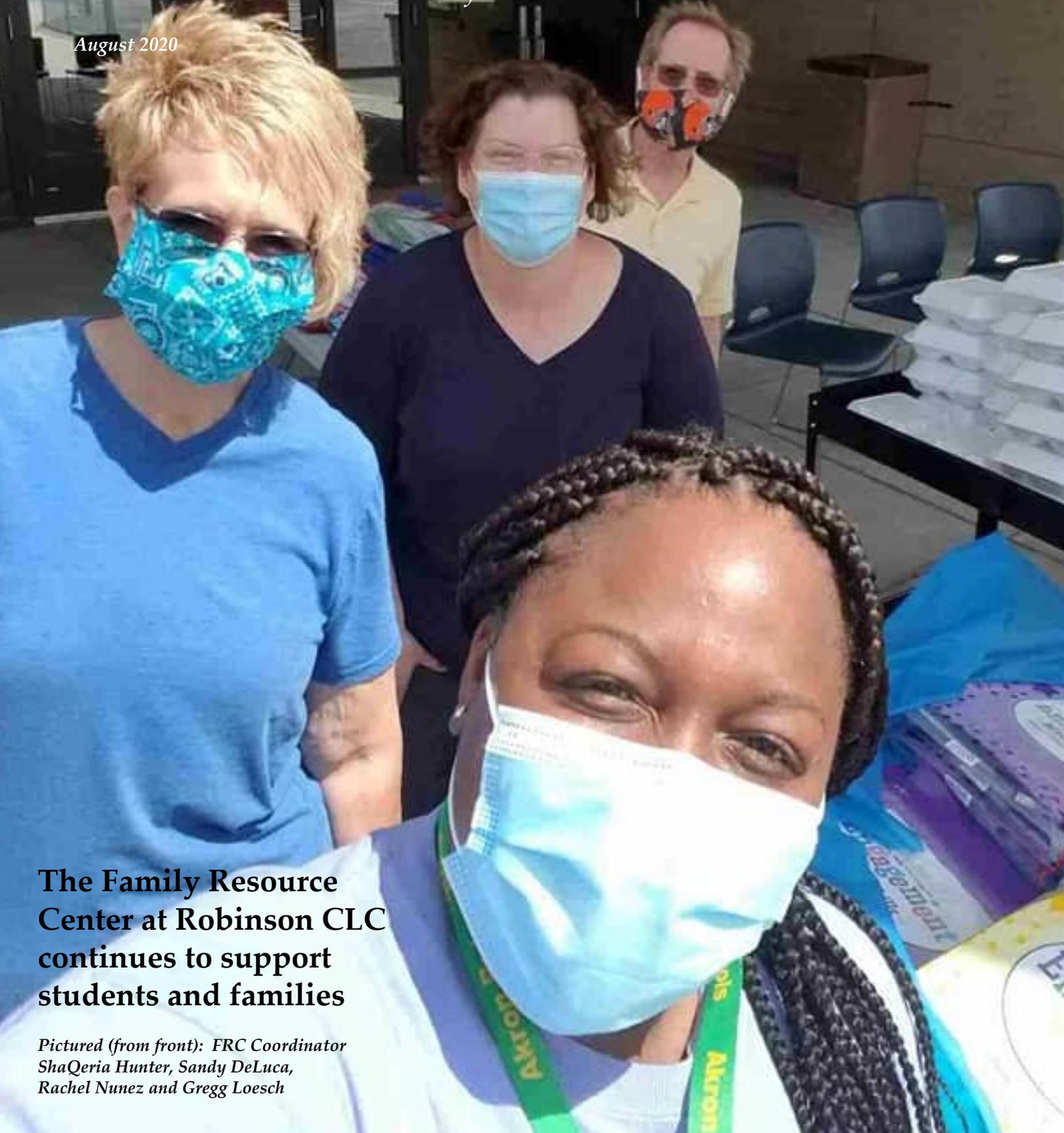


HIGHLIGHTS

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE *of* HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 2020



**The Family Resource
Center at Robinson CLC
continues to support
students and families**

*Pictured (from front): FRC Coordinator
ShaQeria Hunter, Sandy DeLuca,
Rachel Nunez and Gregg Loesch*

The Summer of Our Discontent

It's hot and muggy most days this time of year. And that always makes us a bit grouchy. Welcome to northeastern Ohio. But this year our grouchiness seems especially grouchy. Or, at least, mine does. The disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic continues with no clear end in sight. We await a vaccine, and hope that it comes sooner than we have a right to expect. We have seen our family members and neighbors get sick. Some of them have died. We know folks whose entire livelihood, everything they have dreamed and worked for, has been stolen away by the economic impacts of the closures and quarantine. Add to that the social upheaval following the murder of George Floyd...not only the rightful protests that demand our long-overdue attention to critical issues of racial justice, but also the chaos that wantonly (and perhaps cynically) destroys even more lives, often among those who are most vulnerable in our society. All of this happening and some of it related to the fact that we are in the midst of the most divisive and partisan presidential election that any among us can recall. There is a very real sense that this republic and its people have been abandoned by those called to civic leadership for the sake of political and economic self-gain.



Pastor David

Grouchy? Indeed...as well as hurting and exhausted...tired beyond measure and bordering on despair some (if not most) days. Welcome to the summer of our discontent. And what are we supposed to do with that?

First: it is critical that we attend to our mental and emotional health. This is a time for accountability and honesty among friends and family members. This is a time for reaching out to get trained and professional assistance we need to work through the overload and stresses of the day. Isolation, anxiety, over-work, the need for constant innovation, uncertainty about the future, and impossible expectations...these and so many other factors erode our ability to think clearly and respond rationally to our own needs and the needs of those around us. If you need help and don't already have a counselor or therapist, call our friends at Hope Behavioral Health (800-642-4560 or www.hopebehavioral.com).

Second: it is critical that we attend to our spiritual health. This is a time for building the disciplines of faith that make room in our souls for the grace of God which is what ultimately sustains us. Daily prayer and meditation, the reading of Scripture, regular worship attendance (yes...online counts!). These are the tools we have been given by our faith tradition that can stabilize and orient us. A quick suggestion. Read the Psalms, and ask yourself two questions in your reading: Where do I see Christ in this psalm? Where do I sense my own emotional experience in this psalm? Simple, but powerful stuff. And we have more suggestions, too. Be in touch with Rachel Nunez (rnunez@holytrinityakron.org) or me (dnevergall@holytrinityakron.org) for specific tools and patterns that could work for your life.

Let's be honest. The world around us isn't going to get magically better overnight. The long haul that we've been in since March is going to get longer. But that doesn't mean we are without the resources to confront it and even flourish within it. As broken and bloody as it is, God has not abandoned the creation that he loves. And God has not abandoned you. So let's train ourselves to listen for and receive with joy the good news of that great and divine love for

us. In so doing, we become not only strong enough for the day, but ever more faithful witnesses to the new creation in Christ that has always been God's desire and our destiny.

Take heart. Grouchy doesn't get the last word any more than death gets the last word. There is, even now, life and hope and possibility to be received with joy and shared with love. †





HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Praising. Loving. Serving in Jesus' name.

Your Guide for Sunday Morning In-Person Worship



In-person worship has resumed on Sunday morning with one liturgy at 9:30 a.m. Livestream worship continues for those who are in at-risk populations or who wish to continue to avoid large gatherings. Those attending in person may be seen on the broadcast.



You must observe 6' physical distancing upon entry into and exit from the building and while in the Sanctuary.



Entry to the building will be by the north narthex door only. An usher in the parking lot will direct you to this entrance. Dismissal after worship will be guided row-by-row by the ushers through the door into the office lobby. You are asked to immediately exit through the

office entrance to your vehicle. Both the entry and exit doors will be kept open (weather permitting) to reduce surface contact and increase ventilation.



Hand sanitizer will be located near all doors and throughout the sanctuary. You must sanitize your hands upon entry and after any physical contact.



Upon entry, you will be asked to do the following:

- **Sign-in**—this will assist public health organizations if contact tracing is needed.
- **Have your temperature taken**—anyone with cold, allergy, or flu-like symptoms or anyone

with a temperature of 100° or more should stay home and seek appropriate medical care. Anyone with a temperature of 100° or more will not be admitted.

- **Sanitize your hands**—a hand sanitizing station will be set-up.



Additional changes to take note of:

- There will be no congregational singing during the liturgy. There will be other music (vocal and instrumental) offered by the worship leaders.
- There will be no sharing of the peace with physical contact. There will be no celebration of Holy Communion at this time.
- Bibles, hymnals and other printed materials have been removed from the pews.
- There will be no printed order of service provided. An electronic version is available for download on your own mobile device or download it from the website and print it at home to bring with you.
- We will not pass offering plates. Offering plates will be placed near the sanctuary doors (both entrance and exit) to receive our tithes and gifts.
- Restrooms will be available for use; one person at a time will be permitted.
- The nursery will not be open and child care is not available.
- There will be no in-person fellowship or discipleship time.



Masks must be worn by those not leading the liturgy. Please bring your own mask; only a limited supply will be available at the building. If you cannot or will not wear a mask, please worship at home via the livestream.



Seating in the Sanctuary will be guided by ushers on a first-come, first-served basis beginning from the front of the nave. Family groups from the same household may be seated together.

All public areas and high touch objects/surfaces will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized before and after all in-person activities.

Beyond Sunday worship: small groups, ministry teams, committees, and studies are encouraged to continue meeting online.

Groups may meet in the building, if necessary, but must abide by physical distancing and sanitization protocols.

Meetings will be scheduled so that only one group is in the building at a time, and so that the meeting space may be cleaned/sanitized before and after.

This guide will be reviewed, modified and updated on an on-going basis, and as such, is subject to change, even to the point of closing again, should a change in the public health situation demand it. Visit our website for the most current information relating to this guide.

holytrinityakron.org

Vicar's Vision

I asked for an extension to write this column to you today. I wanted to get the very freshest news to you about my call process. It was always a goal as we grew together during the two years of my internship that I would be sharing with you the call process. As the first two-year intern at Holy Trinity, I have been able to give the congregation a peek into the call process for a first-call candidate. You have supported me through the approval process and turning in my call paperwork. You supported me during my time of assignment day this past March, which we affectionately call the "draft." You have also supported me through the difficult process of finding a first call in the middle of a pandemic. I am so grateful for all of the support that you have given. I hope that you have learned a little about the process as I have made this journey too. Here is my thank-you note to all of you.



Holy Trinity family,

Today (7/19/20) just before noon, I received word that the votes have been counted in a congregational meeting to call me as pastor. As of today, I have been officially called as the pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Bellville, OH. I will begin there on August 10th.

Brian and I appreciate your prayers as we make this transition. Moving is never easy, but it is even more difficult in the current situation with COVID-19 case numbers increasing here and in Richland County. Brian will need to find a new job. We will need to find a new home. It is a crazy, but wonderful time for us.

I want to take this time to thank the Internship Committee who has been tireless in their support of me over the last two years. Thank you for coming to meetings and filling out evaluations. Thank you for helping us to feel a part of Holy Trinity from day one.

Thank you to the staff who have always made me feel like I belonged. Your gracious support in good times and frustrating ones has been a blessing.

Thank you to the many people who have served with me on committees and ministry teams at Holy Trinity. You all said that you wanted to celebrate with me before I left. I will not be that far away, and we will figure out a way to celebrate when it is safe to do so again.

Thank you to the members of Holy Trinity that served as references for me in the call process. I contacted each of you shortly after getting the phone call to let you know, but I want you to be aware of how grateful I am that you were willing to speak on my behalf.

The person who may have got the short end of the stick here is Pastor David. He was the one that took on the role of supervisor for a seminarian without having met me before. I am not sure he was prepared to deal with an anxious and stubborn "donkey" of an intern. However, he stepped into that role very well and became a mentor and now a colleague. He has given me many opportunities to grow in my ministry at Holy Trinity. For that, I am eternally grateful.

Continued on page 14 ...



Altar Flowers

Are you thinking of honoring a birthday, an anniversary or a memorial to a loved one? Maybe you would like to express your love of our gracious God. Please consider donating the Altar Flowers as a way to express your thoughts and love.

Even though the Altar Flower Chart is in the church lobby, as we face the challenges of Covid19, please contact Debbie Ickes, 678-353-7444, or Sophia Morton, 330-461-2346, to coordinate your date and special tribute information.

There is a suggested donation of \$40.00 or whatever you can afford to contribute to the Flower Fund. There can be more than one contributor each Sunday. Please send a check noted for Altar Flowers for your contribution to our Financial Secretary, Jim Minisall, or contact Jim if you would like to use another form of payment. †



Invite • Welcome • Connect®

Over the past six years, we at Holy Trinity have had a lot to celebrate; the centenary of our magnificent sanctuary and the year-long festival of our 150th birthday. At our Congregational meeting last October, Alexa Sandmann gave a moving presentation about our financial legacy and, in response, our members really stepped up to the plate! But, stewardship is not merely reflected in donations; six generations of Lutherans maintained and grew this wonderful Christian body and it is our responsibility to pass on that legacy to future generations.

We're all aware of the problems confronting mainline Protestant denominations these days, especially those located in inner cities, as is Holy Trinity. Membership is aging and declining, congregations are merging, church buildings are closing.

But demography is not destiny. There are alternatives. Quite a few churches are, against all odds, growing and, significantly growing without abandoning their heritage. Holy Trinity has the opportunity to be among them, allowing us not simply to maintain but to grow our mission and thrive where we are while retaining what we love about our church and our congregation.

The Renaissance Committee has spent several months evaluating a blueprint for ministry devised by the Episcopal Church called "Invite Welcome Connect" that has been successfully implemented at numerous congregations. As the name suggests, it's a three-part initiative that involves the whole congregation in the project of inviting non-members to participate with us in worship, study, and service, welcoming them intentionally when they do join us, and connecting them to the ongoing mission of the church. Perhaps the best part is that this is not a straitjacket; each congregation evaluates its own strengths and weaknesses and develops a program consistent with its character. Its strength is that this ministry relies on the happy collusion of God's promised presence, accessed by means of prayer, and the ability and desire of each congregation member to share with intention the good work to which we are called in this place.

Stay tuned for much more information in upcoming Highlights and the Midweek Word. If you'd like to learn more, you may visit their website at <https://www.invitewelcomeconnect.com/>. †



call for NOMINATIONS

In accordance with the Constitution, the Nominating Committee will accept nominations for both Congregation Council and the Nominating Committee through August 15th. Nominations can be submitted to the Congregation Secretary, Marsha Asente or any member of the Nominating Committee: Velma Pomrenke, LJ Kimble and Amanda Archbold. The Committee will then submit the slate for elections at the October Congregation Meeting. †



**LES
DÉLICES**
DEBRA NAGY, DIRECTOR

Les Délices is a proud Artist-in-Residence at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church! Though we cannot be with you in-person this year, we invite you to join us as we:

- **REIMAGINE** the concert experience ...
- **DISCOVER** the delights ...
- Tune in from **ANYWHERE!**

ABOUT OUR ALL-VIRTUAL CONCERT SERIES

- Virtual concert hall optimized for an engaging experience
- High-quality immersive audio
- 60-minute concerts complete with on-screen titles, “notes” on the program, artist interviews, and behind-the-scenes footage
- Debut includes live post-concert Q&A with artists
- Concerts available on-demand for 10 days, concluding with a closing “reception”

OCTOBER
BEWITCHED

DECEMBER
NOEL, NOEL

FEBRUARY
GAMES & GROUNDS

APRIL
**MACHAUT’S LAI OF THE
FOUNTAIN**

Performance details & tickets
at www.lesdelices.org.

What is the Difference?



If you’ve ever wondered what is the difference between the Facebook “Like” and “Share” buttons, you are not alone. Google the question and you will find hundreds of responses.

In the simplest terms, stated on Facebook’s Help pages, the difference is this: “Like” lets you share a link on your Timeline and News Feed in one click. “Share” lets you comment on the link and choose the target audience. Digging deeper, you’ll find that “Like” works differently on Facebook itself or when you find it on a web page. When you click on “Like” on a Facebook status, comment or photo, you are giving a nod of approval or a vote of appreciation. The number of “likes” is reported under the item and you have the option to “Unlike” it later if you want.

When you encounter a “Like” button on a web page, more things happen when you click: a post is created on your Wall, your friends will see it in their newsfeeds, and the “like” action is recorded numerically on the page you liked (if that feature is activated). If you “like” a Facebook Page, in effect you are subscribing to that page and will receive further postings from that Page in your newsfeed.

When you encounter a “Share” button on a web page, several things also happen when you click: a post is created, and you have the ability to add comments about the item you are sharing. Also, the title of the web page, its address, an excerpt from the page and a thumbnail image (if you choose to add one) will appear on the newsfeeds of your selected audience.

Both “Like” and “Share” are social sharing buttons and offer you ways to like, share and engage with others on Facebook and other social media platforms. But, “Share” is the more powerful of the two. One blogger has called the “Share” option the “brass ring on Facebook”. It is a more robust way of bringing attention to something in which you are interested, essentially saying “All my friends have to see this!”

So, what does this mean for Holy Trinity?

Both buttons act as very simple and effective evangelism tools. When you click the “Like” button on Holy Trinity’s Facebook page or on the “Share” button on a Holy Trinity post, in essence you are telling your friends all about what we do ... our ministries, our love of Jesus Christ and how we serve others in the community. And, if they click the “Share” button, they share it with all their friends ... and so on and so on.

Likes allow our messages of God’s love and mercy to be seen by you and others. Shares increase our visibility and encourage engagement. So, if you haven’t already done so, be sure to “Like” our Facebook page and “Share” our posts! †



If You've Got Rhythm...

...Who could ask for anything more? How about a drum circle? Joe Moxon and Deacon Ruth are ready to form a new, safe way to make music at Holy Trinity. From the novice to the experienced, we welcome a variety of skill sets and ages. For the time being, we will gather outdoors (weather permitting), physically distanced and masked. Join us for a time to develop techniques and have fun doing it. When the time is right, we'll offer leadership in worship.

Our first meeting is Tuesday, September 15 at 7 p.m., lasting 45-60 minutes. Future meeting dates will be set at that time. Please contact Deacon Ruth by September 1 if you are interested. Holy Trinity has a limited number of drums. If you want to participate and have your own instrument, all the better! †



We're Now on YouTube!

In addition to Facebook LIVE and through our website, you can now watch Sunday worship on YouTube. Search Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Be sure to SUBSCRIBE! †

Our Advent Summer

While attending a digital conference last month, I met some friends from around the nation to enjoy lunch together via Zoom. Someone remarked that this time in which we live feels like the longest Advent ever. We all agreed.

I considered the themes of Advent: waiting ... anticipating ... longing ... hoping. So many phrases in our beloved Advent hymns flooded my mind:

- Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart! (#262*-*Wait for the Lord*)
- let the light banish darkness (#240-*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*)
- plaintively sighing with hearts full of anguish/ Will you help us soon? Come and save us soon! (#243-*Lost in the Night*)
- arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere (#244-*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*)
- we pray you hear us when we call (#245-*Creator of the Stars of Night*)
- Come, Hope of unity, make us one body/ reconcile your people (#247-*Come Now, O Prince of Peace*)
- that life can spring from death, that growth can flower from our grieving (#252-*Each Winter As the Year Grows Older*)
- comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load (#256-*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*)
- furrows lie open for God's creative task: this, the labor of people who struggle to see how God's truth and justice set everybody free (#266-*All Earth Is Hopeful*)

Such texts speak to our current situation. We wait for cures. We anticipate in-person gatherings. We long for justice. We hope for peace....and so much more.

I invite you to meditate on these and other wonderful words of great hymn-writers as part of your regular devotions. (Visit hymnary.org for a comprehensive hymn/ hymnal index.) Let them speak to your soul and lift you out of daily burdens to discover Christ's coming into your life each day. Use these as meditations to immerse yourself in the Good News of God's reign among us.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel (#257-O Come, O Come, Emmanuel).†

* numbers refer to those in our ELW hymnal
Article written by Deacon Ruth Anderson.





Faith Formation

MONDAY-FRIDAY
8 a.m. - Facebook LIVE

Morning
Devotions

Facilitated by Pastor David,
Pastor Lor and Rachel Nunez.



MON & WED
7 p.m. - Facebook LIVE

BEDTIME
STORIES
AND PRAYERS
with Miss Rachel

Will resume September 2.



TUESDAY
1 p.m. - Facebook LIVE



Facilitated by Pastor David.



@ Home
August 2020

Sunday, August 2nd - Be Not Afraid

Thunderstorms. Earthquakes. Monsters under the bed. People yelling. News reports of horrific violence. A global pandemic. Together, talk about fears and how to feel safe.

- Opening Prayer: *Dear God, remind us of your presence when we feel afraid. Amen.*
- Read Matthew 14: 22-23
- Wonder along in a journal or in conversation with other family members:
 - Why were the disciples afraid?
 - How do you know the disciples were afraid? What did they do?
 - What is the first thing Jesus said to the disciples when he got to the boat?
 - Why do you think Jesus invited Peter to walk on the water?
 - Think about three (3) things that scare you the most and share them with each other.
 - What would help you feel safer in this situation? How can we help each other feel less afraid?
- Closing Prayer: *Thank you, God, for listening to our fears and helping us find ways to stay safe. Amen.*

Sunday, August 9th - Greet the Day

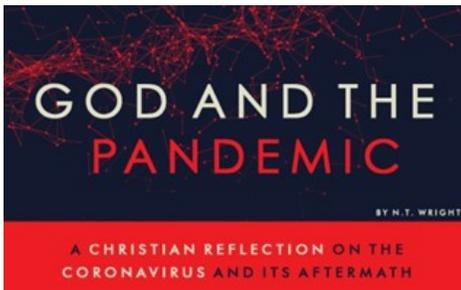
Do you begin the day by checking email or social media sites on your phone, grumbling and grouching, or with a ritual first cup of coffee? What you do first thing in the morning sets the scene for the rest of the day. Create a ritual for centering yourself and connecting with God and family before the day gets rolling?

- Opening Prayer: *Lord, You are the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. Help me to begin each day in a way that helps me to better love and serve You and my neighbors. Amen.*
- Read Lamentations 3: 23-25

Continued on page 12 ...

A New Midweek Study to Begin in August!

Join us beginning Wednesday, August 19th @ 11 a.m. via Zoom for a new Midweek Study! The discussion is facilitated by Rachel Núñez, Director of Formation. For Zoom access, please contact Rachel at rnunez@holytrinityakron.org or call/text (330) 634-6597.



A book that promises to shape our faith now and into the future, *God and the Pandemic* will help you to understand how we are to talk about God, how we are to live in the present pandemic, how we recover from it, and what is the church's calling in the midst of it all. (www.godandthepandemic.com)

Limited copies of the book are available in the church office or you may contact Rachel Núñez, Director of Formation at rnunez@holytrinityakron.org or call/text 330-634-6597 and she will send you a copy in the mail. *NOTE: Please have Chapter 1 read by our first meeting.* †

- Wednesday, August 19th – Chapter 1: Where Do We Start?
- Wednesday, August 26th – Chapter 2: Reading the Old Testament

One More for The Luther & Lager Hour!

We will gather on Thursday, August 6, at 8:00pm via Zoom for one final session of The Luther & Lager Hour. Luther's Small Catechism will be our resource; the topic is Holy Communion. You're invited to join us for this informal theological conversation based on the writings of Martin Luther. And yes...you are welcome to bring along the lager (or other beverage) of your choice. Please email Pr. David (dnevergall@holytrinityakron.org) for Zoom access.

We'll be taking a break after August 6 as PD will be on vacation, but are planning to return again after Labor Day with a new line-up of quotes and topics. Watch this space and your MidWeek Word for more information. Then, come join the conversation. †

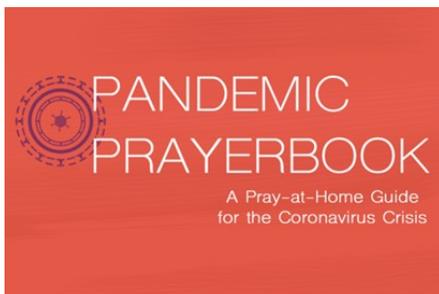
New Friday Morning Devotions in August

Beginning Friday, August 21st, 9–9:30 a.m. via Zoom, we will gather to check-in with one another, pray for one another and our community and bless one another. Devotions are led by

Rachel Núñez, Director of Formation. For Zoom access, please contact Rachel at rnunez@holytrinityakron.org or call/text (330) 634-6597.

“Whatever your reaction to the Coronavirus crisis, this prayerbook will give you a way to process and lean into this historic moment, letting God do a deep work in you while you pray for him to work in others. In these prayers, we are asking God to change the trajectory of the virus, and in the

meantime, to change us. Whether you're serving as a front-line or essential worker or doing your part at home, I hope these prayers give you a new way to keep on keeping on.” – Darcy Wiley, *Pandemic Prayerbook* †



WEDNESDAY
1:30.m. - Zoom Meeting



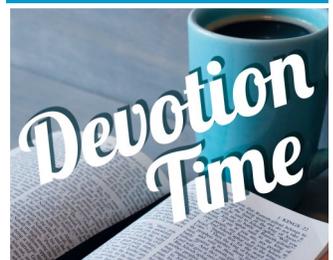
New study begins in August.

THURSDAY, AUG. 6
8 p.m. - Zoom Meeting



Will resume after Labor Day!

FRIDAY
9-9:30 a.m. - Zoom Mtg



New topic beginning August 21.

SATURDAY, AUG. 22
10 a.m. - Zoom Meeting



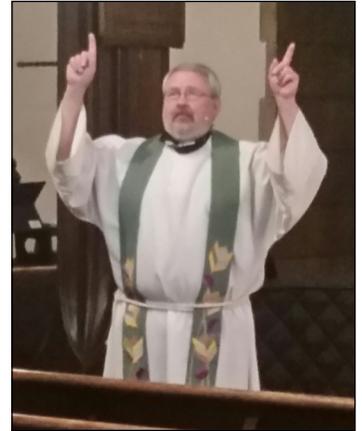
Serving the Church & Our Community



On Sunday mornings (since March), you can find Bob and Jess Foutty behind the cameras and computers helping to present our worship service online.



Manny and Rachel Nunez sing during the July 19 worship service.



Since we cannot sing right now, we are adding movement to our worship experience. Here is Pastor David leading sign language during one of the hymns.



LEFT & BELOW: The Ushers are back! Here to greet you for in-person worship are Gary Radanof, Gregg Loesch and Fred Riemann.



BELOW: Our first Patron Circle Virtual Reception (via Zoom) for the Arts @ Holy Trinity. Several musicians from the upcoming season participated and performed.



Thank you to Jacinto and Rachel Nunez, Gregg Loesch and Sandy and Alex DeLuca for helping to prepare and distribute to-go meals and education kits for the FRC at Robinson CLC.





Holy Trinity will soon engage in service work right here in our community. We are one of over 9,100 congregations participating in “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday, on September 13. Across the country, thousands of members will engage in service work to make a positive change in our communities, build and deepen relationships and share God’s love.

Because of COVID-19, we will not have in person service projects this year. We can still engage in service while physically distancing. We are collecting items for DLM Food and Resources. These items include personal care products (shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, tooth brushes, shaving cream, razors, body wash, feminine products, etc.), Baby items (diapers, baby wipes, baby shampoo, baby lotion, bottles, diaper rash cream, etc.), and Laundry items (detergent, fabric softener, dryer sheets, stain remover, hangers, etc.).

You are invited to collect items during the month of August. You may drop items off at the church on Sunday, September 13 at the Park Street Entrance for DLM. Members of the Youth & Education Ministry Team will be present to collect them from 9 a.m. – noon. †



If you are not able to physically drop items off, please contact Rachel Núñez, Director of Formation at rnunez@holytrinityakron.org or call/text 330-634-6597 and other arrangements can be made.



**God's work.
Our hands.**

- Create a list of all the ways that you might connect to God’s new mercies every morning. Some ideas to get you started: read a Bible verse, listen to a song, pray a short prayer, say a phrase like “God is good all the time” or “Bless the Lord, O my soul,” greet people with a smile.
 - Choose one morning ritual to try for a week. Make it the first thing you do each day.
- Closing Prayer: *God of fresh starts, Your mercies are new every morning. Help me as I do my best to try to start my day by connecting to this reality and connecting to You. Amen.*

Sunday, August 16th – Blown Over with Hope

Pairing a feeling of discouragement with one of happiness in this activity may help to demonstrate how even when a person feels overwhelmed or hopeless, Jesus, is there to help. Sometimes this encouragement comes in very simple ways.

- Gather around a table and invite family members to tell what they are most thankful for today.
- Give each person an index card and a pencil. Ask each one to write or draw about a time of day or daily activity that is often discouraging, an activity that makes him or her feel hopeless or “at odds” with the world.
- Next, flip cards over and write or draw about a favorite time of day or daily activity that makes them feel relaxed, happy, or confident.
- Gently fold the index cards with the favorite time of day facing out. Set the folded cards on the table.
- Have each person try to flip over his or her card by blowing on it. (It sounds easy, but it’s not). Even when blowing above or below the card, it shouldn’t flip.
- Invite each family member to think about what lesson they might take from this activity: What might this exercise say about living each day? (Even when we feel frustrated or overwhelmed, it is temporary. Jesus provides hope in many different ways, including in the form of everyday activities).
- Read together aloud Psalm 86: 15 – *But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.*
- Start each day this week, by reading this Psalm as your prayer of the day.

Sunday, August 23rd – Share Your Treasure

God gives every individual gifts that are uniquely theirs, making each person like a treasure chest filled with valuables...valuables to be shared. In this exercise, family members convey the gifts and talents they see in each other by listing them on a piece of paper.

- Have each person write their name on a piece of paper. Under your name, write two special gifts or talents you believe you possess.
 - Pass your piece of paper to the right; then have that family member write two things they think are special about the person. Keep passing the paper around the circle until everyone has added a special gift or talent.
 - Read aloud the special gifts or talents listed on your piece of paper.
 - Discuss the following questions:
 - What did you learn about yourself that you didn’t know before?
 - Did you discover any special gift or talent that you and no one else in your family possess?
 - How often do you tell others about their special qualities?
- Closing Prayer: *Gracious God, thank you for revealing yourself through the gifts and talents you have bestowed on each of us. With your grace, help us to use these gifts to serve one another and bring you greater glory and honor. Amen.*

Sunday, August 30th – Community Prayers

Families can grow in awareness of people in their church and community who are in need of prayer. Family members of all ages can pray for others and let people know they are praying for them.

Needed: Blank cards and envelopes or postcards, pen, markers or crayons, church bulleting or newsletter, stamps, congregational directory (optional)

Prepare in Advance: Look in your church newsletter or worship bulleting for a list of individuals requesting prayer.

- Gather as a family and say this prayer aloud to begin: *Loving God, you care for all who are in need. Watch over everyone who needs your help, especially (name individuals mentioned on the church prayer list). Amen.*

Continued on page 14 ...

ONLINE CHURCH

Join us online for devotions, prayers, group study and conversations!

Daily Devotions



Weekdays - 8 a.m.
Facebook LIVE
(@trinityakron)

Start each weekday in prayer and God's Word. It's a great way to prepare your heart, mind and body for the day!



Wednesday
1:30 p.m.
Zoom Meeting
Join us as we take a new look at "Taking Faith Home" and the Four Faith Practices of Caring



Conversations, Devotion, Service, and Rituals/Traditions all based on the Revised Common Lectionary. Contact Rachel Núñez for Zoom access at rnunez@hollytrinityakron.org. NOTE: A new Midweek Study will begin Wednesday, August 19.

Bedtime Story & Prayer



Monday & Wednesday
7 p.m. Facebook LIVE
(@trinityakron)

Join Miss Rachel for a special bedtime story and prayer to help bring your day to a close.

NOTE: This will not be presented in August; it will resume September 2.

The Luther & Lager Hour



Thursday - 8 p.m.
via Zoom Meeting

Pastor David will host "The Luther & Lager Hour." This will be a time of informal theological conversation based on quotes from Martin Luther. Contact Pastor David for Zoom access at dnevergall@hollytrinityakron.org.

NOTE: Final session is August 6; it will resume after Labor Day.

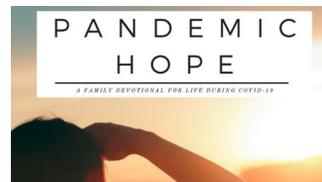
Prayer Meeting



Tuesday - 1 p.m.
Facebook LIVE
(@trinityakron)

Bring your prayer concerns and type them into the comment area. We'll combine all prayer needs, and join in intercessory prayer, the Lord's Prayer, and a blessing.

Devotional Time



Friday, 9-9:30 a.m.,
Zoom Meeting

As COVID-19 is affecting us, let's join together for some time of deepening our faith and listening to how God is calling us to love and serve our neighbor. Contact

Rachel Nunez for Zoom access at rnunez@hollytrinityakron.org.
NOTE: The current session ends July 31. It will resume Friday, August 21 with a new topic and devotions.

Sunday Worship

Sunday - 9:30 a.m.
via Facebook LIVE (@trinityakron)
at hollytrinityakron.org & YouTube

Join us online or in-person each Sunday morning with God! We provide picture-in-picture ASL interpretation. Download the bulletin from hollytrinityakron.org. For the safety guidelines for in-person worship, see page 3 of this newsletter.



Women's Bible Study



Saturday,
August 22
10 a.m., Zoom Meeting

We are finish the study "Just Love" Session Three, In the nation: Giving birth to justice (Exodus 1:8-14).
Facilitator is Valerie Clark.

BYOB - Bring Your Own Breakfast. Contact Rachel Núñez, Director of Formation, at rnunez@hollytrinityakron.org for Zoom access. Digital copies of the study are available if needed.



August Birthdays

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

- August 2 – Ruth Rieman
- August 3 – Jacqueline Myers
- August 4- Blin Scatterday
- August 4 – Cathy Wolverton
- August 5 – Richard Hoskins
- August 6 – Ian Rogers
- August 10 – Sylvia Leddon
- August 10 – Laura Snelson
- August 10 – Andrew Spannbauer
- August 11 – Abigail Anacki
- August 11 – Evelyn Grady
- August 11 – Donald Spencer
- August 12 – Tina Haas
- August 12 – Bob Leddon
- August 14 – Tyler Rieman
- August 17 – Morgan Isenhardt
- August 17 – Beatrice Moxon
- August 17 – Don Perrine
- August 17 – Karen Snyder
- August 21 – Molly Phelps
- August 22 – Margo Krugger
- August 22 – Dan Seiberling
- August 23 – Stephen White
- August 24 – Daniel Probert
- August 26 – Dana Eckert
- August 26 – Kathy Tiemann
- August 28 – David Lupo Jr.
- August 31 – Sarah Wolverton

*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.*

Farewell and Godspeed

Back in late March (Remember March? It was about five years ago.), we had planned to formally say farewell and Godspeed to our brother in Christ Michael Wilson. Michael came to us about six years ago when he began his post-graduate studies at The University of Akron. Almost immediately, he jumped into the life and leadership of Holy Trinity, deploying to our great joy his wide range of gifts leading worship, social ministry projects, and discipleship efforts...as well as being the great friend that God made him to be.



In the midst of the pandemic, Michael completed his studies and research at UAkron and moved on. He's now working under a post-doctoral fellowship in Washington, DC. He's settled into his apartment there, though finding a new church home has been complicated since everyone is still "virtual." In the meantime, he still often joins us for The Luther & Lager Hour, so we get to continue to share the life of faith with him. In all this, we wish him well and ask that God continues to guide and direct him. †

A prayer: Eternal God, we thank you for Michael and for the time we were privileged to share with him. As he has been a blessing to and among us, so now we send him forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Sunday LIFT @ Home – August 2020 ... continued from page 12

- Discuss how your family can pray to God to comfort these people and the people who are taking care of them.
- Make cards to send to the people named on the prayer list to let them know your family is praying for them.
- For each card, invite children to use markers to decorate the front of a blank card or postcard. As a family, decide on the message to write and have an older child or adult write it on the card with a pen. Have an older youth or adult address the envelope or postcard, and have a child place the stamp on it.
- If possible, walk as a family to the mailbox to deposit your card(s) for delivery. Say the following prayer at the mailbox: *Dear God, please bless (name the individual(s) to whom card is being sent) who will receive this card and the person who will deliver it. Amen.* †

Vicar's Vision ... continued from page 4

I could never have done any of this without the support of the whole congregation of Holy Trinity. You have done countless sermon evaluations. You have participated in children's sermons. You have come and been part of community conversations about the intersections of our faith and issues in the world around us. You generously gave of your love offering to send me to Pine Ridge for my January intensive class (and even to bring me back home again). Finally, you have allowed me to continue to serve with you while I awaited my first call. My last Sunday at Holy Trinity will be August 2. I wish we could all see each other before I go, but I know that we have to keep social distance. Please know that this is not "Goodbye." You can't get rid of me that easily. It is "See you soon." I will continue to pray for the people and the ministry of Holy Trinity. I will make every effort to stay in contact so that when Covid-19 has run its course I can have a more formal goodbye. Until then, may God's blessing be with you and may you give all glory to God as you continue to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the world. †

- Blessings, Vicar Debbie

ARTS @ HOLY TRINITY

Sunday, 4 p.m.
September 20, 2020

**Michael Kelly,
baritone
& David Leisner,
guitar**



Praised as “expressive and dynamic” and “vocally splendid,” American baritone Michael Kelly continues to distinguish himself as a consummate artist, sought-after for his riveting interpretations of recital, concert and operatic repertoire.

David Leisner is an electrifying performing artist, a distinguished composer, and a master teacher. *American*

Record Guide cited him as “among the finest guitarists of all time.” He records mostly for the Azica label, his compositions are published primarily by Theodore Presser Co., and he is the Chair of the Guitar Department at the Manhattan School of Music.

Die Schöne Müllerin, Franz Schubert's 20-song cycle about unrequited love, originally for voice and piano, is performed by the duo in Leisner's apt arrangement for voice and guitar. It is one of the most beloved pieces of music ever written.

IN- PERSON CONCERT NOTIFICATION

It is our intention to amend details for each concert as pandemic conditions dictate. Each event will be live-streamed and can be accessed from Holy Trinity's Facebook page (@trinityakron), YouTube channel or from our website. Please refer to artsholytrinity.org for up-to-date information.



**HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

artsholytrinity.org

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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:

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Groups & Activities

Acolyte Coordinator - Judy Eisenhart
Altar Guild - Sophia Morton
Archives - Ricki Ethington
Book Club - Diane Chambers & Amy Indorf
Communion Assistants - Deborah Ickes & Marcy Nagy
Friendly Visitors - Peter Lisius & Michael Wilson
Family Promise - Gregg Loesch
LINKS - Elizabeth Liska
Memorial Garden - Judy Samuelson
Parish Nurse Ministry - Sally Richenbacher
Prayer Chain - Sally Richenbacher & Wanda Clark
Renaissance Team - Bob Keener
Readers - Nan Riemenschneider
Robinson CLC - Sandy DeLuca
Sound System - Lorin Sickafoose & Joe Moxon
St. Bernard Hot Meals - Michael Wilson
Ushers - Gregg Loesch
Women's Bible Study - Velma Pomrenke

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