

HIGHLIGHTS

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE *of* HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fourth Quarter 2025

Family & Friends Sunday

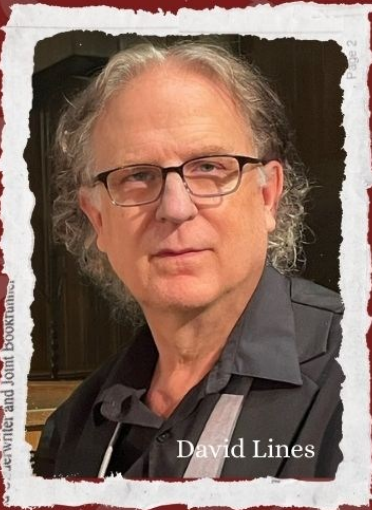
A celebration of faith, fellowship and unity

See article and photos on pages 18 & 19; photos by Dave Vowles

ARTS @ HOLY TRINITY

2025-2026 Concert Series

join us for our 42nd season of showcasing local and talented musicians for you! All concerts are free and open to the entire community. Come and enjoy!



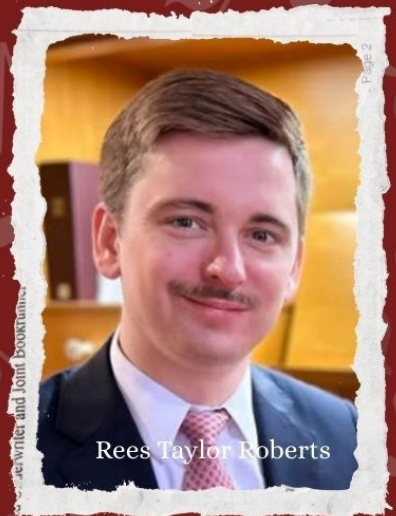
David Lines

Sunday, October 5, 4 p.m. **Organ Plus**

University of Akron instrumentalists will join musical forces with organist David Lines to present a varied concert of duets, trios, and more. The magnificent Berghaus organ will be heard in combination with orchestral instruments in a wide range of levels and moods.

Sunday, February 15, 4 p.m. **Organist Rees Taylor Roberts**

Organist Rees Taylor Roberts offers Chiaroscuro, a concert meditating on the interplay of light and shadow. The program features works by canonic composers like Bach, Messiaen, Buxtehude, and Demessieux, alongside music of living composers Richard Webster and Kristina Arakelyan, and the late Akron-based composer Stephen Griebing.



Rees Taylor Roberts



Stow Heritage Ringers

Sunday, May 3, 4 p.m. **Stow Heritage Ringers**

Stow Heritage Ringers Inc. has been entertaining audiences for nearly 30 years. The ensemble aims to educate audiences about the art of English Handbell ringing while sharing the versatility and artistry of this unique instrument. The group performs with 6-octaves of Malmark Handbells, 7-octaves of Malmark ChoirChimes, and 3-octaves of Schulmerich Silver Melody Bells.

Doors open 30 minutes prior. All concerts are held at

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

50 N. Prospect Street, Akron, Ohio 44304

(330) 376-5154 | artsholytrinity.org



Loving Others Like Jesus

“Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” — John 13:34 (NIV)

What does it mean to love others the way Jesus loves us? It’s more than just being kind—it’s a radical, sacrificial, and active love that reflects God’s heart. Here’s how we can live that kind of love:

✿ Love Sacrificially

Jesus gave everything for us—including His life. To love like Jesus means giving of ourselves—our time, comfort, attention, and even our pride—for the good of others.

✿ Love Unconditionally

Jesus loved people before they ever “got it right.” He loved Peter after the denial, the thief on the cross, and the woman caught in sin. We are called to love even when others don’t meet our expectations.

✿ Love with Grace and Truth

Jesus balanced grace and truth perfectly (John 1:14). We’re called to speak truth lovingly—not to wound, but to restore. Grace makes truth bearable, and truth makes grace powerful.

✿ Love the Least and the Lost

Jesus went after the outcasts, the poor, the sick, and the sinners. To love like Him means we don’t play favorites. We reach out to those who are overlooked, hurting, or rejected.

✿ Love Through Action

Love is more than words. **“Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” — 1 John 3:18**
True love is expressed in serving, giving, listening, and showing up—even in small ways.

✿ Love When It’s Hard

Jesus loved through betrayal, rejection, and pain. To love like Him means choosing to forgive, stay patient, and keep loving—even when it’s uncomfortable or inconvenient.

✿ A Lifestyle of Love

Loving others like Jesus isn’t just something we do—it’s who we become. When we live this way, people see Jesus in us. **“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” — John 13:35 †**

**HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESENTS A
SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE CELEBRATING THE**

Advent & Christmas Seasons

Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room!

Sunday, December 14, 4 p.m.

Free Admission - Free Parking - Freewill Offering
Join us for a Festive Reception following the service
Doors open 30 minutes prior

Experience the joy of congregational song as we lift our voices together.
The service will feature music and scripture readings that guide us
through the birth of our Savior. Music includes congregational hymns
enhanced by special music from our Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, and Organ.

Join us, following the service, for a festive reception of seasonal cookies and
punch in the Chapel Lounge hosted by the Worship & Music Ministry Team.



**HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Praising. Loving. Serving in Jesus' name.



Holiday Office Hours

Church Office Schedule During the Holidays

As a reminder, the church office is open each week, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and closed on Friday. With the upcoming holiday season, below is when the church office will be closed.

- For Thanksgiving
 - Wednesday, November 26
 - Thursday, November 27
 - Friday, November 28
- For Christmas
 - Wednesday, December 24
 - Thursday, December 25
 - Friday, December 26
- For New Year's
 - Wednesday, December 31
 - Thursday, January 1
 - Friday, January 2



Christmas Eve at Holy Trinity

Wednesday, December 24

Prelude at 6:45 p.m. featuring
Bell Choir and Organ

Service of Word and Sacrament at 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve at Holy Trinity has been long considered one of the most beautiful worship experiences of the year. This year, a prelude with special music provided by the Bell Choir and organ will begin at 6:45 p.m. The Service of Word and Sacrament - including many of our most beloved carols, a children's message, and candle lighting - will begin at 7 p.m. Plan now to worship with us this most holy night of the year! †



The Season of Advent begins November 30 and continues through December 23. It is a time of anticipation and preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ. Advent is also a time to believe that all things are possible with God, and that the story of Advent leads to the hope of Christ's return.

We are celebrating the Season of Advent, and you are invited to join us and bring a friend along!

Advent Mid-Week: Gyro Lunch & Devotions

Thursday, December 4, 11, & 18 @ 11:30 a.m.

NEW LOCATION- Greek Anunciation Orthodox Church, 129 S. Union Street, Akron

If you have questions, contact Rachel Núñez at rnunez@holytrinityakron.org or at (330) 634-6597. †

How Do We Faithfully Use the Time We've Been Given?

Time is one of life's most precious and limited resources. Every person, regardless of age, background, or wealth, is given the same 24 hours in a day. But how we choose to use those hours—how we steward the time we've been given—reveals our values, priorities, and understanding of purpose. Faithfully using our time doesn't mean constant busyness or rigid productivity. It means living intentionally, with wisdom, integrity, and an eternal perspective.

1. Recognize That Time Is a Gift. We often speak of “spending” time, but perhaps a better word is “investing.” Time isn't something we own or can get back once it's gone. It's a gift—granted moment by moment. For people of faith, this gift comes from God, and with it comes the responsibility to steward it wisely.

Psalms 90:12 says, “Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” Recognizing the brevity of life helps us value each day, not in fear, but in faith. Every day holds potential for love, growth, service, and worship.

2. Live With Purpose, Not Just Productivity. In a culture that often equates worth with output, it's easy to get caught up in doing more rather than doing what matters. Faithful time management isn't just about full calendars and checked-off to-do lists. It's about aligning our daily actions with our deeper calling.

Ask yourself: What has God placed in front of me today? Where can I show love, offer help, or be present? Sometimes the most faithful use of time isn't crossing off tasks but stopping to listen to someone who needs you.

3. Prioritize What Matters Most. Time reveals what we truly value. If we say our relationships, health, or faith are important, but never make time for them, we're living out of sync with our convictions. Faithful time use calls us to reevaluate our priorities and adjust our schedules accordingly.

This may mean setting boundaries with work, saying “no” to certain commitments, or carving out space for rest and reflection. Jesus Himself often withdrew to quiet places to pray—reminding us that time spent in silence and solitude is not wasted, but essential.

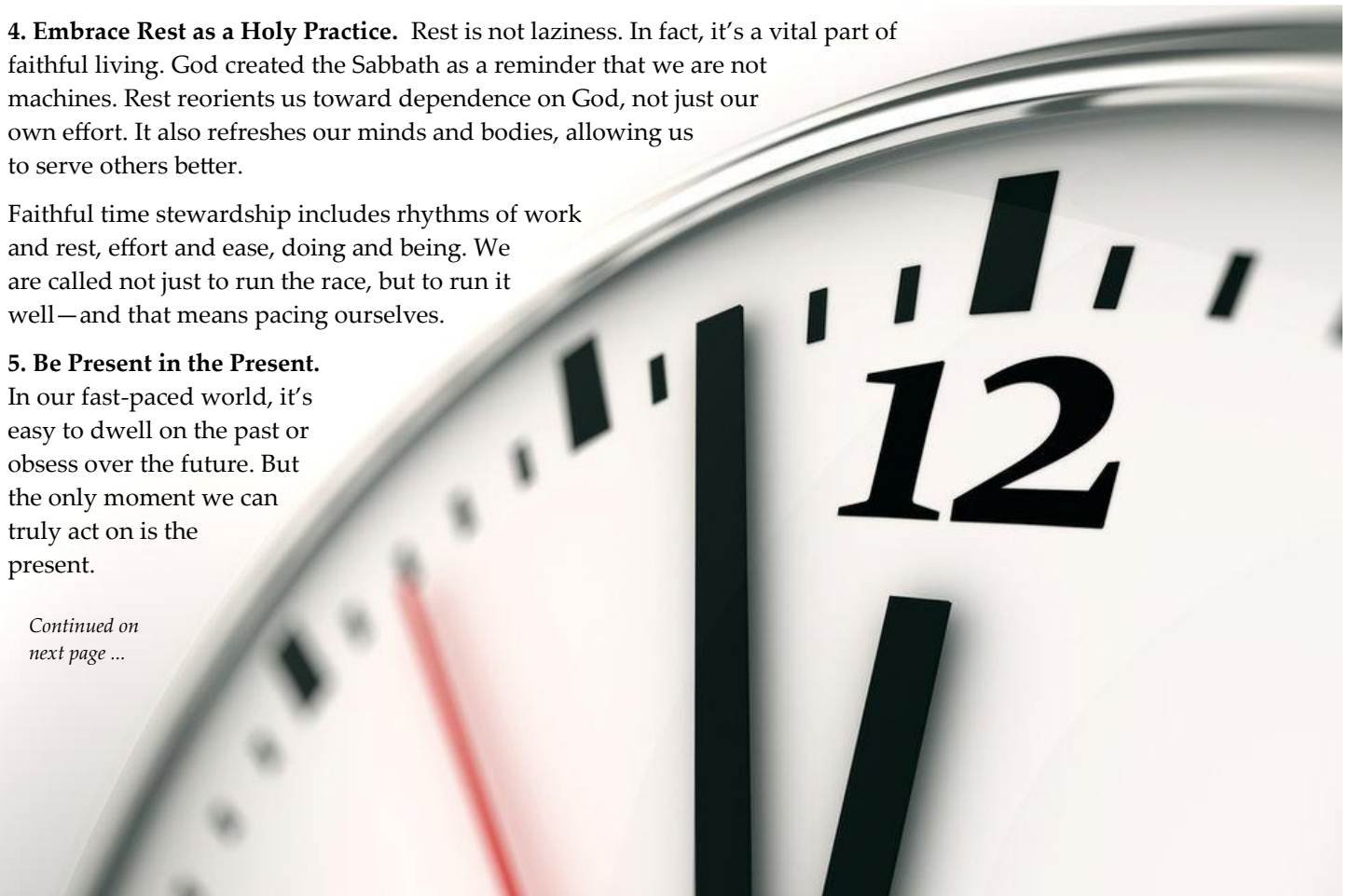
4. Embrace Rest as a Holy Practice. Rest is not laziness. In fact, it's a vital part of faithful living. God created the Sabbath as a reminder that we are not machines. Rest reorients us toward dependence on God, not just our own effort. It also refreshes our minds and bodies, allowing us to serve others better.

Faithful time stewardship includes rhythms of work and rest, effort and ease, doing and being. We are called not just to run the race, but to run it well—and that means pacing ourselves.

5. Be Present in the Present.

In our fast-paced world, it's easy to dwell on the past or obsess over the future. But the only moment we can truly act on is the present.

*Continued on
next page ...*



Love OFFERING

You certainly have lots of love to give!!

Thank you for your generous giving to the Love Offerings!

- In June, you give \$947 to help provide **teacher supplies for Rimer Community Learning Center.**
- In July, you gave \$523 to support the **God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday activities.**
- In August, you gave \$730 to support **Trails N' Rails event hosted by South Street Ministries.**

We don't yet have the figures, but the **September Love Offering** supported **Habitat for Humanity of Summit County.** And, looking ahead ...

- October Love Offering—Family Promise
- November Love Offering—DLM Food & Resources
- December Love Offering—ELCA Good Gifts Program

With your generous support of these Love Offerings, we are able to provide even more support to our neighbors – those in the community who benefit from these various groups and ministries. Thank you!! †

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Being present means giving full attention to the people and tasks before us. It means resisting distraction and embracing the sacredness of now.

Faithfulness isn't just about what we do in big moments—it's about how we show up in everyday ones. Washing dishes, sharing a meal, or taking a walk can all be holy acts when done with presence and gratitude.

6. Let Eternal Perspective Shape Daily Choices.

Ultimately, faithfully using our time means living with eternity in view. What we do today echoes beyond the moment. A kind word, a selfless act, a time of prayer—these are seeds planted in time that bear fruit in eternity.

When we live for more than just ourselves or our comfort, we begin to see time not as something slipping away, but as something being redeemed.

Conclusion

To faithfully use the time we've been given is to live intentionally, love deeply, rest wisely, and act purposefully. It's not about doing everything—it's about doing the right things in the right spirit. Whether our days are long or few, the goal is the same: to live in such a way that when the time comes to look back, we see a life well-lived—not because we filled every moment, but because we were faithful in the moments we had. †



Donate Boxes of Cereal for DLM ONGOING COLLECTION!

Bring your boxes of cereal to Holy Trinity and place them in the Chapel Lounge.



Pictured (from l): Frederica Cohen, Ruth and John Stefanik, Darcel Zuller, Gregg Loesch and Sandy DeLuca.

Loads of Love Laundry Ministry

What a blessing the Loads of Love Laundry Ministry has been for families!

On the fourth Wednesday of each month, Holy Trinity is at Holland's 24-Hour Laundromat on S. Arlington Street in Akron, 5-7 p.m. and we pay for the washing and drying of people's clothing and bedding and provide the laundry supplies for those who need it.

Since launching this new ministry in May, we have paid \$3,227 to wash 732 single loads of laundry for more than 200 people. We have ministered to folks, we have prayed with them, and they have even prayed for us!

And, we have a following! There are several folks who come each month, because their month is more than the funds they have available, and our Loads of Love events help a lot. Here are a couple of stories showing the impact this ministry is making.

There was a mom (with her friend helping) who had to wash and dry every piece of clothing, all towels, and bedding for her family of 7 because of a fire in their home. That amounted to 15 large capacity washers that cost \$10.75 each plus the cost for the dryers. Everyone in her family is alright, and they are in the midst of finding housing. This mom shared with me that a friend told her about the Loads of Love Laundry event, and she began to cry. She had no idea how she was going to afford to wash and dry all their belongings.

There was another mom who heard about Loads of Love ... this was her first time coming. She continuously thanked us for hosting this event because it enabled her to wash and dry her children's clothing ... something she had not been able to afford to do for months. Her only option was to launder the clothes in the sink at home using a bar of soap.

We have met some wonderful people through this ministry ... people who we know by name and likewise, they know us. You are invited to come and serve at a Loads of Love Laundry Ministry event 5-7 p.m. at Holland's 24-Hour Laundromat ... there is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center. Come and share the love of Jesus with others ... it's an amazing experience! NOTE: The November and December events will be held a week earlier, November 19 and December 17. †



Dave Vowles started a dryer for a customer.



Above left (from l): From the September 24 Loads of Love event, Susan Detwiler, Frederica Cohen, Dan Detwiler, Gregg Loesch, Dave and Linda Vowles ad Darcel Zuller helped nearly 40 people wash and dry their laundry.

Below left: Sonya Nagle put quarters in to start a washing machine.

Below right: Linda Vowles started a washing machine for a customer.



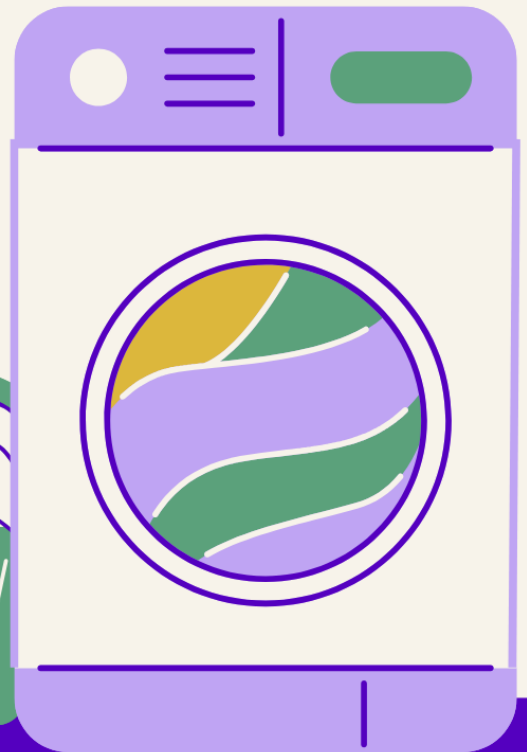
Diann Jenkins put quarters in to start the dryer.



LOADS OF LOVE FREE LAUNDRY

Last Wednesday
Each Month, 5–7 p.m.

hosted by
**Holy Trinity
Lutheran Church**



We provide:

- ✓ Quarters for the machines
- ✓ Laundry detergent
- ✓ Fabric softener
- ✓ Dryer Sheets

You bring the laundry!!

Holland's 24-Hour Laundromat

☎ +330-773-7165

📍 1506 S. Arlington St., Akron



**HOLY TRINITY
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God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday offered a morning of fun, fellowship, worship and service that focused on and benefitted DLM Food & Resources!

Worship was Service of the Word that included Jacquie Wert (*pictured top left*) who shared her experiences volunteering for DLM and a representative from Stark DD who also spoke. Rachel Núñez read the children's story "Maybe God Is Like That Too" based on the Fruits of the Spirit as well.

For the 'service' component of the morning, people brought in their donations of Home School Supply Kits and children's books, both of which were distributed at the September DLM opening. In addition, supplies were collected to assemble small hygiene kits. And, DLM President Darlene Katz (*pictured middle left*) and Executive Director of Operations Stefan Katz were present to provide information and answer questions. Everyone gathered for a luncheon afterwards. †

Pictured at bottom is a table full of the donated home school supply kits, children's books and personal care items for the hygiene kits.



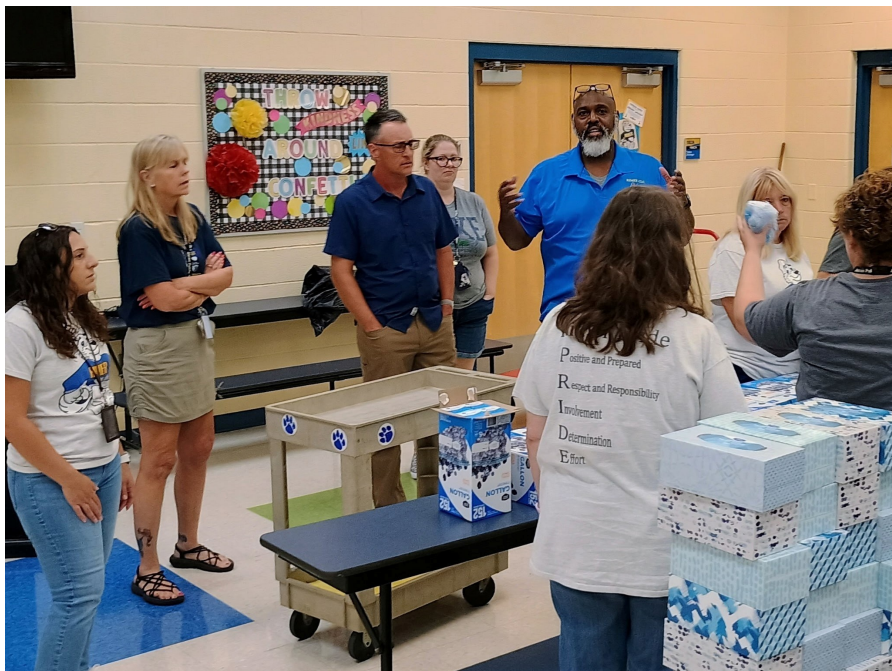


New Ministry Partner: Rimer CLC

Holy Trinity has hit the ground running in supporting Rimer Community Learning Center for the 2025-2026 school year. First up was **providing classroom supplies** for all the teachers and instructional staff. Holy Trinity members were joined by Rimer staff to pack all the supplies on August 17. The next day, everything was delivered to the school—thank you Bruce and Gary! This was the first year providing classroom supplies, and the teachers were overjoyed! Next was **Rimer's Open House** on August 19 where Holy Trinity members introduced themselves to the families as a new school partner and prepared and served a hot dog meal. Plus, items were donated to be used in the student and parent prize drawings. The latest activity was the **'Dads Take Your Children to School Day'** on September 18 where Holy Trinity members served complimentary donuts and coffee to the dads, father figures and parents in attendance. *See photos of all these activities on the next four pages.*

NEXT ACTIVITY: Halloween Spooktacular on October 30. Holy Trinity was one of 120 ELCA organizations that received a \$1000 grant for the Feast of Abundance Program to provide a community meal, and it's being served at this event! Volunteers are needed—sign-up at the Welcome Center. †





***Pictured above left:** Facilities Manager Bruce Mansour and Gary Radanof unloaded the bins and boxes of teacher supplies. **Pictured above:** Principal Anthony Lane spoke to the staff regarding the supplies. **Pictured at left:** Holy Trinity member and Rimer teacher Jennifer Hunter (right) with two of her colleagues. **Pictured below:** Most of the teachers and staff from Rimer CLC.*

***Pictured on previous page:** Holy Trinity members were joined by Rimer CLC staff on August 17 to pack all the teacher supplies; all of the filled boxes and bins were stacked in the hallway.*





Rimer CLC Open House

Holy Trinity, meet the Rimer families. Rimer families, meet Holy Trinity. It was the greatest of introductions! There were about 150-175 students and parents who attended the event on August 19. While there, everyone enjoyed a hot dog meal, popcorn and cotton candy provided by Holy Trinity along with vendors and door prizes. †



Dressed alike ... Linda Vowles and Gregg Loesch wear Holy Trinity well!

Pictured above (from left): Gregg Loesch, Linda Vowles and Dave Siemon busily prepared hot dogs at Rimer CLC's Open House.

Pictured at right: Dave Vowles and Becky Adkins served the hot dog meal to students and families.





Annual Father's Walk at Rimer CLC

Hundreds of dads and father figures participated in the annual 'Dads Take Your Children to School Day' on September 18. And, it was only fitting for Holy Trinity to be there with donuts and coffee in hand! There was a special selfie area set-up where all the students were photographed with their dads as well as a sign-up station for dads and parents to get more information from the school. And, the weather was absolutely perfect for this outdoor event! †



Pictured above (from l) and on this page: Dave Siemon, Marsha Asente, Linda Vowles, and Gregg Loesch. Not pictured: Sandy DeLuca.

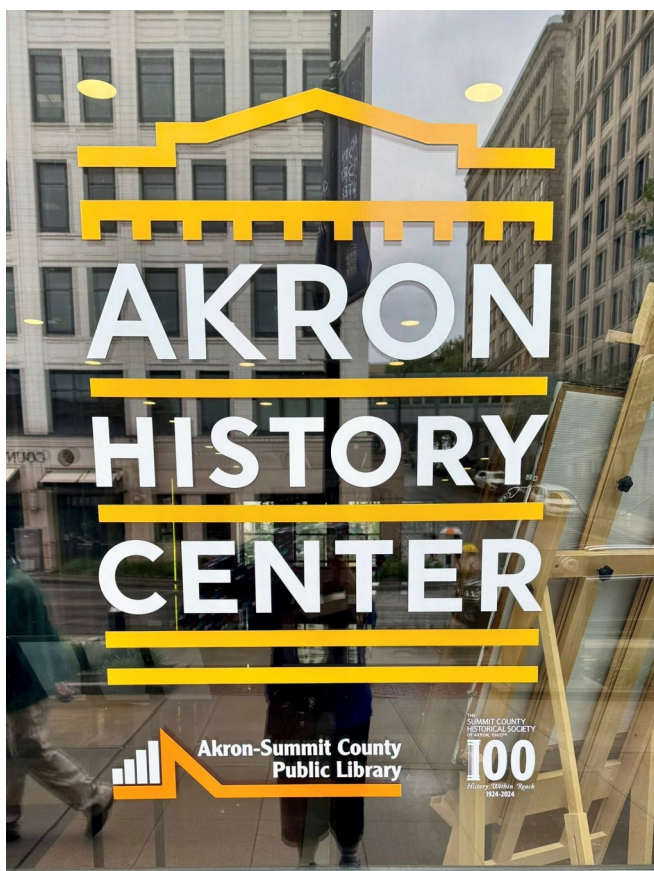


Field Trip!

Holy Trinity members went on a field trip to the new Akron History Center in downtown Akron on July 16. The Akron History Center is a new museum that opened in April 2025 to celebrate the city's 200-year history. The center offers free admission and features three floors of multimedia exhibits, including artifacts and videos about Akron's founding, the rubber and cereal industries, music history, innovation, and local figures. Afterwards, the group enjoyed lunch at The Lockview.

Pictured at top (from l): Tom Baumgardner, Joan Derrig, Amy Indorf, Susan and Dan Detwiler, John Stefanik, Sophia Morton and Deborah Marks.

If you missed this field trip, no worries! **Holy Trinity is heading to the Akron Art Museum on Thursday, October 16** followed by lunch at Spaghetti Warehouse. If you want to carpool, meet in the church parking lot at 10:45 a.m. Otherwise, plan to meet at the Akron Art Museum at 11 a.m. If you have questions, contact Rachel Núñez. †





Pictured above (from l): Susan Detwiler, Don Parsisson and Sylvia Leddon. Pictured above right: Folks looked at the history exhibits. Pictured below (from l): David Lines, Amy Indorf and Rich Williams. Pictured bottom right: Everyone enjoyed lunch at The Lockview.





^{2nd Annual} Family & Friends Sunday

Sunday, September 28



Family & Friends Sunday Service Brings Community Together

On Sunday, September 28, the congregation gathered for a heartwarming Family & Friends Sunday Service, a special event dedicated to celebrating faith, fellowship, and unity. Held in a spirit of love and togetherness, the service welcomed extended families, close friends, and newcomers alike into the church family.

The morning began with a joyful worship with a message, the final in the sermon series delivered by Pastor Becki, that centered on the 'WOW' prayer that can get you through tough times, everyday struggles, and ordinary life. The idea of community and the importance of nurturing relationships both within and outside the church walls was strongly felt.

After the service, everyone was invited to stay for a fellowship reception, where new friendships were formed and reconnections were made. And everyone enjoyed the musical entertainment provided by David Lines, Frederica Cohen, and Hayley Phillips.

The event was a reminder that the church is more than just a building—it's a family. Thank you to all who attended!! †





Pictured above (from l): Ruth and John Stefanik and Frederica Cohen prepared for the reception.

Picture right: Linda Vowles gave welcoming remarks.

Pictured below right: Folks helped themselves to refreshments. Pictured at bottom (from l): Hayley Phillips, Frederica Cohen and David Lines lead a sing-along at the reception.

Pictured on previous page, top photo: Pastor Becki shared announcements during worship. Pictured bottom left: People met and connected with one another.



Looking Ahead

Sunday, October 5, 4 p.m.

Arts @ Holy Trinity: Organ Plus
Sanctuary

Thursday, October 16, 11 a.m.

Holy Trinity Goes to the Akron Art Museum

To carpool, meet at the church at 10:45 a.m.
Lunch afterwards at Spaghetti Warehouse.

Sunday, October 19, 11 a.m.

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
Chapel Lounge

Sunday, October 26, 10 a.m.

Reformation Sunday

Wear red and help pack candy bags for Rimer's Halloween Spooktacular event.

Sunday, October 26, after worship

Holy Trinity Goes to Breakfast
Akron Family Restaurant, Akron

Wednesday, October 29, 5-7 p.m.

Loads of Love Laundry Event
Holland's 24-Hour Laundromat, Akron

Thursday, October 30, 3-5 p.m.

Halloween Spooktacular & Community Meal at Rimer CLC
2370 Manchester Road, Akron

Sunday, November 2, 10 a.m.

All Saints Sunday
Sanctuary

Sunday, November 16, 11 a.m.

Special Congregational Meeting
Chapel Lounge

Wednesday, November 19, 5-7 p.m.

Loads of Love Laundry Event
Holland's 24-Hour Laundromat, Akron

Sunday, November 23, after worship

Holy Trinity Goes to Breakfast
Akron Family Restaurant, Akron

Sunday, December 14, 4 p.m.

Special Worship Service to Celebrate the Advent & Christmas Seasons
Sanctuary

Wednesday, December 17, 5-7 p.m.

Loads of Love Laundry Event
Holland's 24-Hour Laundromat, Akron

NOTE: Holy Trinity Goes to Breakfast will not take place in December.

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Mission Statement:

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

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Church Groups

Altar Guild - Deborah Ickes
Archives - VACANT
Assisting Ministers—Rachel Núñez
Book Club - Diane Chambers
& Amy Indorf
Communion Assistants - Deborah Ickes
Memorial Garden - Sonya Nagle
Men's Bible Study - Tom Baumgardner
& Jack Harig
Readers - Nan Riemenschneider
Ushers - Gregg Loesch
Women's Bible Study - Rachel Núñez

2025 Ministry Teams Leads

Congregational Care & Connection
- Amanda Archbold
Finance - John Guran
Invite Welcome Connect - Sandy DeLuca
Outreach & Social Concerns - Gregg Loesch
Personnel - John Stefanik
Worship & Music - Frederica Cohen
Council Liaison - Alexa Sandmann

2025 Church Council

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Vice President, Alexa Sandmann
Secretary, Liz Anacki
Treasurer, John Guran
Frederica Cohen
Brad Crock
Deborah Ickes
Amy Indorf
Pastor Becki Verbridge

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Interim Pastor
Lay Minister, Rachel Núñez, Director
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Director of Music Ministry,
David Lines
Parish Secretary, Annmarie Demko
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