







Sunday June 2 4 p.m. Nacho Gonzalez Nappa returns to Arts @ Holy Trinity after his 2022 debut with the Bengisu Gokce Quartet, this time with his wife. He is an award-winning composer and producer, with a focus in film and video game. PODER Magazine named him one of the "TOP 20 under 40" Hispanics in the US.

Sheila del Bosque is a multi-award winning flutist, composer, educator and conductor, originally from Cuba. Her talents have brought her to major theaters and festivals in Cuba, as well as high-profile venues around the world. She has performed for such influential personalities as Pope Francis, Jill Biden, Bon Jovi, and The Rolling Stones.

The duo will perform original arrangements of tango, Brazilian and Cuban music.

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

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

Funding for the 2023-2024 Arts @ Holy Trinity provided in part by









God Keeps His Promises!

As we gathered for our monthly Hike & Seek in April at Brandywine Falls, we focused our attention on Psalm 42: 1-6 for our devotions before our hike.

¹As the deer longs for streams of water, so I long for you, O God. ²I thirst for God, the living God. When can I go and stand before him? ³Day and night I have only tears for food, while my enemies continually taunt me, saying, "Where is this God of yours?" ⁴My heart is breaking as I remember how it used to be: I walked among the crowds of worshipers, leading a great procession to the house of God, singing for joy and giving thanks amid the sound of a great celebration!

5 Why am I discouraged?

Why is my heart so sad?

I will put my hope in God!

I will praise him again—

my Savior and 6 my God!

The Psalmist laments how things used to be. He is outside the city of Jerusalem, feeling very alone and remembering the large gatherings of worship that used to take place in the temple. He is grieving and yet in his grief he remembers God's promises – "I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again – my Savior and my God!"

Our Hike & Seek group discussed how we, too, are remembering how things used to be. Several of us have lost loved ones over the past year and are trying to figure out how to live life without their physical presence. Some of us have children leaving home. Some of us are dealing with old and new health issues. And all of us remember when there were large gatherings of worship in the sanctuary of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. We remember when the halls were filled, and we are sad that things are changing. Some of us feel alone. We could relate to the lament and the broken heart of the psalmist.

And yet in the midst of grief there is good news! Good news that we can put our hope in God! In this Easter season we are reminded that God has fulfilled the covenant promise of hope to us in the person of Jesus! Jesus – Emmanuel, "God with us" – we are not alone. God is present! God works



and moves even when things aren't how they used to be. It's ok to grieve. Grief points us to hope, and our hope, as Christians, is in Jesus!

As we walked along the water that morning, all of a sudden, a rainbow appeared by the waterfall! We all stood amazed, giddy, and snapping pictures! In a moment of pause, someone said, "See, God keeps his promises!"

May we all join the psalmist, even in our grieving, and say, "I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again – my Savior and my God!" †

Blessings, Rachel Núñez, Director of Faith Formation

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Change of Interim Director of Choirs

Deacon Linda Kempke will assume the position of Interim Director of Choirs through the end of May. We thank her for her willingness to lead the Bell and Chancel Choirs through the season following the departure of John Catlos. Linda is well-known at Holy Trinity, and we look forward to her leadership, temporary as it may be! †



Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Becki Verbridge will be on vacation Monday, April 22 through Monday, May 6. Pastors Doug Fidler and Deborah Wisner will lead worship on Sunday, April 28, and Sunday, May 5. Please contact Rachel Núñez in the event pastoral care is needed. †



Our sympathy is extended to the family of Ruth Hervol who died on April 19, 2024. Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, Ron, and her son-in-law, Ty Houchin. †



Happy Birthday, Betty!

You only celebrate your 90th birthday once, so why not do it with a big party surrounded by family and friends! That is exactly what the family of Betty Oberdorfer did, they hosted a birthday party where family and friends toasted Betty and her special milestone. And, it was only natural for several Holy Trinity members to be there. †

Pictured above (back row, from left): Velma Pomrenke, Betty Oberdorfer and Rick Kimble. Pictured (front row, from left): Diane Chambers, Amy Indorf, Alexa Sandmann and Marsha Asente. Standing (from left): Gregg Loesch and Becky Adkins.

Pictured below (from left): Lesli Eisenhart, Diane Chambers Amy Indorf, Velma Pomrenke, Alexa Sandmann, Betty Oberdorfer and Marsha Asente. Also in attendance but not pictured are Judy Eisenhart and Dave and Linda Vowles ... thank you, Linda for taking these photos!



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Join us the second Sunday each month 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

May 12: Peace, Romans 5: 1 & Matthew 5: 9

June 9: Patience, Ephesians 4: 2

July14: 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

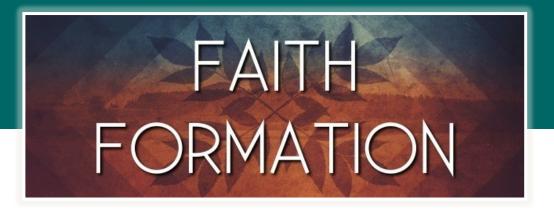
Our time together will take place in the Chapel Lounge and includes Holy Communion!

This is a wonderful opportunity to <u>INVITE</u> a friend or family member, <u>WELCOME</u> them to our faith community, and <u>CONNECT</u> 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. †



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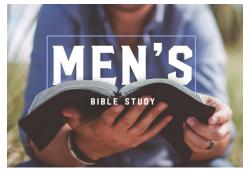






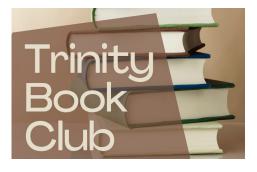


We check-in with each other and **SHARE** our prayer concerns, **READ** a scripture passage or poem, **TALK** about it and how we can apply it to our lives, **PRAY** for our concerns, each other, and Holy Trinity, and end our time with a **BLESSING** for the day ahead. Our time together lasts between 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, May 4 & 18 and June 1 & 15, 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, May 19 & June 23, at 11 a.m. after worship in the Scharf Library

At the May gathering, the group will discuss *The Turner House* by Angela Flournoy. And in June, the group will discuss *The Uncommon Reader* by Alan Bennett . Bring a snack or grab a coffee hour treat and join us for a lively discussion. If you have questions, call the church office at (330) 376-5154 or contact Amy Indorf or Diane Chambers directly. †



Holy Trinity Goes to Breakfast Sunday, May 26 & June 23, following worship

We are heading 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! †

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Morning Devotions

Join us each Thursday 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.

NOTE: Morning Devotions is taking a break during the months of June, July, and August. †



Sunday LIFT

(Living In Faith Together) following worship in the Scharf Library

Sunday, May 5
God, Our Compassion Companion

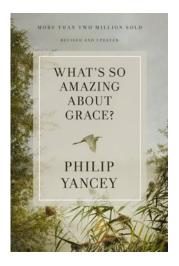
Sunday, June 2
Details to be shared soon.

Women's Bible Study

Saturday, May 17 & June 15 @ 9 a.m.

All women are invited!! We will gather at 9 a.m. (locations TBA) for a time of fellowship 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 lifechanging power. 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. †



Join us in May and June to enjoy God's grace and creation! We will gather near the trail head for a brief devotion and then hike together or 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. †

Saturday, May 11 @ 9 a.m.

Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail Memorial Parkway 499 Memorial Parkway, Akron

Saturday, June 8 @ 9 a.m.

Lock 29 Trailhead — Parking Lot, 1648 Mill Street, West, Peninsula

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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 March and April ...



317 Families



963 Individuals



466 Children





Special Family Events are Held

Dare to Love More Ministries began hosting monthly Family Night events this past February for families involved with Project Rise and for others from community organizations. And these events are such great fun!! They allow families to come, participate and enjoy all the fun with their children in a safe place.

The Family Event held in March was in collaboration with the **Dance Institute of Akron**. Families watched a snippet of The Carnival of Animals performed by members of the Institute. The kids were able to tap into their imaginations with guidance from guest artist Brian Murphy to execute becoming elephants (*pictured below*). *Pictured above: Brian Murphy with the children who attended the event*.

In April, the family event was a **Family Spring Celebration Day!** Families were able to come and be in a safe place and do crafts with their children and look for treats in the playground. Their was a tasty meal prepared and served by members from

Continued on next page ...





Pictured above: One of the families who attended the April event.

Pictured above right: A room full of

happy families!

Pictured at right: This little girl is all

smiles!

Pictured below right: Children search for treats on the outdoor playground.



Way To Go, Katie!

Thank you, Katie Archbold, for your gracious donation to Dare to Love More Ministries. Katie is in 5th grade and a part of Girl Scout troop #91442. Katie's parents are Amanda and Chad Archbold. With Katie's donation, a total of 135 families are being blessed with delicious Girl Scout cookies. †



Faith Lutheran Church. There were 50 families who attended and 89 children who joined in on the fun. Up next is a special Pampering Day in May.

Want to serve our neighbors? We'd love to have you! Volunteers are needed and always welcome to help with various tasks at these Family Events. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information on partnering with Dare to Love More Ministries to host a Family Event, please contact Director Darlene Katz at (234) 334-4700 or by email at danderson@holytrinityakron.org. †







More than 30 people attended the Invite Welcome Connect Kick-Off on Sunday, April 28. Invite Welcome Connect is a culture shift that involves and affects everyone at Holy Trinity. It is a relational ministry that allows us to build connections with others through hospitality. A common theme that was shared is the importance of relationships — our connections to one another, to Holy Trinity and to God. Together we can build our church, Holy Trinity. †



Linda Vowles talked about the **important roles**we each have with the Invite Welcome Connect
Ministry. Where do you see yourself plugging into this ministry ... as an inviter, welcomer or connector? There are ways for everyone to connect and support this ministry wherever and however you can. †



Gregg Loesch talked about the importance of having a 'Holy Trinity elevator speech' ready to share with others. Each of our stories is as individual and unique as we are—no two are alike. What brought you to Holy Trinity? Why do your continue to attend? These reasons are the foundation of your story.†



John Stefanik talked about how to develop our own 'Holy Trinity' story and provided a handout with suggested questions to get us thinking about why we attend Holy Trinity.

What brought you to Holy Trinity?

Why do you keep coming?
What excites you the most? †



Bob Keener talked about how we can share 'Holy Trinity' with others by way of distributing **NEW Invitation cards**. He also offered several examples to give these cards out ...

Leave a card with a tip.

Give a card to the person you're standing in line with at the store. †

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Invite. Welcome. Connect.

These three words are a vision of something new that has taken root here at Holy Trinity ... a culture shift that moves us from maintenance to mission.

Invite Welcome Connect is a ministry of transformation that equips and empowers individuals and congregations to cultivate intentional practices of evangelism, hospitality, and belonging.

Rooted in the Gospel directive to "Go and make disciples of all nations" and aligned with our church mission, this ministry provides a practical and theological framework and comprehensive process for Holy Trinity to move from a maintenance culture to a gospel-driven mission culture.

These three words invoke 'action,' for us to <u>choose AND</u> actively and intentionally embody the principles of hospitality in all we do. And how do we do that? By doing what we are called to do each and every day ... invite, welcome and connect people to Jesus through love and the word of God.

Let us come together as a family, as a congregation, and look through the lens of Invite Welcome Connect in all we do.. Together we will:

- Embrace the Invite Welcome Connect Ministry. **Are you all in?**
- Embody the philosophy of Invite Welcome Connect.
- Intentionally <u>engage</u> in the practices of Invite Welcome Connect.
- Be <u>equipped</u> and <u>empowered</u> to live out Invite Welcome Connect Ministry.
- Be <u>encouraged</u> to <u>exemplify</u> our mission ... inviting, welcoming and connecting people to Jesus through love and the word of God.†











There are a multitude of ways you can invite someone to join you at Holy Trinity, whether it be for Sunday worship, to attend a concert or to serve at DLM Food & Resources or at Robinson CLC.

Use these <u>NEW Invitation Cards</u> to introduce someone to Holy Trinity (available at the Welcome Center).

- Leave a card with a tip at a restaurant.
- Give one to your hair stylist or barber.
- Give one to the person you strike up a conversation with while standing in line. †

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Sponsor A Pipe Fundraiser

As you know, Arts @ Holy Trinity is celebrating it's 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!!

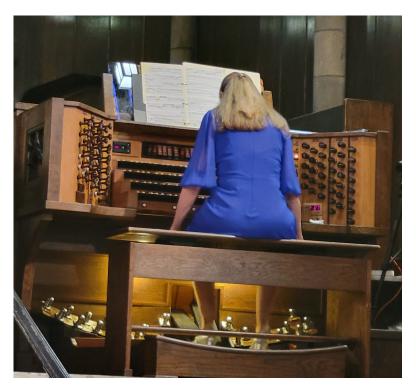
Your gifts will help ensure this magnificent instrument continues to inspire and uplift both audiences and organists for another 40+ years. Stop by the Sponsor A Pipe table in the Welcome Center lobby any Sunday after worship to make your donation ...

\$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 603 pipes thus far!!

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



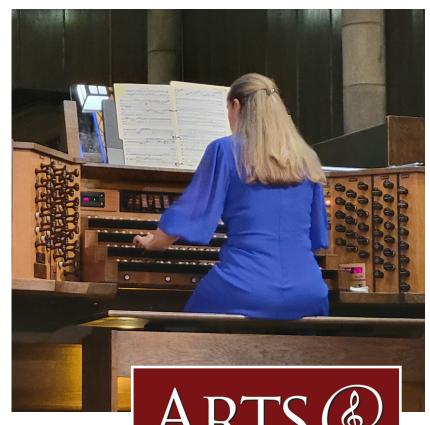
Pictured above: Concert organist Renée Anne Louprette plays the pedals with her feet during one of her musical selections.

Pictured below: Renée Anne Louprette, an accomplished organist, plays a movement on Holy Trinity's 4,551 pipe organ. This is her first time performing as part of Arts @ Holy Trinity.



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Arts @ Holy Trinity welcomed distinguished, award-winning concert organist Renée Anne Louprette on Sunday, April 28. She dazzled the audience in playing the colorful array of notes and sounds on our 4,551 pipe organ, bringing each musical piece to life, from the dramatic to to the light and whimsical. Nearly 50 people attended this free concert.

Arts @ Holy Trinity's final concert of it's 40th season is Sunday, June 2 at 4 p.m. and features guitarist Nacho González Nappa and Flutist Sheila del Bosque. \dagger

Pictured above left: Renée Anne Louprette gives a narrative of the selections she is about to perform.

HOLY TRINITY

– 40th Anniversary –

Pictured above right: Renée Anne Louprette plays the 4,551 pipe organ.





Concert goers meet Renée Anne Louprette at the reception that followed her performance. **Pictured above:** Renée with Frederica Cohen.





Easter Celebration

What a glorious morning ... the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! It included a service of festival worship with our Chancel Choir, Bell Choir and other musicians and was attended by many families, friends and guests. It also included our annual Easter Breakfast that preceded worship. †

Pictured at top: Easter lilies adorn the floor and steps in the Sanctuary.

Pictured left: The pews are filled with families, friends and guests.

Pictured below: Folks enjoy the Easter Breakfast.







We Remember During Holy Week

Holy Week is a journey that began with Palm Sunday (pictured below) as Jesus enters Jerusalem. It continued with Maundy Thursday and a service of handwashing and the stripping of the altar (pictured left and above). It continued with Good Friday and a noon service at Holy Trinity and a joint evening Procession of the Cross service with Faith Lutheran Church (at Faith) that featured both Chancel Choirs. †



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Pictured at top: More than 20 women attend the annual Retreat held in March.

Pictured above: Amy Indorf reads a passage.

Pictured at right: Table discussion with (pictured from left): a guest, Diane Chambers, Amanda Archbold, Pam Marko, Rachel Núñez and Amy Indorf.

Annual Women's Lenten Retreat

This annual gathering, attended by more than 20 women, focused on key words Jesus spoke from the cross. Groups around the table discussed the meaning of these words - know, truth, here, forsaken, thirsty, finished, commend and believe - and how they connect to our lives today. It was a morning where family and friends came together for fellowship, learning and spiritual growth. †



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Second Sundays

Second Sunday is a new worship opportunity open to everyone! It kicked-off in March (pictured above) and continued in April (pictured at right). Come and be fed both spiritually and physically. Join us the second Sunday each month for a time of informal worship, storytelling, and a meal together! Hands-on faith and community building for ALL AGES! †



Read to Me Day

It was another successful Read to Me Day on March 1! Thank you to our Holy Trinity readers who read books to students in various grades. †

Pictured (seated from left): Hannah Miller and her daughter, JuJu, Nan Riemenschneider, Amy Indorf and Summit County Clerk of Courts Tavia Galonski.

Pictured (standing from left): Gregg Loesch, Linda Vowles, Deb Ickes, Deborah Marks, Alexa Sandmann, John Stefanik, and a community leader.

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Darcel Zuller & Joanne Aller



Carol Mason with Donna Carroll



Rachel Núñez with Velma Pomrenke

We are FAMILY!



Gloria Woodford



Holy Trinity Goes to Breakfast

The last Sunday each month, a caravan of Holy Trinity folk head to breakfast at Akron Family Restaurant. This monthly gathering usually draws a crowd of 20-30+ people, and there's plenty of room for more! †

Pictured above right (from left): Tom Baumgardner, Sophia Morton, Joan Derrig, Rick Kimble, David, Lines, and family members.

Pictured at right (from left): Dottie and Rob Wise and Deborah Marks.



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Hikers & Seekers

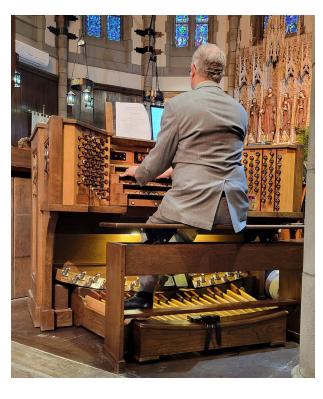
Ioin us outdoors in God's creation the second Saturday each month, 9 a.m. at various parks. †

Pictured above from the March Hike (from left): Rachel Núñez, John Hamilton, Diane Chambers, Manny Nunez, Amy Indorf and Rich Williams.

Pictured above from the April Hike (clockwise): Jacinto Nunez, John Hamilton, Joanne Aller, Diane Chambers, Rachel Núñez and Deborah Marks.

Feeling Right at Home!

Our new Interim **Organist David Lines** (pictured right) is feeling right at home playing the 4,551 pipe organ. †





May & June Birthdays

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

May 1 – Joanne Aller May 2 - Frederica Cohen May 2 – Wayne Richenbacher May 9 – Lesli Eisenhart May 11 - Joan Derrig May 11 – Jill Lauf May 12 – Sarah Gosorn May 15 - David Stefanik May 17 – Harper DiRosato May 17 - Richard Sebastian May 20 - Dean Keller May 21 - Sophia Morton May 24 - Amy Niskanen May 24 – Manny Núñez May 24 - Olivia Vowles May 26 – Courtney Richenbacher May 27 – Emma Stefanik May 28 - Patricia McRowe

May 29 - John Guran

May 29 – Meghann Stevens May 30 – Landis Coffman, Jr.

May 31 - Philip Spanninger

June 2 - Ben 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 10 – Jacob Sattely

June 11 – Velma Pomrenke

June 11 – Jacquelene Wert

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. Volume #83, Issue #4 (USPS 640880)

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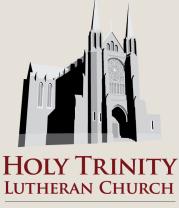
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Holy Trinity Lutheran Church



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.

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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

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Akron, Ohio 44309

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, Linda Kempke
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
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