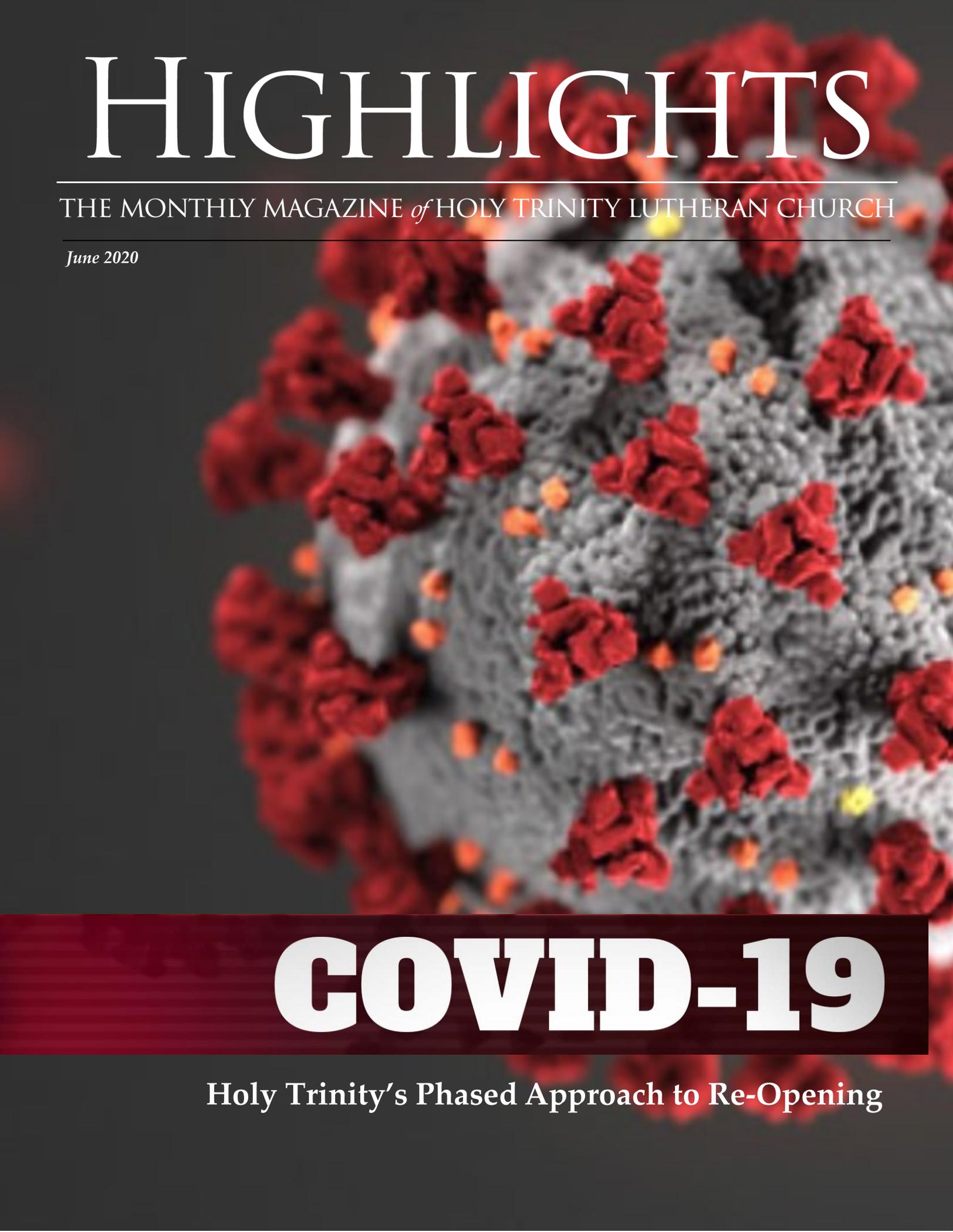


HIGHLIGHTS



THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE *of* HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

June 2020

COVID-19

Holy Trinity's Phased Approach to Re-Opening

Preparing to Gather Again



Pastor David

Suspending in-person activities for Holy Trinity was a difficult decision. It was followed by the challenging process of keeping the congregation connected, cared for, and able in some way to carry out its mission. Preparing to safely gather again may be an even greater challenge.

Why is this so difficult? Churches are a higher risk environment than most other businesses and organizations because of the nature of our congregational gatherings...close proximity, physical touch and engagement, singing/speaking that puts respiratory droplets in the air, limited ventilation in our building, duration of contact greater than 30 minutes, older demographics. All of these make church buildings and normal congregational activities a challenge to safe public health in a time of pandemic.

What we propose is a phased approach that draws on resources from the Ohio Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other public health experts in order to gradually and deliberately move from our current near shutdown to full public worship as our tradition and heritage understands it.

This plan is a starting point. It must be reviewed 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.

Jesus commands that we love one another. In this case, that love must be enough to embrace necessary changes to our patterns and habits as we confront the moral and theological obligation to safeguard the health of those whom we serve and with whom we will gather.

Defining the Phases - Our resource for establishing the threshold for movement from phase to phase is the National Coronavirus Response: A Road Map to Reopening (American Enterprise Institute/AEI), as recommended by the ELCA. Data needed to establish criteria for movement from phase to phase is drawn from Ohio Department of Health (ODH) statistics, Summit County Public Health (SCPH), and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME).

PHASE 1

PHASE 2

**PHASE 2
Expanded**

PHASE 1

Phase One: Slow the Spread

This is our current circumstance. Throughout this phase we will continue to observe strict physical distancing, use of masks in public areas, postponement/cancellation of mass gatherings, stay-at-home orders, and an emphasis on cleaning and sanitizing to reduce community spread. **Our congregational activities during Phase One** are reflected in the most recent Ministry Plan (May 3, 2020). This plan will continue until we move to Phase Two.

The AEI report indicates that it is safe to proceed to Phase Two when a state or other health district has achieved:

- A sustained reduction in cases for at least 14 days,
- Hospital capacity allows for treatment of all patients without resorting to crisis standards of care,
- State/district wide testing is available to all with Covid-19 symptoms, and
- The state/district is able to actively monitor all cases and their contacts.

PHASE 2

Phase Two: Gradual Re-Opening

A date for safe movement to Phase Two depends on data for the above, both actual reports and projections. The daily case count for Summit County is trending down as of the date of this writing (5/13), but has not done so for a long enough period as to be statistically reliable. Ohio-specific information from IHME suggests that it may be as early as June 4 and as late as July 1 before the two-week reduction in cases criterion is met. Hospital and testing capacities are also expected to be achieved during this same time period.

So, it is proposed: that in-person worship be resumed on Sunday, June 28, with one liturgy at 9:30am under the following conditions:

- Livestream worship continues for those who are in at-risk populations or who wish to continue to avoid large gatherings. (Note: Those attending in person may be seen on the broadcast. Signage at the entry door will indicate this.)
- Anyone with cold, allergy, or flu-like symptoms or anyone with a temperature of 100 degrees or more should stay home and seek appropriate medical care. Temperatures will be taken at the entry door. Anyone with a temperature of 100 degrees or more will not be admitted.
- Those who gather will observe 6' physical distancing upon entry, exit, and in seating.
 - Entry to the building will be by the north narthex door only. An usher in the parking lot will direct participants to this entrance. The door will be kept open (weather permitting) to reduce surface contact and increase ventilation.

NOTE: There will be a sign-in sheet at the entrance; each family is asked to sign-in. In the event someone who attends in-person worship tests positive, we are prepared to assist the local health authorities with contract tracing.

Continued on page 4 ...

PHASE 2

... continued from page 3

- Seating 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.
- Dismissal after worship will be guided row-by-row by the ushers through the door into the office lobby. Congregants are asked to immediately exit through the office entrance to their vehicles. The doors will be kept open (weather permitting) to reduce surface contact and increase ventilation. There will be no in-person fellowship or discipleship time.
- Sanitizer will be located near all doors and throughout the sanctuary. All participants are expected to sanitize their hands upon entry and after any physical contact.
- It is possible that maximum safe seating capacity could be reached in the sanctuary depending upon the number of individuals and the size of family groups wishing to gather. If that capacity is reached, no additional persons will be permitted entry. We are exploring how remote viewing/participation in other spaces in the building could happen, but do not currently have that capability.
- Masks must be worn by those not leading the liturgy. Congregants are urged to bring their own masks; only a limited supply will be available at the building. Those who cannot or will not wear a mask are asked to worship at home via the livestream.
 - 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.
 - Offering plates will be placed near the sanctuary doors (both entrance and exit) to receive our tithes and gifts.
 - Bible, hymnals and other printed materials will be removed from the pews.
 - There will be no printed order of service provided. An electronic version will be available for download on the congregant's own mobile device.
- Restrooms will be available for use; one person at a time will be permitted.
- A mandatory training session and scheduling will be held for ushers in order to effectively implement these procedures.
- All public areas and high touch objects/locations 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.

Continued on page 5 ...

PHASE 2 Expanded

Continuation of Phase Two: Expanded Re-Opening

The AEI report and the ELCA's own guidelines envision a gradual easing of distancing protocols so that more persons would be able to gather for worship, study, and other meetings. This would be permitted only after state health officials advise that 50 or more persons may gather in any one space at a time. When that happens (and we do not know a date for that), in-person activities will continue per the above guidelines with these additions/revisions:

- Whatever revised physical distancing protocols are established by the Ohio Department of Health will be used to determine the number of persons able to attend worship in person. Online worship will continue for those in high risk populations or those who are hesitant to gather in large groups.
- Holy Communion will be celebrated as part of the Sunday liturgy using guidelines from the ELCA (receiving the bread/wafer only in continuous fashion).
- Holy Baptism may be celebrated as part of the Sunday liturgy.
- Congregational singing, perhaps limited at first, will be reintroduced as part of the Sunday gathering.
- Apart from Sunday: office hours will return to 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Multiple meetings may be held in the building at the same time, but must be scheduled so that spaces may be cleaned/sanitized before and after.

Throughout this process, special emphasis will be given to the cleanliness of the building and our ability to maximize ventilation (including open doors as weather permits). It is proposed that our two furloughed sextons return to work on June 15. They will be provided a written protocol for all cleaning and sanitizing work, freeing the Maintenance Coordinator for the resumption of maintenance projects.

Choir section leaders will be retained through this process as they continue to assist in leading Sunday worship.



A Word about DLM...

Our "Dare to Love More" Food & Resources ministry will continue to operate under its current "deliveries only" protocol until such time as unrestricted in-person gatherings are permitted by the authorities. Our facility and the nature of DLM's normal shopping activities do not (and really cannot) comply with mandated physical distancing and sanitizing protocols.

DISCIPLESHIP



Our Mid-Week Study continues with a new look at ...



Our time together will be spent around the Four Faith Practices of *Caring Conversations, Devotion, Service, and Rituals/Traditions* all based on the Revised Common Lectionary. We will also look at the text of the Hymn of the Week and close our time together in Prayer and a Blessing.

Please join us on Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. beginning June 3rd. Contact Rachel Núñez, Director of Formation for Zoom access and instructions at rnunez@holyltrinityakron.org or call/text 330-634-6597.



Sunday LIFT

Living in Faith Together GenOn ministries

Summer Sunday LIFT Sunday School @ Home

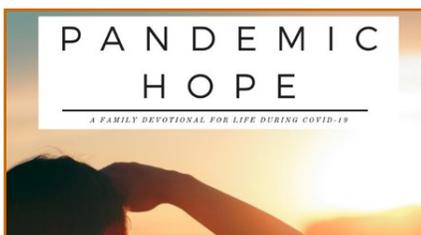
Theme: *God Creates*

God Creates explores the 7 days of creation in the Book of Genesis. Lessons are organized around the importance of each stage of the creation story. Participants are encouraged to think about the connectivity of each day and the value of each and everything God created.

Date	Theme
June 7 th	God Creates Earth (Genesis 1: 1-19)
June 14 th	Family Field Trip: Nature Hike Scavenger Hunt
June 21 st	God Creates Animals (Genesis 1: 20-25)
June 28 th	Family Field Trip: Akron Zoo or Virtual Tour
July 5 th	God Creates Humans (Genesis 1: 25-31)
July 12 th	Family Service Project: Bearers of God's Image
July 19 th	God Creates Rest (Genesis 2: 1-4)
July 26 th	Family Sabbath

Continued on page 7 ...

A New Zoom Devotional Time on Friday Mornings!



Join us beginning Friday, June 5 for a new devotional time, 9-9:30 a.m. via Zoom Meeting. Contact Rachel Núñez, Director of Faith Formation for instructions rnunez@holyltrinityakron.org or call/text 330-634-6597.

In the waters of baptism, we are claimed as children of God, as part of God's family, which means we don't live in this world separate from one another.

As COVID-19 is affecting us, as a global community, let's adjust our time of physical separation and join together with tools of technology in some time of deepening our faith and listening to how

God is calling us to love and serve our neighbor during this time. We will use the Faith5 model as we look at Scripture, Pray, and Bless one another. Let's remember we are not a people of fear, but of HOPE!



Summer Sunday LIFT ... continued from page 6

- ◆ Nature Scavenger Hunt worksheets attached – explore the Metro Parks or the Cuyahoga Valley National Park trails
- ◆ Akron Zoo: if not open by June 28th, virtual animal experiences are offered on their Facebook Page; virtual tours of zoos around the country are offered on-line as well (San Diego Zoo, Cincinnati Zoo, etc.)
- ◆ Bearers of God's Image Ideas: Write a note or card to a shut-in, help a neighbor with yard work, pay for someone's coffee or meal without them knowing it, walk around your neighborhood and pick up garbage, etc.
- ◆ Family Sabbath: unplug from technology for a day, everyone takes a nap at the same time, play board games, put a puzzle together as a family, think of a "random act of kindness" to do as a family, go on a picnic, etc.

Summer Sunday LIFT - June Schedule

Sunday, June 7th – God Creates Earth, Part 1 (Genesis 1: 1-19)

- Today we will begin to look at the very first story in the Bible. We will focus on the first four days of the creation story in which God creates the heavens and the earth.
- Read Genesis 1: 1-19.
- Discussion Questions (it's not mandatory to get to every question, focus on the conversations that arise from the questions).
- On the first day, God creates light and darkness or day and night. Wonder about how the world was before God separated the light from the dark. What do you think the world looked like?
- On the second day God creates water and sky and on the fourth day, God creates the sun, moon and stars. Share what you think is awesome about the sky. Share what you wonder about the sky.
- On the third day God creates land and oceans. Share what you think about how God created the land and oceans.
- Closing Prayer: *Dear God, thank you for creating the earth, for creating the heavens, for creating day and night, for creating oceans and land. Help us to recognize all these as blessings from you. Amen.*

Sunday, June 14th – God Creates Earth, Part 2 (Genesis 1: 1-19)

Family Field Trip: Take a **Nature Scavenger Hike** – explore a metro park, a trail in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, or a walk around your neighborhood. Use the worksheet (on the next page) to be aware of God's creation around you.

Sunday, June 21st – God Creates Animals, Part 1 (Genesis 1: 20-25)

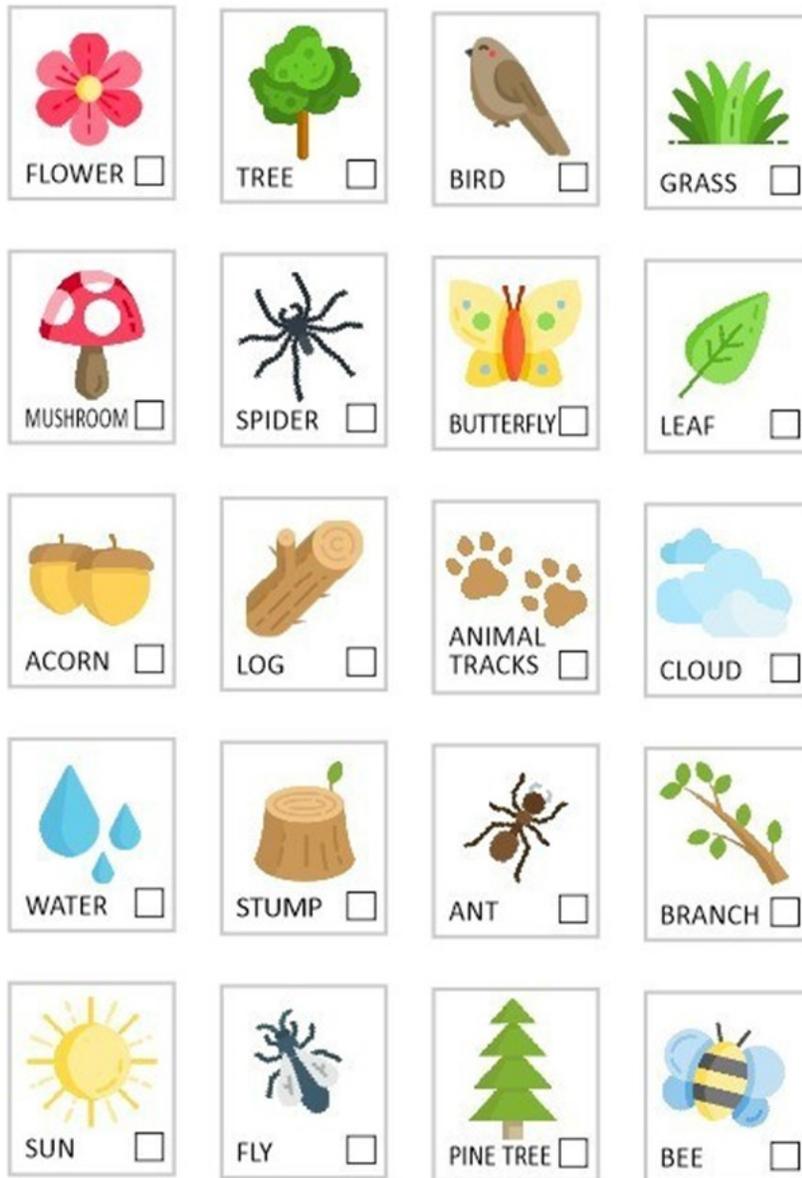
- Today we will hear the part of the creation story where God creates animals.
- Read Genesis 1: 20-25.
- Discussion Questions (it's not mandatory to get to every question, focus on the conversations that arise from the questions).
- Have you ever looked at an animal and thought, "God must have had a good sense of humor because look at how God created (animal name)." What animals do you think look funny? What makes you smile or laugh about that animal?
- Wonder about all the different ways animals live in the world. How do wild animals live? How do pets live?
- Wonder about the ways we can take care of all God's animals.
- Closing Prayer: *Dear God, thank you for creating animals and blessing us with all living creatures. Help us care for them with the same love you have for them. Amen.*

Sunday, June 28th – God Creates Animals, Part 2 (Genesis 1: 20-25)

Family Field Trip: If the Akron Zoo is open, take a day and go observe all the animals. If the zoos are still closed due to COVID-19, take a virtual tour at one of the following: www.akronzoo.org; www.clevelandmetroparks.com/zoo; www.cincinnati-zoo.org; <https://www.youtube.com/user/SDZoo>.

Google Search or YouTube Search: Australia Zoo, National Zoo, Akron Zoo (Lunch & Learn Videos), etc.

Nature Scavenger Hunt



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Virtual VBS Offered in July!

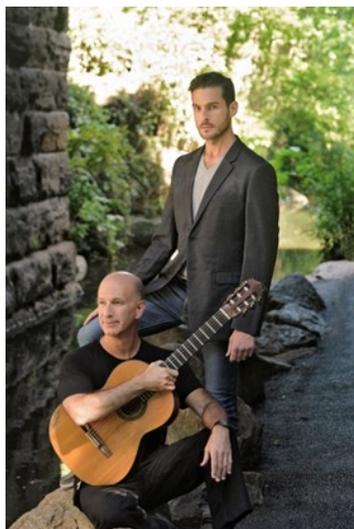
In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Illustrated Ministry is launching an at-home/virtual VBS program entitled *Compassion Camp: Be Loved. Be Kind. Be You.* The theme is compassion for others, ourselves, and the world. Holy Trinity will be using a combination of Facebook LIVE and take-home materials as we explore this theme together July 20-24. Look for more details in the coming weeks.

ARTS @ HOLY TRINITY

2020-2021 Concert Series

IN-PERSON CONCERT NOTIFICATION

It is our intention to amend details for each concert as pandemic conditions dictate. Each event will be live-streamed via Holy Trinity's Facebook Page. Please refer to artsholytrinity.org for up-to-date information.



Sunday, September 20, 2020, 4 p.m.

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. Kelly is a multi-talented artist, working with live and digital platforms as a collaborator, writer, producer and educator.

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.

Sunday, October 4, 2020, 4 p.m.

Organist Christa Rakich



Concert and recording artist Christa Rakich has performed widely throughout North America, Europe, and Japan. From now through June of 2021 she is Visiting Professor of Organ at Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio.

As a Fulbright Scholar, Rakich studied with renowned Bach interpreter Anton Heiller at the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna, Austria. She holds Bachelor's degrees in Organ and German from Oberlin College (Phi Beta Kappa). After receipt of her Master's degree with honors from New England Conservatory, she joined the faculty there, where she taught for many years, serving ultimately as department co-chair. She also served on the faculties at Westminster Choir College, Brandeis University, and the University of Connecticut, and as Assistant University Organist at Harvard.

A prizewinner at international organ competitions, Rakich has received particular acclaim for her interpretations of the music of J.S. Bach. She recorded his *Clavierübung III*, *Leipzig Chorales*, and *Trio Sonatas*. Other organ recordings include *Deferred Voices: Organ Music by Women Composers*, *Transcriptions from St. Justin's*, *Live from St. Mark's Cathedral*, *From the Ashes: Richards-Fowkes Opus 21 in Somers*, and *A Tribute to Yuko Hayashi: Richards-Fowkes Opus 14* at Duke University (released in 2020).



The book symbol indicates a community outreach activity. The artists generously agree to share their talents and experiences with students at our partner school, Robinson CLC, as well as with other local organizations.

This season, we are proud to offer two 'Meet-the-Artist' Meals that afford a delicious dinner, a small intimate gathering, and preferred seating for the concert. *Those events are designated by an (*) asterisk.*



Friday, December 4, 2020, 7:30 p.m.
**Procession of Advent
 Lessons & Carols**

Holy Trinity's choirs join musical forces with the Madrigal Singers of Firestone High School for this annual event. We hear the powerful story of salvation — from Bible readings, choral anthems and congregational hymns — that moves us from darkness to light, Advent to Christmas. Music leaders include adult and youth vocal choirs, a brass ensemble, handbell choir and instrumentalists.

Pianist Joe Leaman provides live entertainment during the reception.

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**Saturday, May 1, 2021, 2 p.m. Joining Hands, Joining Voices:
 Celebrating Our Community Through Serving and Singing**

Grammy-nominated organist and song-leader Jan Kraybill leads two musical gatherings with the combined forces from five urban Akron congregations: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, First Congregational Church, First United Methodist Church, Wesley Temple AME Zion Church, and Church of the Open Door.

The first event at 2 p.m. - 'Sing & Serve' – takes place under a large tent in Grace Park. We'll join our voices, singing unaccompanied, while joining our hands, assembling items to benefit people in need. At 2:45 p.m., we'll move to Holy Trinity's sanctuary for a more formal, diverse music presentation. We'll celebrate with many instruments and voices, witnessing to God's active work in our diverse community. A reception back under the tent offers an opportunity for further fellowship.



Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 7 p.m.
Guy Van Duser & Billy Novick*



Guy Van Duser and Billy Novick have been performing their unique style of classic American jazz for over 40 years. Combining Guy's sophisticated, elegant guitar style with Billy's soulful clarinet, they delight audiences all over the country with the passion, warmth and wit of their music. They released ten recordings as a duo, made many guest appearances on "A Prairie Home Companion Show," and were featured in a 30-minute interview on NPR's "All Things Considered."



Sunday, March 21, 2021, 4 p.m. – Stasera Duo*



Flutist Stephanie Jutt and Bayanist Stanislav Venglevski

Flutist Stephanie Jutt's elegant artistry and passionate intellect inspire musicians and audiences around the world. Her groundbreaking performances of new music, transcriptions, and traditional repertoire made her a model for adventurous flutists everywhere. She received first prize at the Concert Artist



Guild and Pro Musicis International Soloist competitions, and was a finalist in the International Walter W. Naumburg Competition.

His artistry, dazzling technical command, and sensitivity brings Stanislav ("Stas") Venglevski, a native of the Republic of Moldova, increasing acclaim as a virtuoso of the bayan (Russian accordion). A two-time first prize winner of Bayan competition in the Republic of Moldova, Stas graduated from the Russian Academy of Music in Moscow, where he received his Masters Degree in Music under the tutelage of the famed Russian bayanist Friedrich Lips. He is a consummate entertainer, capable of engaging any audience.

The duo will play a combination of Eastern European and Latin American music.

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!

NEW Midweek Study—June 3



Wednesdays
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. We will also look at the text of the Hymn of the Week and close in Prayer and Blessing. Contact Rachel Núñez for Zoom Instructions at rnunez@hollytrinityakron.org.

Bedtime Story & Prayer



Mon., Wed. & Fri., 7 p.m.
Facebook LIVE
(@trinityakron)

Grab your entire family (PJs optional) and join Miss Rachel for a special bedtime story and prayer to help bring your day to a

close and spend time in God's presence and word.

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. It's BYOL—Bring your own lager. Come join the conversation! Contact Pastor

David for Zoom instructions at dnevergall@hollytrinityakron.org.

Prayer Meeting

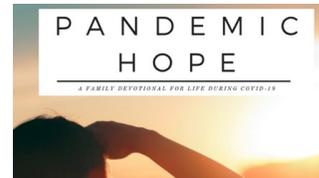


Tuesday - 1 p.m.
Facebook LIVE
(@trinityakron)

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.

NEW Devotional Time



Friday, 9-9:30 a.m.,
Zoom Meeting **Begins June 5*



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. We will use the

Faith5 model as we look at Scripture, Pray, and Bless one another. Contact Rachel Nunez for Zoom access at rnunez@hollytrinityakron.org.

Sunday Worship



Sunday - 9:30 a.m. via Facebook LIVE (@trinityakron)

Join us online each Sunday morning with God! We provide picture-in-picture ASL interpretation for those who are hearing impaired. Downloaded the bulletin from our website, hollytrinityakron.org.

Women's Bible Study



Saturday, June 20

10 a.m., Zoom Meeting



The discussion will be about *'Just love - In the family: What's love got to do with it?'* from the June 2020

Gather Magazine and facilitated by Linda Vowles. BYOB - Bring Your Own Breakfast. Contact Rachel Núñez at rnunez@hollytrinityakron.org or call/text 330-634-6597 for Zoom Meeting Instructions. Digital copies of the study are available if needed.

Volume #79, Issue #4

(USPS 640880)

Trinity Highlights

50 N. Prospect Street
Akron, OH 44304-1273
330-376-5154

Periodical Postage Paid

Akron, Ohio 44309

Trinity Highlights is published monthly, January through December. Periodical Postage Paid at Akron, Ohio.

Postmaster: Send address change to
Trinity Highlights
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church



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.

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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

Highlights is a publication of:
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Deadline for articles is the 15th of each month.

E-mail information to: highlights@holytrinityakron.org

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Mailing: TTT's & Anmmarie Demko*

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