

HIGHLIGHTS

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE *of* HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2023



Free Laundry Day

An outreach event that brought Jesus to people ...

See related article and photos on pages 12-13



ARTS @ HOLY TRINITY

Sunday, 4 p.m.
February 19, 2023



Bengisu Gokce Quartet

Gokce returns for a second appearance at Holy Trinity, following her 2019 debut with Grammy/Emmy-winner Claudio Ragazzi.

This ensemble features award-winning artists with roots from around the globe: Bengisu Gokce (Turkey) – violin, Nacho Gonzalez Nappa (Uruguay) – guitar, Anastassiya Ana Petrova (Kazakhstan) – piano, and George Lernis (Cyprus) - drums/percussion.

The quartet will perform standards from *Great American Songbook*, as well as ragtime, bossa nova and Latin selections with a fresh, acoustic touch to the jazz tradition.

**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, visit artsholytrinity.org.



A ticketed (\$25) Meet-the-Artist Meal is served at 6 p.m. following the concert. For further details, visit artsholytrinity.org or call the church at (330) 376-5154.

Funding for the 2022-2023 Arts @ Holy Trinity provided by



**HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

artsholytrinity.org

Making Space for the Sacred

*“The world and all of its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out –
But whoever does what God wants is set for eternity.”*

(1 John 2:17 MSG)



Pastor Becki Verbridge

I am participating in the Monday Zoom Study based on *12 Tiny Things: Simple Ways to Live a More Intentional Life* by Heidi Barr & Ellie Roscher that is being led by Rachel Nunez. The book and study challenge us to intentionally examine our lives as we seek to create more sacred space through which we can connect to God.

The first chapter is titled “Space.” The authors write: *“We are often told that ‘more’ is the solution. More work, more square footage, more gadgets, more money, more social events. We overfill our lives, hoping more will make us feel like we are enough.... It takes courage to say ‘no,’ but when we prioritize creating space, we can clearly see how saying no to some things is saying ‘yes’ to others.... ”*

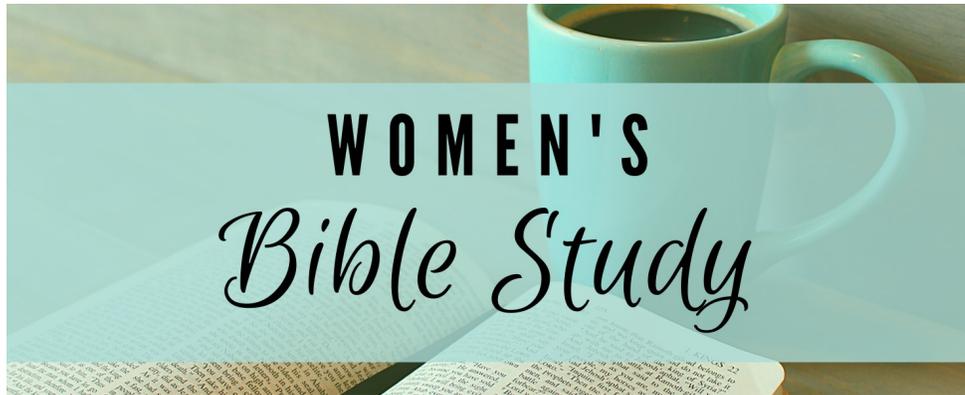
This leads right into one of the entries in *Living the Message: Daily Reflections with Eugene Peterson* in which he says: *“I want to simplify your lives. When others are telling you to read more, I want to tell you to read less; when others are telling you to do more, I want to tell you to do less. The world does not need more of you; it needs more of God. Your friends do not need more of you; they need more of God. And you don’t need more of you; you need more of God. For we do not progress in the Christian life by becoming more competent, more knowledgeable, more virtuous, or more energetic. We do not advance in the Christian life by acquiring expertise. Each day, and many times each day, we need more of God. Back to Square One.”*

Barr, Roscher, and Peterson are onto something! Making more space for God is also wonderful preparation for Lent, which begins at the end of February. Please know that even if you did not previously sign up for the Monday evening group, there is always room on zoom! Simply email Rachel for the link. At the very least, do yourself a favor and buy a copy of the book. It is available through Amazon and other booksellers for under \$10. †

Blessings!
Pastor Becki



Faith Formation



Saturday, February 18 @ 9 a.m. in Room 202

Breakfast will be served followed by our study. If you have any questions or need a copy of the study, call/text Rachel Núñez at (330) 634-6597.

The Ten Commandments by the Rev. Christa von Zychlin

Join *Gather* magazine and revive your soul in 2023 with a four-session study of the 10 commandments. ELCA pastor and Bible study author Christa von Zychlin will help us see how these commandments are more than they may appear at first glance.

- **February 2023 Session two: Rhythms and respect (Commandments 3 & 4)**
Some might say the Old Testament commands Remember the Sabbath and Honor Your Folks seem outdated and quaint. After all, didn't Jesus routinely break the Sabbath? Didn't Jesus (on occasion) talk back to his mother? Yet these commandments are far from outdated. Find out how these commands offer a source of peace and inspiration in today's often hectic and generationally segregated society and church.



Saturday, February 11 @ 9 a.m.

**Munroe Falls Metro Park,
Tallmadge Meadows Area**
1088 North Ave., Tallmadge

We will gather at the entrance to the trail for a brief devotion and then hike this accessible trail together or at 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.

Monday Study

Monday Evenings @ 7 p.m. via Zoom *Tiny Holy Things: Finding Sacred in our Ordinary Lives*

In a culture that says bigger is better, it is subversive work to take tiny, lasting steps toward learning and growth. We will journey together through twelve essential areas of life inviting us to take one tiny action at a time to open up growth and renewal. *Tiny Holy Things* guides us in curating a spiritual practice that promotes a more reflective, rooted, and intentional life. †

February 6 – Communication & Home
February 20 – Learning & Community

February 13 – Sensuality & Creativity

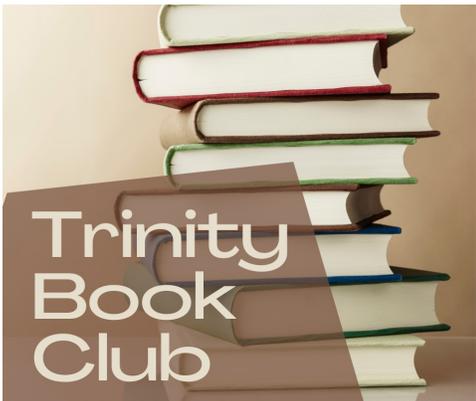


Weekly Check-In & Prayer

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. †



Sunday, February 12

following worship
in the Scharf Library

We are discussing ...

The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams

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



Women's Lenten Retreat

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, March 25, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Cost: \$10 – includes continental breakfast, light lunch, and materials

If you have any questions, please contact
Rachel Núñez, Director of Faith Formation

rnunez@holyltrinityakron.org, call/text (330) 634-6597

Anxiety doesn't have to be a roadblock to your faith.

You are created for so much more than an anxious life full of fear and worry – you are called to an abundant life of peace and joy as you are transformed by Christ and your mind is renewed day by day.

Find hope amid anxiety through the spiritual practice of breath prayer in this beautifully illustrated and practical guide.

Breath as Prayer will lead you through the practice and the proven health benefits of Christian breath prayer: purposeful prayers centered around Scripture that focus your mind on Christ as you calm your body through intentional breathing.



Women's Lenten Retreat 2017



Ash Wednesday Services

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. It is always 46 days before Easter Sunday. This year, **Ash Wednesday is February 22**. Like many mainline Protestant and Catholic congregations, HTLC will observe Ash Wednesday. Two services of worship will be offered: Noon and 7 p.m. While both services will include scripture, a message, a time of confession, and the imposition of ashes, only the evening service will include music and be live-streamed. It is our hope that you will be able to join us for one of these special worship services as fits your schedule. †



Changes in Highlights Mailing

For the past few years members have been receiving both digital and hard copies of the Highlights each month. Wanting to be better stewards of both our earth and financial resources, we are going to mail paper copies only to those who cannot access Highlights by email. **Please contact the church office (330-376-5154) before February 20th if you need us to continue mailing it to you.** Thank you! †



What Can I Give Him? Campaign Update

We are pleased to report that as of January 18th, we have received 47 estimate of giving cards totaling \$200,978 towards HTLC's 2023 operating budget.

There is still time for those who haven't yet done so to make an estimate of giving! Simply fill out and return the card in the self-addressed stamped envelope that was mailed to your home in December or contact our Financial Secretary, Jim Minisall, at jminisall@holytrinityakron.org.

Thank you for your ongoing support of HTLC's mission of "Bringing Jesus to People Through Love and the Word of God"! †



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 January, DLM served the following ...



138 Families



227 Individuals



81 Children



Thank You Faith Lutheran!

DLM Food & Resources has been helping to provide food, personal care items and clothing to families in need for more than five years. The members of Faith Lutheran Church in Fairlawn have been an integral part of this program for many years. And we want to say 'Thanks!' for your ongoing support and active participation each and every month.

- Members come each month to help with the in-person shopping day by preparing and serving a meal, taking families around to select the food they need, sorting and organizing clothing donations, and helping families with their clothing needs.
- Members help deliver food boxes each month to families who are not able to come in person.
- Members help to organize and host special Christmas events where all the children visit with Santa and received gifts, provided activities along with refreshments. Several serve as Santa's elves.
- Members help sort and pack food boxes and personal care kits as well as help prepare everything for delivery.

Continued on page 9 ...







Pastor Jean delivers Mother's Day kits.

... continued from page 7

- They collect hats and gloves and donated Mother's Day kits.
- Faith Lutheran also financially supports DLM frequently.

"The members of Faith Lutheran are faithful servants with this vital ministry," comments DLM Director Darlene Katz. "They come each month with 15-20 members ready to do whatever needs to be done to help families. I am thankful for Pastor Jean and what the members of Faith Lutheran do for DLM ... being genuine people providing heartfelt service." †





*Above left:
The ribs were removed from the bellows box.*

*Above right:
With chisels, hot towels, and patience, the rubber cloth is removed.*

*At left:
The bellows are gone and main wind lines are closed off.*



New middle leather belts were glued to the Great bellows.



A fabricated cover protects the solid state panel.



Noah installs wooden protective covers over the wind line.

Organ Repairs



All rubber cloth was removed from Great bellows #1.



Loose rubber cloth (center, inside box)



New canvas was installed to the internal middle ribs of the Great bellows.



Great bellows under wind pressure following canvas and leather repair work.

Free Laundry Day a Grand Success!

No matter the places we go, we always meet such wonderful people! And this was the case at our annual Free Laundry Day event held January 16 on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at Holland's 24-Hour Laundromat. When we arrived before 10 a.m., several families were already there preparing to do their laundry at no cost to them. It was Holy Trinity's day to pay for the washing and drying of everyone's clothes and provide laundry supplies—detergent, fabric softener and dryer sheets—for those who needed them. And throughout the day, we met such wonderful people like ...

The woman who just happened to come in (with a bag of stuffed animals—pictured left) to learn to her surprise that it was Free laundry Day.

Ron who came to do his terminally ill daughter's laundry (pictured below right with Deacon Ruth Anderson).

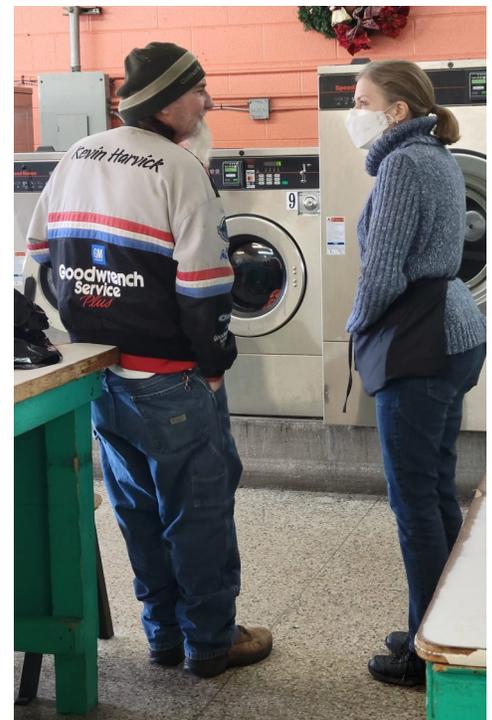
The family whose children attend Robinson CLC and had to borrow a friend's car to get to the laundromat.

Another family whose four boys attend Robinson CLC and who's expecting their 5th ... a girl!

The single mother of six children who didn't know how she was going to pay to wash her children's clothes this month.

The family who came all the way from Canton because they saw this event on the Laundromat's website.

And, there were many other wonderful people. At the end of the day, Holy Trinity contributed \$1,243.75 plus \$196 in laundry supplies to wash and dry nearly 700 loads of laundry. †



Pictured below: Sonya Nagle helps a woman start a washing machine.

Pictured right (from left): John and Ruth Stefanik and Gregg Loesch.



Picture on the Cover ... We had the pleasure of meeting Terrence at the Free Laundry Day event. We were able to pay for him to wash and dry 22 loads of laundry—it had been nearly a month since he last washed his clothes. He was there nearly the entire six hours of our event.



What a wonderful day of serving our neighbors at Holland's 24-Hour Laundromat!

Pictured from left: Lor Breyley, Jacquie Wert, and Marsha Asente help at the Free Laundry Day event on January 16.



Firestone CLC Career Expo

Deacon Ruth Anderson participated in Firestone CLC's Career Expo on January 11. She shared with interested students about her roles as a church musician and a concert series Artistic Director. In addition, visitors enjoyed talking about their own music experiences. Some played a few unusual percussion instruments that were at the table. †



Pictured left): Trinity choir members Hayley Phillips (top) and Hannah Miller play the drums during worship on January 15.



Pictured right): Deacon Ruth Anderson plays the piano during worship. Due to renovation and repair work on the organ, worship is being led by the piano until Palm Sunday, April 2.

Pictured right): Tom Gardner with Marissa Pezzoulo playing the Ukuleles.



Music Everywhere!

On a recent Sunday morning, folks who attended in person enjoyed not only hearing joyful music in the Sanctuary during worship from the piano played by Deacon Ruth Anderson and the drums played by Hayley Phillips and Hannah Miller, but also whimsical sounds in the Chapel Lounge during fellowship from Ukuleles played by Tom Baumgardner and Marissa Pezzoulo. †



Council Installed

The members of Council were installed by Pastor Becki on Sunday, January 8. **Pictured from left:** Gary Radanof; Valerie Clark, Secretary and acting Vice President; Frederica Cohen; and Linda Vowles.

The other members of Council include: John Guran, President; Lesli Eisenhart, Treasurer; and Bob Hoskins. Council will fill the open position recently vacated by Rick Kimble. †



Thank you to... Deacon Ruth Anderson, Joe Moxon and the members of Holy Trinity Choir for always lifting us up in music and worship each week! **Pictured above (from left):** Hannah Miller, Connie Archbold, Marshall Thomas, Deb Zudell-Dickey, Dottie Wise, Dick Willett, Hayley Phillips, Frederica Cohen, Diann Jenkins, Marissa Pezzoulo, Will Bowers, and Brad Crock. **Pictured below:** Deacon Ruth Anderson accompanied by Joe Moxon on drums, leads the choir in a festive song.





Congregational Meeting

Thank you to everyone who helped plan the Annual Congregational Meeting held January 22 in hybrid format. The meeting was led by interim Vice President Valerie Clark; Linda Vowles served as secretary. To recap:

The 2023 was presented by Treasurer Lesli Eisenhart. After much discussion, the congregation voted to reject the 2023 as presented. Instead, a vote was passed to approve the presented budget through the end of April 2023 with expenses and income being reviewed by the Finance Team and Council and reported back to the congregation. Monthly financial updates will be included in the newsletter.

Lorin Sickafoose presented several amendments to the Constitution. After some discussion, all amendments were passed.

It was shared that two nominations were made at the Church Council meeting January 17, 2023, to fill the open Council position recently vacated by Rick Kimble. In accordance with section C12.03 of the Constitution, the Church Council elected Jack Harig, by a majority vote, to fill the vacancy. For clarification, the members of the 2023 Council include: President John Guran, Vice President Linda Vowles, Secretary Valerie Clark, Treasurer Lesli Eisenhart, Frederica Cohen, Jack Harig, Bob Hoskins, Gary Radanof, and Pastor Becki. †

***Pictured at top:** Interim Vice President Valerie Clark leads the Annual Meeting. **Pictured middle:** Pastor Becki gives the opening prayer. **Pictured bottom:** View of the nest and the running of the Zoom meeting.*

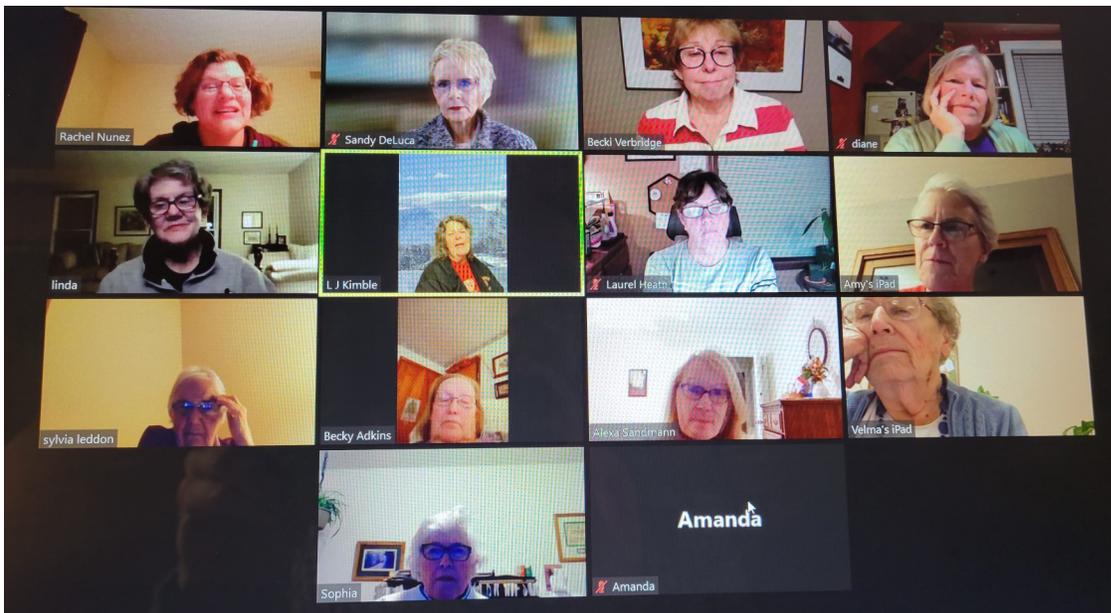


Where Two or More are Gathered

It doesn't matter if you gather in person or online, it's all about who you gather with and enjoying your time together!

Those who gathered for **Coffee & Conversations** January 18 (pictured top) enjoyed lively conversations around several tables. And those who gathered for **Monday Evening Study** January 16 (pictured bottom) enjoyed learning more about 12 Tiny Things to be more intentional. †

Pictured top (from left): Velma Pomrenke, Linda Vowles, Pastor Becki, Diane Chambers, Rachel Núñez, Deobrah Marks, Rich Williams, and Amy Indorf. **Pictured bottom (from top left):** Rachel Núñez, Sandy DeLuca, Pastor Becki, Diane Chambers, Linda Vowles, L J Kimble, Laurel Heath, Amy Indorf, Sylvia Leddon, Becky Adkins, Alexa Sandmann, Velma Pomrenke, Sophia Morton, and Amanda Archbold.



Hike & Seek in January?!

God's creation is beautiful anytime of year

Yes, this dedicated group of 'hikers and seekers' braved the chilly weather to gather for this monthly outing at the Ira Trail Head/Beaver Marsh in Peninsula.

Want to join this group? Wonderful!! The next Hike & Seek is Saturday, February 11, 9 a.m. at Munroe Falls Metro Park, Tallmadge Meadows Area. †

Pictured (from left): Diane chambers, Rich Williams, Amy Indorf, Jacinto Núñez and Joanne Aller; in the foreground is Rachel Núñez.



February Birthdays

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

February 3	Harriet Moxon
February 5	Andy Ethington
February 5	Kirk Johnson
February 5	Bryce Lakins
February 6	Laurel Heath
February 6	Ava Izenour
February 6	Rachel Núñez
February 7	Amelia Stefanik
February 9	Michelle Izenour
February 10	Bonita Boatright
February 11	Jacki Hancock
February 13	Logan Black
February 14	Harrison Lauf
February 17	Jennifer Keller
February 18	Susan Detwiler
February 18	Kristopher Jones
February 19	Sally Richenbacher
February 19	Mark Stefanik
February 22	Iva Johnson
February 23	Beverly Trevathan
February 26	Emma Seltzer
February 28	Amanda Archbold
February 28	Stefanie Sattely

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.



Altar Guild Officers Installed

A new year brings a new start to Altar Guild. At their January meeting, the group enjoyed a time of fellowship, discussed upcoming events and activities, and installed new officers. Congratulations to (pictured below from left): Vice President Carol Mason; President Deb Ickes; Treasurer Sophia Morton; and Secretary Donna Carroll. †

Pictured above (from left): Joan Amon, Sylvia Leddon, Pat McRowe, Joan Derrig, Pastor Becki, Sophia Morton, Gloria Woodford, Deb Ickes, Darcel Zuller, Joanne Aller, Carol Mason and Donna Carroll.



Worship Stewards

Date	Readers	Assisting Ministers
Sunday, February 5 9:30 a.m.	Linda Vowles	Rachel Núñez
Sunday, February 12 9:30 a.m.	Deb Ickes	Linda Vowles
Sunday, February 19 9:30 a.m.	Tom Baumgardner	Mike Ameling
Sunday, February 26 9:30 a.m.	Frederica Cohen	Rachel Núñez

ARTS @ HOLY TRINITY



**FREE
Concert!**

*This is our gift to
the community.*

Alice McAllister Tillman, soprano

with Maurice Draughn, pianist/harpist

Sunday, March 12, 4 p.m.

Alice McAllister Tillman is known for her ability to perform a diverse range of literature spanning many genres. Her solo recitals include art songs, operatic arias, spirituals, musical theater and jazz. She is frequently engaged in oratorio and symphonic presentations. A long-standing member and now Artistic Director of the award-winning Brazeal Dennard Chorale, Tillman loves teaching K-post-graduate students. Maurice Draughn is an arranger and composer of music for the harp, voice and choir. He performs regularly in solo and chamber recitals.

This concert will be given in honor of Joan and Ted Lettvin, co-founders of PAA (Performing Artist Associates) of New England and PAA of the Great Lakes.

WATCH THE LIVE STREAM

artsholytrinity.org

ATTEND IN-PERSON

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Doors open 30 minutes prior. For details, visit artsholytrinity.org.

Funding for the 2022-2023 Arts @ Holy Trinity provided by



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ENRICHING LIVES SINCE 1955

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COUNCIL**



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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 - VACANT
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 - VACANT
Parish Nurse Ministry - Sally Richenbacher
Prayer Chain - Sally Richenbacher/Wanda Clark
Renaissance Team - Bob Keener
Readers - Nan Riemenschneider
Robinson CLC - Sandy DeLuca
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
Welcome—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

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