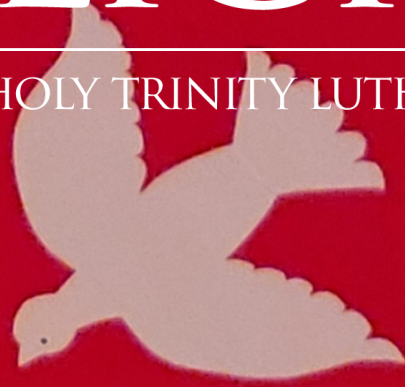


# HIGHLIGHTS

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE *of* HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

June 2023



**Come Holy Spirit**

**Acts 2: 1-12**

*Banner made by the Liturgical Arts Team*



## Table Talk Email Devotions and In-Person Gatherings Begin in June

An opportunity to get to know each other better and become equipped to share our faith stories. Rachel Núñez, Director of Faith Formation will be visiting & facilitating discussion at various meetings during the month.

You may also subscribe to receive the weekly email at <https://www.thewelcometable.co/subscribe>.

**You're welcome at the table.**

# In the beginning ...

The book of Genesis, the first book of the Bible, opens with one of the most famous sentences of any literary work: *"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."* It's where we find the stories of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and the ark, Abraham and Isaac, and Joseph with his coat of many colors.



*Pastor Becki Verbridge*

On its own, the book of Genesis reads like a string of epic stories: a semi-tragic saga of a world that just keeps going wrong, despite its Creator's intentions. However, Genesis isn't a stand-alone book. It is really all about setting the stage for the rest of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Hebrew scriptures), the prologue to Israel's beginnings as a nation. Even more, it's the story of the promises God made to humans; promises that God begins to carry out through the rest of the Bible.

In fact, if the main thrust of Genesis were summed up in one verse, it would be these words that God said to Abraham: *"I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you"* (Genesis 17:7).

The semi-continuous lectionary readings this summer will move through the book of Genesis, with a focus on the stories of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph. We usually learn their stories as children in Sunday School, but oftentimes set those stories to the side as adults. So, rather than using the gospel readings from the lectionary as the basis for sermons this summer, I want us to re-examine these foundational stories for what they have to say about who we are, whose we are, and why we are here.

This series of sermons - an *Ancestry.bible* of sorts - will begin on Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup>. I hope you will join us! †

*Pastor Becki*

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

The first four (4) months of the 2023 Financial reports have been revised to reflect the new budget approved at the Special April Congregational meeting. We want to say thank you to all of those that completed a pledge card and let you know that YTD pledges are up by 8%.

If you have not already done so, it's never too late to return your pledge card. We want to prayerfully encourage you to submit a pledge card at a level equal to or higher than last year if you are able.

Our total pledged income through April is \$91,849 against a budget of \$84,906. Combined with the Non pledges, rent and the monthly Budget Endowment distribution, the total YTD income is \$193,054 against a budget of \$204,933. Despite the total YTD income being down, our total expenses YTD are under at \$201,195 against a budget of \$201,377

Both of our endowments increased by a total of \$52,469.24 for the month of April, and over the next three months (May, June & July) Jim will withdraw 1/3 of the approved amount for the deficit from last year.

The next Finance team meeting is Monday, June 19 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom if you would like to join us. (Please email Lesli at [leisenhart@hotmail.com](mailto:leisenhart@hotmail.com) if you are interested). If you would like a copy of the financial reports, or the Church Council minutes, please contact AnnMarie Demko.

Blessings as we continue to navigate and move forward with bringing people to Jesus through love and the word of God! †

Peace in Christ, Lesli Eisenhart, Treasurer

# Stewardship

GIVE

SERVE

ATTEND

GROW

As members of the ELCA, specifically Holy Trinity, we believe that we are freed by Christ's resurrection to serve and love our neighbor. Our ongoing history of this outreach, in many ways, continues to be our legacy. Our church staff continue to provide us with meaningful ways to connect with each other and equip us for the work that we encounter each day in our community.

How we respond to God's call to serve and love our neighbors is up to us. We faithfully steward the gifts God has so abundantly given to us and while a financial response to God's love & stewardship encompasses so much more than money, it comes down to that.

Your giving is crucial to the operating budget at every level. From a weekly sermon to the mid- night social media posts announcing another way to volunteer each week and to the Faith formation activities that prepare our hearts for the work ahead, we cannot do it without your generosity.

As part of the 2024 budget process, the Finance Team is changing the time of year that we begin our stewardship campaign. We want to provide you with enough information and have some solid projections from the pledges we receive. These pledges would be reflected in the October Congregational church meeting Draft Budget presentation allowing for a better estimate of giving. This shift in the timeline would better enable us to budget for our mission and put us in a better financial projection as we prepare to search for a new pastor.

We are asking for all of you to prayerfully consider joining this year's Stewardship team and working with us as we prepare to launch this season of giving. Please contact Lesli Eisenhart directly if you are interested in this new opportunity. †

Lesli's email address is  
[leisenhart@hotmail.com](mailto:leisenhart@hotmail.com)





# Let's Celebrate!

Holy Trinity is big on celebrating milestone anniversaries and birthdays. And we just happen to have a few church family members with milestone celebrations!

**Ruth Hervol** is celebrating her 90th birthday this month! If you want to send a card (and we hope you do!), her address is 27380 Cook Road, Apt. # 117, Olmsted Township, Ohio, 44138. †



**Sally & Norm Richenbacher** are celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary this month! If

you would like to send a card (again, we hope you do!), their address is 98 Bard Road, Hudson, Ohio 44236. †

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



## July Sabbath

Bishop Laura Barbins is once again encouraging congregation in the Northeastern Ohio Synod to take a month-long summer sabbath. Although we would continue to gather on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. for worship, we would suspend routine council, committee, and ministry team meetings and gatherings. The church staff and office would continue regular schedules sans meetings. This will allow our congregation to focus on worship, in hope of creating space for the physical and spiritual replenishment needed for the new season of ministry that will begin in September. A daily devotional will once again be provided for all members to use in July to refresh, reflect, and replenish. More information will be included in the July edition of *Highlights*. †

**If You Have Symptoms of Illness**



Please do not attend in-person worship or church meetings if you have any symptoms of illness or someone in your home is ill. Two cases of Covid-19 among church family members this week have reminded us that it is still around. We always want to do what we can - in Jesus' name - to care for one another. Staying home when sick will help keep others well! Thank you! †

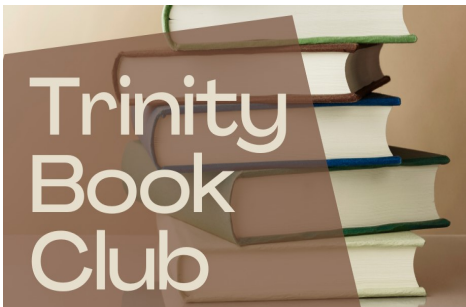
# FAITH FORMATION



## Weekly Check-In & Prayer

**Fridays @ 9 a.m. via Zoom**

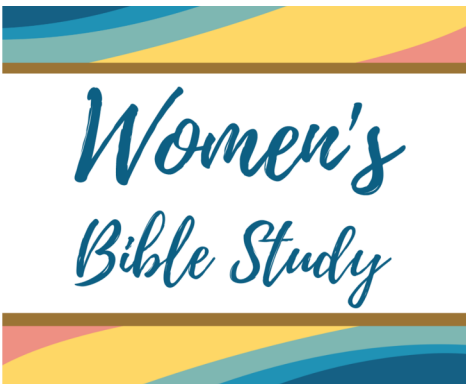
We gather via Zoom for a time of sharing, scripture reading, talking, prayer, and blessing. Contact Rachel Núñez, Director of Faith Formation for meeting instructions, [rnunez@holyltrinityakron.org](mailto:rnunez@holyltrinityakron.org), call/text (330) 634-6597. †



**Sunday, June 11, 11:30 a.m.**

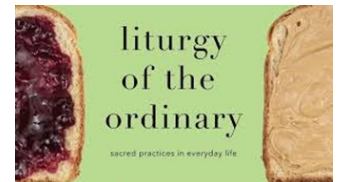
at the home of Amy Indorf, 424 Hillbrook Drive, Cuyahoga Falls

The group will discuss *The Rose Code* by Kate Quinn. Join the conversation! All are welcome ... bring a bag lunch if you like. Questions? Contact Amy Indorf or Diane Chambers for more information. †



**Saturday, June 17 @ 9 a.m.**

**Mustard Seed Café Highland Square  
867 W. Market Street, Akron**



We begin our new study of the book "Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life" by Tish Harrison Warren. Books are available in the church office. We will discuss the first two chapters at our June gathering. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Rachel Núñez, Director of Faith Formation. Call/Text (330) 634-6597 or email [rnunez@holyltrinityakron.org](mailto:rnunez@holyltrinityakron.org).



**Hike & Seek Goes to the Akron Zoo**

**Saturday, June 24 @ 10 a.m.**

**500 Edgewood Avenue, Akron**



Join us as we have a morning filled with fun, fellowship, and adventure exploring God's Creation at the Akron Zoo. Families from DLM Food & Resource Center and Robinson Community Learning Center will be participating as well. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED – please sign-up by Wednesday, June 14.** A sign-up sheet is located at the Welcome Center or you may contact the church office at 330-376-5154. †



## Celebrating Annmarie Demko ... 20 Years of Service!

Twenty years ago, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Akron had the good fortune of hiring Annmarie Demko as Parish Secretary. As you know, Annmarie is often the first point of our congregation's "welcome" on weekdays. Linda Vowles was a member of the team that conducted the interviews. She says all the candidates had the skills needed, but there was just something about Annmarie...her smile, her warmth, her compassion, her personality. Linda says she told the group, "It would be a mistake not to hire her!"

It certainly would have been! How blessed our congregation has been these past 20 years! Thank you, Annmarie, for who you are and all you have done for the ministry of Holy Trinity these many years! †

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



Join us every Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. via Facebook LIVE and start your day with God! †



## Food & Fellowship at Akron Family Restaurant

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

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

Mark Sunday, May 28 on your calendar and plan to join us, and be sure to come hungry!! †

# DLM by the Numbers

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

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



92 Families



319 Individuals



149 Children



# DLM

FOOD AND RESOURCES



## DLM Clothing Rooms get Refreshed

There are several rooms on the lower level that serve as the DLM Clothing Rooms. Well, they have all been refreshed with a new boutique-style look and feel, and now they look amazing! The rooms are more inviting and eye appealing with several outfits and accessories on display. The clothing is sorted by gender or age and then by size, making it very easy for families to find the items they need. Be sure to stop by and see them for yourself! †



DLM Resource Fair ... see details on page 11.





***Pictured above:** This is the Adult Clothing Room with items on the left for men and items on the right for women.*



***Pictured left:** The men's side of the adult clothing room*

***Pictured below and below left:** Outfits for men and women are on display along with jewelry, accessories and special occasion clothing.*

***Pictured at top on opposite page:** This is the Teen Room.*

***Pictured at bottom on opposite page:** This is the Infant/Toddler Room.*



## Women's Bible Study Road Trip!

Women's Bible Study took their gathering time on the road in May to Porch Light Coffee Company in Akron. And it was an inter-generational gathering for Katie Archbold, daughter of Amanda and Chad Archbold and grand-daughter of Connie Archbold, attended, too! The June gathering will be on Saturday, June 17, 9 a.m. at the Mustard Seed Café in Highland Square. See more details on page 6. All are invited and welcome!! †

*Pictured from left: Diane Chambers, Teresa Boland, Marie Grealis, Pastor Becki Verbridge, Katie and Amanda Archbold, Linda Vowles, Amy Indorf, LJ Kimble, Velma Pomrenke, and in the foreground is Rachel Nunez.*



## Food & Fellowship at Akron Family Restaurant

It was the monthly gathering of food and fellowship at Akron Family Restaurant on May 28. †

*Pictured from left: Dottie Wise, Gregg Loesch, Frederica Cohen, Hailey Phillips, Sophia Morton, Tom Baumgardner, Velma Pomrenke, Darcel Zuller, Joanne Aller, Donna Carroll, Deb Ickes, Gloria Woodford, Tom Bouton, Joan Derrig, Gene Thrall, Dian Jenkins, Marshall Thomas and Deacon Ruth Anderson.*



## Our Newest Baptized Member

On May 28, Holy Trinity members welcomed it's newest baptized member, Emma Morgan Numbers, daughter of Lyndsay and Andrew Numbers (pictured left). †

*Pictured right: Pastor Mitch Phillips baptizes Emma at the font while Deb Ickes assists. Pastor Phillips was filling in for Pastor Becki who was ill.*



# WAYS TO SERVE



## Resource Fair for DLM Food & Resources

Being held Friday, June 23 (NEW DATE!), 2-4 p.m., this event offers families the opportunity to get information on various services, programs, and available community resources. Some of the vendors will have information on housing, legal issues, health and wellness, mental health support, and much more. This Resource Fair is being held in conjunction with an in-person shopping day, so families will be able to receive food, clothing and visit the Resource Fair.

**WANT TO SERVE?** This is a great opportunity to serve at DLM and see this vital ministry up close. Volunteers are needed to help with set up, greeting and directing families, and other tasks. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center in the coming weeks. And, invite a friend or family member to serve with you!! For more information about DLM or the Resource Fair, please contact Darlene Katz at (234) 334-4700. †



## Hope Fest presented by Haven of Rest

Join us as we support our neighbor by participating in Hope Fest! Being held Wednesday, June 28, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in Grace Park, this event will provide individuals with a variety of supportive items and connect them

with available community resources. This is another great opportunity to 'serve others like Jesus' by showing love and kindness to our neighbors.

**WANT TO SERVE?** This is a great opportunity to 'serve others like Jesus' by showing love and kindness to our neighbors. Sign up at the Welcome Center. †

## Mr. Hower's Neighborhood Walking Tour

What a wonderful opportunity to introduce Holy Trinity to people! BTW, John Hower was a founding member of Holy Trinity ... a perfect connection to be involved! Being held Sunday, July 9, the Walking Tour begins at the Hower House at 1 p.m. The group will stop at various sites along the walking route as they make their way to Holy Trinity at around 3:30 p.m.

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





*Bruce offered a workshop to share his expertise on conducting choirs from the organ console.*



## **Master Class with Bruce Neswick Offered**

As one of Arts @ Holy Trinity's outreach offerings, Bruce Neswick led a workshop for area AGO (American Guild of Organists) members. He spoke about choral music and the organ, demonstrating how to adapt choral accompaniments to various instrument types, how to register the organ for a choir, and shared best practices in directing from the console. †



*A dozen members of the Akron AGO shared a meal with Bruce Neswick after the Saturday morning rehearsal.*



*Mr. Neswick conducts "Send Lazarus," a modern "spiritual" lamenting climate change.*

## Hymn Festival Final Concert of the Season



For its final concert of the season, Arts @ Holy Trinity presented a Hymn Festival with award-winning organist and composer Bruce Neswick. More than 50

participants from the Akron area led the hymn festival (pictured below), which focused on care for God's creation. Readings, prayers, anthems, and hymns celebrated God's handiwork, lamented our abuses of it, and offered words of hope for renewal. †



*Pictured above: A festive reception followed the Festival.*



*Pictured left: Bruce talks with Frederica Cohen at the reception.*



*Pictured above: Students leaders pose for a group photo with Jamar Blackmon, founder of Goalgetta Academy. Pictured below: Jamar signs autographs for each of the students.*

## Leadership 360 Retreat at Robinson CLC

Holy Trinity co-hosted the annual Leadership 360 Retreat for student leaders at Robinson CLC. The day began with keynote speaker Jamar Blackmon from Goalgetta Academy. Students then attended two breakout sessions. The session led by Holy Trinity was based on the story of 'The Good Samaritan' and focused on the importance of helping your neighbors. The retreat ended with lunch from McDonald's. †



*Pictured above and left: Students pack special kits that will be distributed to children through DLM Food & Resources.*



Keynote speaker Jamar Blackmon from Goalgetta Academy encouraged the students to 'discover what the best version of YOU is.' He also stressed that happiness is what you enjoy doing and that only YOU can determine your happiness. Don't let anyone stand in your way of achieving your goals.



## Worship Stewards

Date	Readers	Assisting Ministers
Sunday, June 4 9:30 a.m.	Dian Jenkins	Linda Vowles
Sunday, June 11 9:30 a.m.	Mike Ameling	Deb Ickes
Sunday, June 18 9:30 a.m.	Diane Chambers	Mike Ameling
Sunday, June 25 9:30 a.m.	Valerie Clark	Frederica Cohen



### June Birthdays

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

- June 2 – Benjamin Ruhlin
- June 3 – Alison Prudoff
- June 3 – Pete Seltzer
- June 4 – Christine Hinman
- June 4 – Evan Stefanik
- June 5 – Ryan Heckel
- June 5 – Michael Perrine
- June 6 – Jessica Foutty
- June 10 – Jacob Sattely
- June 11 – Velma Pomrenke
- June 11 – Jacqueline Wert
- June 12 – Charles Schmidt
- June 13 – Elizabeth Anacki
- June 13 – Joe Moxon
- June 18 – Alexandra Anacki
- June 18 – Sylvia Hackbarth
- June 18 – David Tiemann
- June 23 – Gene Thrall
- June 24 – Madeline Mormino
- June 25 – Eric Rieman
- June 26 – Susan Spannbauer
- June 27 – Stephen Campbell
- June 30 – Janise Parry

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

## Trinity Highlights

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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  
Invite-Welcome-Connect - Sandy DeLuca  
Worship & Music - Frederica Cohen & Ron Nockengost  
Council Liaison - Linda Vowles

### 2023 Church Council

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

### Holy Trinity Staff

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

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