

HIGHLIGHTS

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE *of* HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2024



Free Laundry Day

*Music was provided by Hayley Phillips and enjoyed by all, especially this young girl!
Showing the love of Christ to others ... see photos on pages 12 & 13*

ARTS @ HOLY TRINITY

— 40th Anniversary —

**FREE
Concert!**

*Four decades of
bringing music to
the community.*

**Mardi Gras
Concert**



Dave Powers Trio

**Sunday
February 11
4 p.m.**

For over 44 years, two-time EMMY® Award winning composer and performer Dave Powers has been a vital part of the Columbus, Ohio and Punta Gorda, Florida music scene as a pianist, keyboardist, vocalist, entertainer and educator. Considered one of the most successful musicians in the Midwest, Dave manages to win over the hearts of all who hear him perform. We celebrate a fun, festive Mardi Gras with his jazz trio.

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 2023-2024 Arts @ Holy Trinity provided in part by



**HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

artsholytrinity.org



**Ohio Arts
COUNCIL**



What ... No Gold Stars?



“Be especially careful when you are trying to be good so that you don't make a performance out of it. It might be good theater, but the God who made you won't be applauding.” (Matthew 6:1 MSG)

One of the things I distinctly remember about first grade is a poster that hung in the front of the classroom with a list of rules on it: *Be quiet. Stay in your seat. Do not talk to your neighbor. Raise your hand. Do not run. Wash your hands after you go to the bathroom.* And so on. There was also a chart hanging next to it with the names of all the students in our class listed down one side and all the days in the grading period listed across the top. Our teacher made it clear: follow the rules on the poster and every day that you do, you will get a gold star next to your name. Earning gold stars became a competition of sorts.



Pastor Becki Verbridge

The church my family attended when I was in elementary school seemed to reinforce the whole notion of earning stars. There was a poster in our Sunday School room listing the Ten Commandments: *“Love God more than anything else. Don't make anything in your life more important than God. Always say God's name with respect. Go to church and rest on Sunday. Honor your mom and dad. Never hurt anyone. Always be faithful to your husband or wife. Don't take anything that isn't yours. Always tell the truth. Be happy with what you have.”* Ah ha! The Bible brought another opportunity to follow rules and earn gold stars!

My six-year-old understanding of following Jesus toppled, however, by the time I got to high school and came across what Jesus said in Matthew 6:1: *“Be especially careful when you are trying to be good so that you don't make a performance out of it. It might be good theater, but the God who made you won't be applauding.”* What? No gold stars from God for going to church, reading the Bible, following the commandments, or being nice to people? Then what was the point of faith?

Fortunately, I was surrounded by adults and other youth who helped me understand that what God wanted most was to be in real relationship with me: a heart-to-heart, spirit-to-spirit, relationship. I ended up learning that the point of worship and prayer and bible reading is not to earn heavenly stars but to stay connected to the God who loves us. I ended up learning sin is not so much the breaking of a rule as it is moving out of a relationship with God. I ended up learning that following the Ten Commandments and The Great Commandment was not to avoid eternal punishment, but to live God's dream for all of us.

The Season of Lent is a wonderful opportunity for us to intentionally spend time thinking deeply about our faith. Who are we? Why are we here? Why do we do what we do? What does God want from us? How can we deepen our relationship with God?

Join us at Holy Trinity this Lent as we explore these questions and more! †

Blessings!
Pastor Becki



It's GS Cookie Time!

Katie Archbold, Girl Scout Troop 91442, is once again selling Girl Scout cookies to benefit DLM.



Please use this link to order online -
<https://digitalcookie.girlscouts.org/scout/katie372232>

For DLM donation, please choose “girl delivery” option and let Katie know what part of your order is for DLM. (Boxes donated via this link will go directly to the military.). To pay via cash or check, please contact Katie through her mom Amanda at (330) 322-6554 or by email at Amanda.s.archbold@gmail.com and let her know your order.

Orders are due by February 3rd, so if sending payment via mail, please contact Katie to let her know it's coming so your order can be placed on time.

Thanks for your support of DLM, of Katie and the local Girl Scout troop! †



David Lines Named Interim Organist

The Worship & Music Committee is pleased to announce that David Lines will serve as Interim Organist at Holy Trinity beginning mid-February. David is in the process of relocating to the Akron area. He currently holds the following positions in Redlands, California: Organist at First Presbyterian Church, Staff Pianist for the University of Redlands, Choir Accompanist for the Redlands Unified School District, Artist Teacher of Piano at the Community School of Music & Arts, and Art Teacher for the Redlands Art Association. David earned a BM in Music Performance at Brigham Young University in Utah and studied towards a Master's in Music Performance at Notre Dame in Indiana. He has served as organist in various mainline Protestant churches over the course of his career, including: Presbyterian, Lutheran, and United Methodist. We welcome David as he joins Holy Trinity's staff! †



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. This year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 14. There will be two opportunities for members of our congregation to worship: a Service of Ashes will be held at Holy Trinity at 12:00 (noon) and a Service of Ashes and Holy Communion will be held at 7:00 pm at St. Luke's Lutheran Church (2121 6th Street, Cuyahoga Falls) featuring Holy Trinity's Chancel Choir. Pastor Becki will be preach at both services and Pastor Jim Steingass will preside at the evening service. Plan now to join us at one or both services as we begin the journey to Easter! †



Our sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Dave Erickson at his death on January 21, 2024. †



Arts @ Holy Trinity celebrates its 40th Anniversary

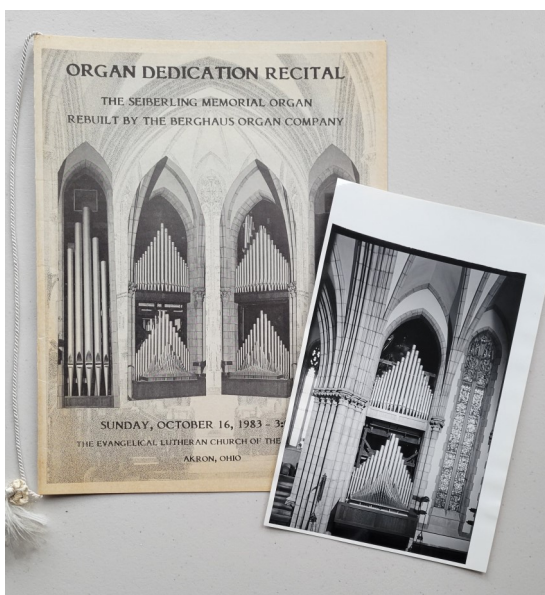
For four decades, Arts @ Holy Trinity has presented a wide range of musical styles and talents, attracting nationally and internationally renowned, award-winning, and award-nominated performing artists. In the past seven seasons, Arts @ Holy Trinity has provided learning opportunities that inspire, captivate, and transform students of all ages.

To commemorate this milestone, we are hosting a few **Special Anniversary Events** throughout the concert season. Join us in celebrating 40 years of Arts @ Holy Trinity as we make a difference in your life and transport the lives around you to new heights. †

'40 Years of Music' Exhibition

On display now through June 2024 in the Chapel Lounge

View photographs, programs, and other historic items showcasing amazing organ and instrumental music that has been enjoyed by audiences for 40 years. †



One of the items featured in the '40 Years of Music' exhibition is this program from the very first concert, titled Organ Dedication Recital, held Sunday, October 16, 1983. Be sure to stop by the Chapel Lounge to view this special exhibit!



Sponsor
a Pipe
Fundraiser

Sponsor A Pipe Fundraiser

As you know, Arts @ Holy Trinity is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this concert season. Our 4,551-pipe organ has been the focal instrument for most of the concerts. In celebration of this milestone, we are hosting a **Sponsor-A-Pipe Fundraiser**, and you are all invited to support this effort!!

Your gifts will help ensure this magnificent instrument continues to inspire and uplift both audiences and organists for another 40+ years. **Stop by the Sponsor A Pipe table in the Welcome Center lobby any Sunday after worship to make your donation ...**

\$40 per pipe

\$480 per octave

Cash, check, and credit card accepted. All donors will be recognized in the concert programs throughout the season.

You may also give securely online by visiting artsholytrinity.org. Checks made payable to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church can be mailed to the church. Please note 'Sponsor a Pipe' in the memo line. **Our goal is sponsor all 4,551 pipes. Thank you to those who have sponsored 564 pipes thus far!!**

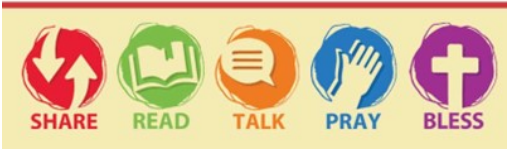
All donations received will support the ongoing maintenance of the organ. Thank you for your generous support! †

FAITH FORMATION



Faith5 Fridays @ 9 a.m. via Zoom

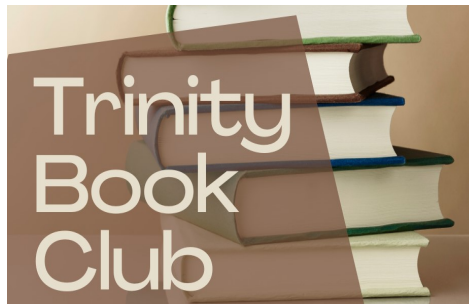
We check-in with each other and **SHARE** our prayer concerns, **READ** a scripture passage or poem, **TALK** about it and how we can apply it to our lives, **PRAY** for our concerns, each other, and Holy Trinity, and end our time with a **BLESSING** for the day ahead. Our time together lasts between 20-30 minutes. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with people as we encourage one another and pray together! Because it is a Zoom meeting, you can invite friends and family that live locally or out of the area. All are welcome! For Zoom information, contact Rachel Nunez at rnunez@holytrinityakron.org or call/text (330) 634-6597. †



Saturday, February 17, 8:30 a.m.

Main Office Meeting Area, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Bring a friend and enjoy time together as we study, talk, and pray! Donuts and coffee provided. Tom Baumgardner & Jack Harig serve as facilitators. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at (330) 376-5154. †



Sunday, February 18, around 11 a.m. after worship in Room 202

We will be discussing *The Winter of Our Discontent* by John Steinbeck. All are invited to join us for the discussion. Please contact Diane Chambers or Amy Indorf with any questions. Bring a snack or grab a coffee hour treat and join us for a lively discussion. Contact Amy Indorf or Diane Chambers with questions. †



Holy Trinity Goes to Breakfast Sunday, February 25, following worship

We are heading back to one of our favorite places, Akron Family Restaurant, 250 W. Market Street, Akron! Join us as we gather in the back-meeting room for a time of food & fellowship! There is plenty of room, so **INVITE** a friend to come along! †



Morning Devotions

Join us each Thursday at 9 a.m. via Facebook LIVE for Morning Devotions. It is a time for us to gather and listen, learn, and focus on God and what He has in store for our lives. †

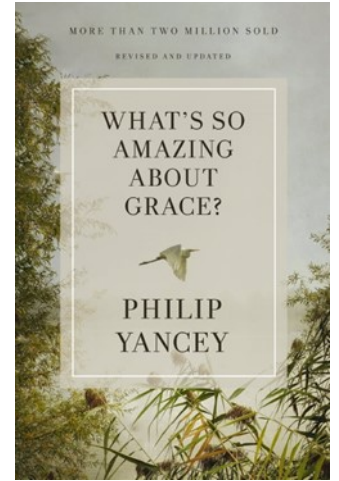


Hike & Seek will resume Saturday, March 9. Look for details in the next issue of the Highlights. †

Women's Bible Study

Saturday, February 17 @ 9 a.m.

All women are invited!! We will gather at the church in Room 202 @ 9 a.m. for a light breakfast followed by study based on the book, *What's So Amazing About Grace?* by Philip Yancey. Millions of lives have been changed by award-winning author Philip Yancey's poignant exploration of grace at street level. In this revised and updated edition of his classic book, Yancey offers true portraits of grace's life-changing power. These stories, set in the midst of life's stark realities, evoke such questions as:



- If grace is God's love for the underserving, then what does it look like in action?
- How well are we dispensing grace to a world that knows far more of strife and unforgiveness than it does of mercy?
- Can grace make a difference amid personal conflict or even global atrocities? How can it withstand the brutality of hate?

With powerful stories, rich theology, and practical suggestions, Yancey challenges us to become living answers to a world that desperately needs to know, *What's So Amazing About Grace?* Join us for a time of fellowship and lively discussion!

Books are available in the church office. The cost is \$10. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Núñez, Director of Faith Formation, at (330) 634-6597 or by email at rnunez@holytrinityakron.org. †

Sunday LIFT

(Living In Faith Together)

Sunday, February 4

following worship in the Scharf Library

Thoughts about the Season of Lent & Easter



The Lenten Season begins this month. What is Lent? How does it fit into the liturgical calendar we follow? Why is it important? How does it shape and form us as we approach Easter Sunday and the Easter Season? Join us as we ponder these and other questions and discover resources available to us during this holy season. †

Have a Beautiful, Terrible Lent!

Lenten Mid-Week Devotions & Lunch

Wednesdays @ 11:30 a.m.

Beginning Wednesday, February 21 through Wednesday, March 27, we will gather for devotions and a meal together in Room 202. This year we will be meditating and discussing selections from *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Lent!* by Kate Bowler.

Lent marks the forty days leading up to Jesus' execution and surprising return to life three days later. It is a practice that began during the fourth century as a way to prepare Christians for the holiest, hardest days of our story.

During Lent, we ask God to show us the world as it is. We begin on Ash Wednesday with the reality of our finitude rubbed on our foreheads – from dust we were made, to dust we shall return. Then, we walk through that reality in a kind of dress rehearsal. It is the downward slope of God – the Great Descent. The whole church must descend to the depths with their savior. Frankly, Lent is my favorite part of the church calendar. Suddenly, all of us are on the losing team. And we look at each other with well-earned wonder, horror, and awe. We begin to tell each other the truth again: life is so beautiful and life is so hard. For everyone.

Of course, the cross isn't the end of the story. But this season of grief is carved out to acknowledge the reality of Jesus' sacrifice. Our savior knew pain and grief and despair, and so do we. Easter is coming, yes. But for now, we sit in the ashes of our broken dreams and broken hearts, knowing that God sits here with us.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Rachel Núñez, Director of Faith Formation, rnunez@holyltrinityakron.org or call/text (330) 634-6597. +

New LIFT Opportunity in March!

Second Sundays, 4 – 6 p.m. in the Chapel Lounge

Join us for a time of informal worship, storytelling, and a meal together!

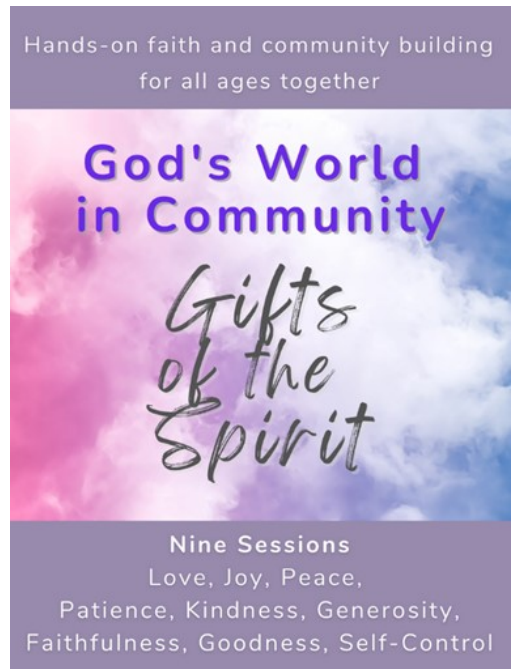
Hands-on faith and community building for ALL AGES!

Our theme for 2024 is *God's World in Community: Gifts of the Spirit*

March 10	Love, Mark 12: 29-31
April 14	Joy, Matthew 5: 11-12
May 12	Peace, Romans 5: 1 & Matthew 5: 9
June 9	Patience, Ephesians 4: 2
July 14	Kindness, 2 Timothy 2: 24
August 11	Generosity, 2 Corinthians 9: 11
September 8	Faithfulness, Philippians 1: 27
October 13	Gentleness, Philippians 4: 5
November 10	Self-Control, 2 Timothy 1: 7

Our time together will take place in the Chapel Lounge and includes Holy Communion!

This is a wonderful opportunity to INVITE a friend or family member, WELCOME them to our faith community, and CONNECT them to Jesus through love and the word of God.



If you have questions or need additional information, contact Rachel Núñez, Director of Faith Formation, at (330) 634-6597 or by email at rnunez@holytrinityakron.org. †



Women's Lenten Retreat

Saturday, March 16

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Includes continental breakfast and lunch.

Cost is \$10 per person.

More details will be forthcoming. †

DLM by the Numbers

DLM Food & Resources provides 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.

DLM served the following during January ...



149 Families



500 Individuals



260 Children



DLM

FOOD AND RESOURCES

Partnership with Summit DD

Meet Shelby and Michael. Both are from Summit DD and are long-time volunteers with DLM Food & Resources. Shelby (*pictured below, top photo*) has been volunteering for nearly a year, and Michael (*pictured below, bottom photo*) has been helping for about two years. Both come each Tuesday to help with a variety of projects and tasks. Michael helps to maintain the hygiene room by sorting and organizing items as they are received. He also assembles boxes so they are ready to be packed with food and non-perishables. Shelby helps in the Clothing Room with sorting clothes, putting items on hangers and restocking the racks. And when kits need to be packed, they are both at the ready! We are thankful for their hard work each week and for wanting to make a difference. †





Easter Lilies

Easter is coming soon, so it's time to reserve your Easter Lily!!

Lilies are \$20 each.

To order you can fill in the information below and mail to:

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
50 North Prospect Street
Akron Ohio 44304

Name _____

Number of Lilies _____

Dedication _____

Dedications will be published in the bulletin. You can place your check in one of the blue envelopes under the flower chart in the lobby and mark Easter Lily. Be sure to provide your name, number of Lilies and dedication on the envelope.

Deadline is March 24.

If any questions, contact Deb Ickes at 678-353-7444.

Thank you for your generosity!! †



Holy Trinity Attended Akron Roundtable

To hear guest speaker City of Akron Mayor Shammus Malik

Holy Trinity members and staff attended the Akron Roundtable on January 30 where City of Akron Mayor Shammus Malik was the guest speaker. He spoke about his first 30 days in office, his economic and development plans for downtown and the neighborhoods, the qualities for the next police chief, his newly appointed Cabinet among other topics. †

***Pictured top (standing from left):** Diane Chambers, Don Parsisson and Rachel Núñez. **Seated (from left):** Stefan and Darlene Katz, Sandy DeLuca, John Guran and Velma Pomrenke.*

***Pictured right:** Velma Pomrenke poses with Mayor Malik.*



The 2024 Altar Flowers giving chart is posted on the wall as you enter the Sanctuary. Please take a moment to select your date. Envelopes are provided in the tray below with space for you to provide your dedication for the bulletin. Please fill in the information requested on the envelope and turn it into the office with your payment. We request a \$60 contribution.

The Altar Guild thanks everyone who helps adorn the Chancel for worship.

If you have a question, please contact Debbie Ickes 678-353-7444. †

FREE LAUNDRY DAY

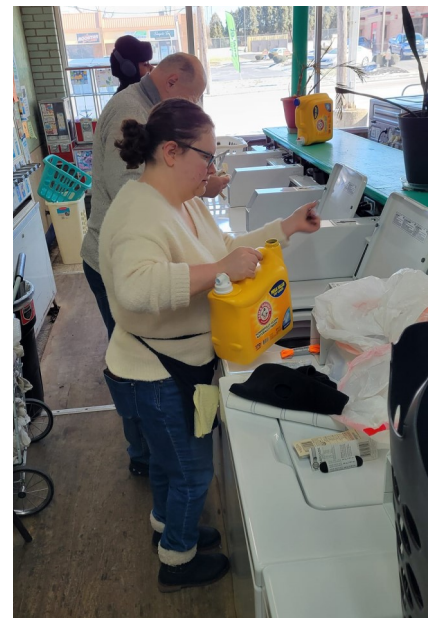
What an incredible day of service!! It was our annual Free Laundry Day held January 15 on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. We arrived at Holland's 24-Hour Laundromat to find more than 20 customers waiting to start their laundry. At 10 a.m., every washer was filled - top-loaders and front-loaders - and Holy Trinity folks quickly added detergent and started them up. And when the washers were done, every dryer was filled. And that's what happened for the next seven hours ... every washer and every dryer was used non-stop. Scott Grieshammer, the Laundromat owner, shared that this was the busiest 7-hour period he has ever had at any of his laundromats. So how busy was it? Holy Trinity provided \$2,848 to wash and dry 1,425 single loads of laundry. It was truly amazing to serve others this way!! †



John Stefanik starts a washing machine for a customer.



Deborah Wissner helps a customer get her clothes out of a dryer.



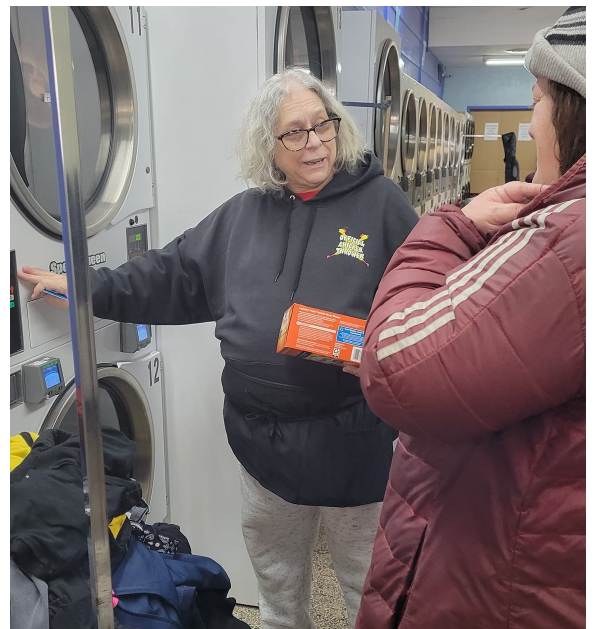
Hayley Phillips adds detergent to a load of laundry for a customer.



Pictured above (from l): Sandy DeLuca, Sonya Nagle, John Stefanik and Darcel Zuller.



Pictured above left: Marsha Asente helps a customer move a bag of laundry.



Pictured right: Darcel Zuller starts a dryer for a customer.

Pictured left: Gregg Loesch starts a washer for a customer.

Pictured bottom right: Sonya Nagle puts quarters into a washing machine.

Pictured bottom: The laundromat was crowded with customers.





Sunday LIFT (Living in Faith Together) is held the first Sunday of each month following worship in the Scharf Library. Pictured above is the gathering on January 7. Rachel Núñez led a discussion about how we can live out our baptism by following the five faith practices. †

Pictured (from left): Katie and Amanda Archbold, Rich Williams, Amy Indorf, Joan Derrig, Deborah Weisner and Doug Fidler.



Newly Baptized Member

We welcomed our newly baptized member, Bobby Shover on Sunday, January 7. He was joined by several family members and friends. †



Women's Bible Study on Zoom ... Not even a snow storm could keep this faithful group of women from gathering on January 20. Thank goodness for a virtual option! *Pictured from top left: Pastor Becki Verbridge, Sandy DeLuca, Connie Archbold, Velma Pomrenke, Valerie Clark, Linda Vowles, Amanda Archbold, Amy Indorf, and in the middle, Diane Chambers.* The group meets the 3rd Sunday of each month ... join us!! †



Annual Congregational Meeting

More than 60 members attended the hybrid Annual Congregational Meeting held January 28. Council President John Guran opened the meeting and recognized those former Pastors who are still living and thanked those who assist with the live stream along with the Pastor, choir members, readers, musicians, and service assistants.

On behalf of the Budget Committee, chaired by Jack Harig, John presented the 2024 budget. After much discussion, the vote was tabled so the congregation could discuss the 2023 budget deficit. A motion for a one-time special transfer of \$53,827 from the Extraordinary Building Fund to cover the deficit was made and approved. The tabled motion to vote on the 2024 budget was brought back to the floor and passed.

During Open Forum, a motion was made and passed to form an Audit Team, to be chaired by David Vowles, to review the church's finances and report back to the congregation at the Semi-Annual Meeting in October. †

Worship Stewards

Date	Readers	Assisting Ministers
Sunday, February 4 9:30 a.m.	John Stefanik	Linda Vowles
Sunday, February 11 9:30 a.m.	Bob Nagle	Frederica Cohen
Sunday, February 18 9:30 a.m.	Ann Lawson	Mike Ameling
Sunday, February 25 9:30 a.m.	Gregg Loesch	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 6 – Laurel Heath

February 6 – Ava Izenour

February 6 – Rachel Núñez

February 7 – Amelia Stefanik

February 9 – Michelle Izenour

February 9 – Abigail Mormino

February 10 – Bonitz Boatright

February 11 – Jacki Jancock

February 12 – Suzanne Mann

February 14 – Harrison Lauf

February 17 – Jennifer Keller

February 18 – Susan Detwiler

February 19 – Sally Richenbacher

February 19 – Mark Stefanik

February 22 – Iva Johnson

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.

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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 connect Jesus to people through love and the word of God.

Address & Phone:

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Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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Mailing: TTT's & Annmarie Demko

Groups & Activities

Altar Guild - Deborah Ickes
Archives - Ricki Ethington
Assisting Ministers—Rachel Núñez
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 - Stefan Katz
Ushers - Gregg Loesch
Warriors Journey Home - Jack Harig
Women's Bible Study - Rachel Núñez

2024 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
Council Liaison - Linda Vowles

2024 Church Council

President, John Guran
Vice President, Linda Vowles
Secretary, Valerie Clark
Treasurer, Lesli Eisenhart
Mike Ameling
Diane Chambers
Kevin Heckel
Amy Indorf
Pastor Becki Verbridge

Holy Trinity Staff

Interim Senior Pastor, Becki Verbridge
Director of Faith Formation, Rachel Núñez
Interim Organist, David Lines
Interim Director of Choirs, John Catlos
Parish Secretary, Annmarie Demko
Financial Secretary, Jim Minisall
Communications Coordinator,
Sandy DeLuca
DLM Food & Resources Director,
Darlene Katz
DLM Operations Manager
& Technology Production Coordinator,
Stefan Katz
Maintenance Coordinator, Bruce Mansour
Sexton, Vince Simmons