer at 8:15 p.m. via Facebook LIVE



CHECK-IN & PRAYER
Friday @ 9 a.m. via Zoom



Saturday, December 18
9 a.m. In-Person



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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

Acolyte Coordinator - Judy Eisenhart
Altar Guild - Sophia Morton
Archives - Ricki Ethington
Book Club - Diane Chambers & Amy Indorf
Communion Assistants - Deborah Ickes & Marcy Nagy
Family Promise & OPEN M - Gregg Loesch
LINKS - Elizabeth Liska
Men's Bible Study - Pastor David Nevergall
Parish Nurse Ministry - Sally Richenbacher
Prayer Chain - Sally Richenbacher/Wanda Clark
Renaissance Team - Bob Keener
Readers - Nan Riemenschneider
Robinson CLC - Sandy DeLuca
Stream Team - Bob Foutty
Ushers - Gregg Loesch
Women's Bible Study - Velma Pomrenke

2021 Cabinet

Care & Fellowship - Rachel Núñez
Faith Formation - Amanda Archbold
Finance - Lesli Eisenhart
Outreach & Social Concerns - Gregg Loesch
Personnel - John Stefanik
Property - Dan Detwiler
Welcome—Bob Foutty
Worship & Music—Lesli Eisenhart/Bob Foutty
Council Liaison - Ann Lawson, VP

2021 Church Council

President, Valerie Clark
Vice President, Ann Lawson
Secretary, Marsha Asente
Treasurer, Lesli Eisenhart
Paul Anacki
Connie Archbold
Bob Hoskins
Fred Rieman
Pastor David Nevergall

Holy Trinity Staff

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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
Maintenance Coordinator, Bruce Mansour
Sexton, Vince Simmons

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Mailing: TTT's & Annmarie Demko