



December 2017

# HIGHLIGHTS

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH *Praising. Loving. Serving in Jesus' name.*

## GO OUT & SERVE

### Christmas CAROLING

Join the Either Side of 40 Gang for a special 'Caroling at Concordia at Sumner' on Saturday, December 9. Concordia at Sumner is located at 970 Sumner Parkway, Copley. Meet at 4:30 p.m. at the Saunier Building (back in Assisted Living). The group will carol at all four buildings with dinner to follow. This activity is open to all Holy Trinity members. If you have questions, please contact Linda Vowles by email at [lgvowles@gmail.com](mailto:lgvowles@gmail.com). †



### ELCA Good Gifts Advent Tree

ELCA Good Gifts provides more than 50 different gift-giving options that grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives. Starting at just \$10, these gifts provide support for the churchwide ministries of the ELCA.

Holy Trinity's ELCA Good Gifts Tree is located in the lobby by the Welcome Center. You are invited to select an ornament and make a donation in that amount. Please fill in your name and date on the back of the ornament. Checks made payable to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. You may put your check in the GREEN Good Gifts Envelope provided and place it on the offering plate during worship. †

*See page 7 for other opportunities to serve.*

## ADVENT



### Announcing Holy Trinity's Cross+Generational Gathering

9:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Sunday - December 3, 10 & 17

Join us for Devotions followed by Advent Stations that include Coloring (for kids & adults), Story Time, and Conversations Around the Table. Coffee & seasonal goodies will be served.

### REVERSE ADVENT:

#### A Spiritual Discipline of Reaching Out

Throughout the Advent season, we will be collecting items and money to be distributed to Mission partners in our community. Members and friends are asked to collect the following during the week and bring their donations on Sunday morning.

#### Week 1 (December 3<sup>rd</sup>) – What food would the Holy Family need for their journey to Bethlehem?

- Place non-perishable FOOD ITEMS in a bag for those living with food insecurity served by the DLM Food & Resources Center.
- Talk about the role of food in your own life. Pray for the families in our community who are living with food insecurity.

#### Week 2 (December 10<sup>th</sup>) – What did the Holy Family need for warmth?

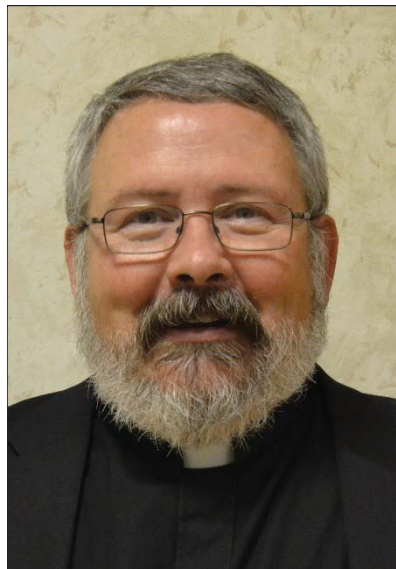
- Place WARM CLOTHES (hats, gloves, scarves, socks) in a bag for the Robinson CLC Clothes Closet.
- Talk about the clothes you wear to stay warm in the winter. Pray for those who have little or no shelter from the cold.

#### Week 3 (December 17<sup>th</sup>) – How would the Holy Family care for themselves?

- Place BASIC TOILETRIES (toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, soap, shampoo, comb, nail clippers, etc.) in a bag for the Housing insecure served by OPEN M, Haven of Rest, and Center for Hope & Healing.

*Continued on page 12*

## If Anyone Should be on a Ladder, It's Jesus



I'm not really great with heights to begin with. They've always made me a bit queasy. But somebody needed to climb the ladder, and somebody needed to put the lights and decorations on the top of the tree that would grace the chancel of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Columbus. And who better to do it than the eager-to-prove-himself, first-year seminary student who was considerably younger than most of the crowd that showed up to help decorate.

Have I mentioned that I'm not really great with heights? I'm also not that great with balance either apparently. So all it took was a reach just a bit too far away from my extended center of gravity, and the ladder moved...in the opposite

direction. And I tumbled into the tree and onto the chancel floor. There were plenty of oohs and aahs, but no cuts or bruises...except the ones to my ego.

That experience has stayed with me through the years, but I tend to process it less in terms of embarrassment now and more as a clue to our theological understanding. Those who attended this summer's "Lutheran Basics" class will recognize the paradigm. As Dr. Wengert explained to us: a lot of religion is built upon the notion that we need to do something to get into heaven (or whatever you label right relationship with God). "We are climbing Jacob's Ladder" isn't just an old song; it's a way of taking charge of our own salvation. We want to get right with whatever divine power controls our destiny. And we do that by working hard to prove ourselves like that young, first-year seminary student. And we will be good, and we will be noticed for being good...by those around us and by God.

"Up Religion" is the label Dr. Wengert put on it. And it's a great theory except for the fact that it doesn't work. We climb and climb and eventually lose our balance and tumble back to earth humiliated. We keep on trying and keep on failing...usually until apathy or despair sets in.

But Christianity is not an "Up Religion." It's a "Down Religion." And we see that clearly in the Advent and Christmas celebrations just ahead of us. God takes on human form and comes to us...meeting us as we are and where we are to demonstrate once and for all who we are...beloved children of a gracious God whose actions make possible the divine/human connection we celebrate as eternal life.

If anyone should be on a ladder, it's Jesus. And the tremendously good news? Jesus is on the ladder. In Christ, God does for us what we cannot accomplish on our own, no matter how hard we try or how brave and eager we are. We have been set right with God by God's own grace. All the work that needs to be done comes after that fact. With gratitude for the best gift we'll ever receive (at Christmas or any other time), we can get busy in the world around us...sharing ourselves and the good things we bear with those who need the good news we have received.

"And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us." Right there it is in the first chapter of John's Gospel. Sisters and brothers, put that ladder away (or, at least, the urge to climb) before you hurt yourself. God is the one who climbs down for you and all this waiting, hurting world. O come, let us adore him. +

### Holy Trinity's Staff

Senior Pastor, David Nevergall  
 Director of Discipleship Ministries, Rachel Núñez  
 Dir. of Congregational Ministries, Marla Wood Kay  
 Director of Music Ministries, Ruth Anderson  
 Parish Secretary, Annmarie Demko  
 Financial Secretary, Rick Kimble  
 Communications Coordinator, Beth Hensley  
 Youth Leader, Carole Bader  
 Maintenance Coordinator, VACANT  
 Sextons, Don Santangelo & Bruce Mansour

### Groups & Activities

Acolyte Coordinator	Ethan Scheck
Altar Guild	Donna Carroll
Archives	Ricki Ethington
150 Year Celebration	Sandy DeLuca
Communion Assistants	Vacant
Council President	Sandy DeLuca
Either Side of 40 Gang	Rotating Leaders
Friendly Visitors	Peter Licius & Michael Wilson
HTLC Praise Troupe	Carole Bader
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
St. Bernard Hot Meals	Michael Wilson
Trinitarians	Velma Pomrenke, Sally Richenbacher
Ushers	Gregg Loesch
Volunteers	Marla Wood Kay
Women's Bible Study	Velma Pomrenke
Young Adults	Marla Wood Kay

### 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.

**Highlights** is a publication of:

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
 50 N. Prospect Street, Akron, Ohio 44304-1273  
 330-376-5154 Fax: 330-376-9769  
[holytrinityakron.org](http://holytrinityakron.org)

**Deadline for articles is the 15th of each month.**

E-mail: [highlights@holytrinityakron.org](mailto:highlights@holytrinityakron.org)

Editors: Beth Hensley, Annmarie Demko, and Sandy DeLuca.

Mailing: TTT's & Annmarie Demko



# Holy Trinity Welcomes New Members



## Tim and Debbie Anderson

Tim is a machinist and extruder operator for a local company in Akron, and Debbie is an Executive Assistant to the VP of Marketing for a company in Hudson. Between them, they

have five grown children, and five grandchildren ranging in age from 8 - 21 years old. Music is a big part of their lives. Tim dabbles with his folk guitar and Debbie plays the Bodhran. They travel often in spring and summer with a Celtic band from Dayton. Tim and Debbie are looking forward to making Holy Trinity their new church home and getting to know this new family of friends...serving God and the community with love and open hearts.



## David, Christina & Taylor Harris

David and Christina were married here at Holy Trinity on August 5 this year. They reside in Brimfield Township with their daughter Taylor and two

Chihuahuas. David is a police officer for the Cleveland Clinic Police Department. Christina works in the dental field in oral surgery. Taylor is in the 11th grade at Field High School. She is very active in student council and enjoys helping the community. The family enjoys working out, going on nature walks, watching movies together, and kayaking in the summers. David, Christina and Taylor are excited about becoming members of Holy Trinity, and look forward to meeting everyone!



## Cindy Kenepf

Cindy lives in North Canton. She is a special education teacher with Canton City Schools. Her 92 year old mother lives with her in a suite attached to her house. She has one son, a daughter-in-law and three grandsons. Cindy loves the arts. She is a painter (especially in acrylics) and, for the last ten years, has

sung mezzo soprano in Holy Trinity's choir. Time flies!



## Michael, Jennifer and Logan Hunter

Michael grew up the youngest of four, in the Lutheran Church in Elida, Ohio.

Jennifer grew up Roman Catholic, the

oldest of six siblings. They met in her hometown of Van Wert, Ohio. They were married at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Van Wert in October 19, 1996. Jennifer became stepmother of Michael's daughter Kerry, who at that time was nine years old. The next day, they moved to Akron, and their son Logan was born in 2007. Michael works in IT for the Department of Defense in Cleveland. Jennifer is a 4th and 5th grade Language Arts teacher at Rimer CLC in Akron. They have two grandchildren, Veronica, 12 and Dylan, 9. Michael enjoys working with computers and recording music. Jennifer plays flute in the Cuyahoga Falls Community Band, and likes to make Mexican food. Logan plays basketball, takes karate lessons, and is in 4<sup>th</sup> grade at Schrop Intermediate School. They chose to attend Holy Trinity because of the welcoming people who help the community in a beautiful setting. They live in Lakemore, Ohio with their two cats, Mittens and Elsa and their dog Darla.



## Deidre Halligan and Kirk Johnson

Deidre and Kirk are due to exchange vows next October. God has truly brought these two together in a most serendipitous manner. In June 2013, Deidre purchased a home on a quiet street in Kent. Soon after, in September 2013, Kirk bought the house

directly next door to Deidre. The inevitable interactions between neighbors evolved into a friendship. From this point on, Kirk and Deidre have remained undeniably devoted to one another, and they both discovered joy and happiness that neither thought possible. Both Kirk and Deidre are humbled and honored to be accepted as members of the Holy Trinity community, and look forward to growing in faith and love with this congregation.

*Continued on page 11*

# The Youth Connect

## YOUTH EVENTS

- **Friday, December 1, 7 p.m. — LESSONS & CAROLS** (all youth)  
Youth helping with hospitality and reception.
- **Sunday, December 3, 12:15-1:30 p.m. — AGAPE CLUB** (all youth)  
Agape Closet will also be open.
- **Friday, December 8, 6 p.m.-Saturday, December 9, 8 a.m.**  
**YOUTH CHRISTMAS LOCK-IN** (8th-high school youth)
- **Sunday, December 10, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE**  
All youth are expected to participate in this fundraiser.
- **Sunday, December 17, 12:15-1:30 p.m. — LUNCH, DEVOS & MISSION**  
Open to 8th-high school youth.

## YOUTH FUNDRAISERS

- **Christmas Cookies Sale**—Sunday, December 10 (*details at right*)
- **Casserole Sale**—begins Sunday, January 14, 2018 (*details at right*)

### LUNCH & DEVOS

The youth and several adults enjoyed an afternoon at the annual Holiday Tree Festival presented by Akron Children's Hospital on November 19.

**BELOW:** One of the youth's favorite trees!



*Pictured (from left): Camdynn Stevens, Carole Bader, princesses, Kristine Johnson and Anna Scheck.*



## Christmas Cookies Sale

**Sunday, December 10,  
8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
Chapel Lounge**

### *Don't have time to bake?*

Then we have cookies for you! There will be a wide variety of cookies to choose from—all \$4 per dozen.

Whether you buy one dozen or 10, your support is greatly appreciated!

Cookie donations may be **dropped off** at the church office during office hours on Friday, December 8 during office hours and on Saturday, December 9, 9-11 a.m. ... youth volunteers will be at the church on Saturday. Thank you in advance for your support! †

*Cookies can be dropped off on Sunday morning; they must be packaged by the dozen.*



## Casserole Sunday— January 14

*Don't have time to cook? No worries!*

The youth will have a variety of casseroles (ready to freeze or warm and serve) available for purchase the 2nd Sunday of each month in 2018.

**Each casserole will be priced at \$20.** They will be available for purchase in the Chapel Lounge beginning at 10 a.m. while supplies last. †





Beginning in January DLM Food and Resources will have set open days. The second Saturday of the month from 11a.m.-12:30 p.m. and the third Thursday of the month from 7-8:30 p.m. DLM will be open to serve Project RISE families and one guest household for each family. These restrictions are intended to help us get to know these families more. On the fourth Saturday on the month from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. DLM will be open to the public. Extra volunteers are needed and a slightly different procedure will be in place on this day. **Volunteers are needed for the Saturday dates, as well as drivers who can pick up food at the Food Bank on Mondays or Tuesdays.** If you have a pick-up truck or a trailer, a pallet with the food order can be loaded directly in your vehicle. People who are willing to unload food at Holy Trinity are also needed. This won't take long, but it requires the ability to carry food down the stairs. For information, please contact Deacon Marla Wood Kay at the church office. †

## Benevolences Approved

At the October meeting of the Outreach/Social Concerns Team, the following benevolences were approved:

- South Street Ministries
- The Well Community Development Corporation
- Harvest Home Future Story Program
- DLM Food Pantry
- Legacy III
- FI Community Housing, Inc.
- Freedom House for Women
- Truly Reaching You Ministries
- LINKS
- Family Promise of Summit County
- Gennesaret Feeding Ministry
- Summit County Children Services Holiday Fund
- ELCA Disaster Relief – Puerto Rico
- St. Bernard's Hot Meal Program
- OPEN M

Benevolences totaled \$40,300, funded by the TLC Endowment Fund. If anyone has any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact Gregg Loesch. †



## Holy Trinity's Annual Holiday Luncheon

*Sponsored by the Trinitarians & Altar Guild*

**Thursday, December 7, 11:45 a.m.**

**Crystal Room, The University of Akron**

The meal is buffet-style and the entertainment will be the St. Nicholas Balalaika Orchestra. Guests are asked to bring unwrapped toys for children, birth to age 14, who are served by OPEN M. The last Sunday to make a reservation is December 3. Cost is \$15 per person. Reservations may be made at the table set-up in the office hallway. †



The Arts @ Holy Trinity is pleased to continue Kindermusik classes in 2018. With more than 35 years of experience as the leader in musical learning, Kindermusik International understands music's unique ability to impact children (and families) in profound ways. Across private studios, public schools, and childcare centers in over 70 countries, children, parents, and teachers enjoy participating in Kindermusik's fun, developmentally specific, and research-based music and movement classes. Parents also appreciate how enrollment in Kindermusik includes home materials, incorporating their favorite songs, stories, and learning activities from class, so families can "play" Kindermusik wherever they go.

Connie Archbold brings granddaughter Katie to class each week. It is a special time for them. Connie said, "When we ride in the car together, Katie looks forward to listening to the CDs from her home materials. She says, 'Gramma, that's *piano*,' or 'that's *forte*', observing the volume of a given song. Katie gets very excited when told 'Tomorrow is Wednesday - it's time for music class!'"

Sessions for children ages 0-5 (accompanied by a grown-up) are scheduled for Wednesday mornings, January 9-April 25. Class sizes are limited. Registration fee: \$60.00/child. Contact Deacon Ruth at the church office for further information. Online registration is available on Holy Trinity's website. †



## Holy Trinity Book Club

**Sunday, December 3, after the 11 a.m. service | Scharf Library**

The group will discuss the book, *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi. All are invited to bring a brown bag lunch and join in the lively discussion. Contact Amy Indorf or Diane Chambers with questions. †



## Men on a Mission

**Saturday, December 9 & 23, 8:30 a.m. | Chapel Lounge**

If you're a guy, you are welcome to join us. We're reading First Kings, eating donuts, drinking coffee and praying together ... generally figuring out what it means to be a man of faith. We meet the second and fourth Saturday of each month. This is good stuff ... come and be a part of it! †



## Men's Lutheran Loafers

**Friday, December 15, 12 p.m. | Waterloo Restaurant**

Calling all men ... or anyone who wants to join the group! No experience necessary, you just must enjoy meeting with other members of our Holy Trinity Family. All you have to do is show up. If you would like any further information just call Fletcher Carroll @ (330) 923-6310 or e-mail [peegee@neo.rr.com](mailto:peegee@neo.rr.com). †



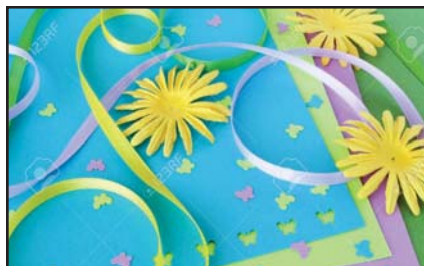
## Women's Bible Study

**Saturday, December 16, 9 a.m. | Home of Velma Pomrenke**

Women's Bible Study will meet at the home of Velma Pomrenke, 1148 W. Market Street, Apt. 216, Akron. Co-hostess is Diane Chambers. Discussion will be based on an Advent Devotional, "Joy to the World" in the December issue of Gather magazine. If you do not subscribe, a copy of the magazine is in the Scharf library. All women and friends are invited to this fellowship and study. †



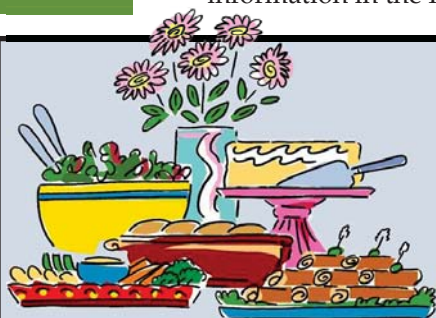
**Altar Guild** will resume in January 2017. Look for more information in the Highlights.



The **Trinity Stampers** will resume in January 2017. Look for more information in the Highlights.



The **Trinitarians** will meet next in January 2017. Look for more information in the Highlights.



## Funeral Dinner Help Needed

... Funeral dinners at Holy Trinity are catered, but we are in need of volunteers who are willing to help serve and host the meal. Phyllis Martin is the coordinator of this ministry, and needs a list of people she can call when we receive the news that a dinner has been scheduled. She will order the food and all you need to do is help the assigned sexton with set-up, serving and clean-up. If you are willing to be on Phyllis' call list, please contact Deacon Marla at [mwkay@holytrinityakron.org](mailto:mwkay@holytrinityakron.org) or call at (330) 608-7923. These meals are an important way we care for our grieving brothers and sisters. A simple act of caring can go a long way. †



## Thanksgiving Meal at Robinson CLC



**What a way to give thanks and serve!** Several members of Holy Trinity helped serve a special Thanksgiving meal to the students in Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades at Robinson CLC on November 22. The meal was partially provided by the chef and his staff at the Hilton Garden Inn Akron located on E. Market Street. Thank you to: Pastor David and Karen Nevergall, David and Kathy Tiemann, Diane Chambers, Jennifer Keller, Elizabeth and Ernie Liska, Camdynn and Brycen Stevens, Bob and Sonya Nagle, Rachel and Manny Núñez and Sandy DeLuca. †



There are more opportunities for you to serve and to support others in this community.

## Winter Break Food Bags for Robinson Students

To help ensure the most needy students at Robinson CLC have enough food over the winter break, Holy Trinity will once again prepare 20 food bags. Teachers will identify the students and bags will be distributed before break. The TTTs will prepare the bags. If you would like to help, please contact the church office for information. †



## Habitat House

Holy Trinity is helping Habitat for Humanity of Summit County construct a home on Magnolia Avenue in Cuyahoga Falls for a family. Work on the home has progressed to indoors. Holy Trinity has been invited to participate in one of two upcoming build days:

**Saturday, December 16th**

**Saturday, January 27th**

If you would like to join us on one of these Saturdays, please contact Gregg Loesch. †

## Music from the Morminos

Ben, Abby, and Maddie Mormino are presenting a piano recital here at Holy Trinity on Sunday, December 17, at 4 p.m. The music will include seasonal favorites alongside standard piano repertoire. The recital is a benefit for the DLM Food & Resources Room. Attendees are asked to bring a non-perishable food item or a monetary donation for this new outreach to those in need. Friends are welcome, too. Thank you, Ben, Abby, and Maddie, for the gift of your music and your caring.





## Leadership Retreat

*Gary Pecuch was the facilitator at the Leadership Retreat.*

**LEADERSHIP RETREAT** ... Members of Council and Cabinet along with Holy Trinity staff gathered for a retreat on November 11 that focused on leadership development. Gary Pecuch of the Southern Ohio Synod served as the facilitator. At the Retreat, participants learned about the characteristics that make a good leader, what a healthy culture looks like for a congregation and how they can help create and support this culture, what it means to facilitate connections in the community and how to develop relationships that will foster outreach, service and ministry; and how to cultivate and foster relationships amongst members with faith-webbing.

During the lunch period, everyone participated in an exercise that helped to identify what about the church's physical structure is an asset and hindrance to supporting outreach and ministry. Attendees further discussed what might be changed to the structure to facilitate growth and outreach. †

## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Order a Christmas poinsettia to help decorate Holy Trinity's altar this Christmas Eve! Fill out this form and place in the offering plate or bring to the Church Office. Make your check out to *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church* and mark "poinsettia" on the memo line. **All orders must be placed by noon on Monday, December 18.** Thank you for this offering! You may pickup your poinsettia immediately following the 9:30 a.m. service on Monday, December 25. The remaining poinsettias will be delivered by our Friendly Visitors to Trinity Members who are shut-in, hospitalized or recovering in their homes from a hospital stay.



**I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias @ \$15.00 each.**

Please check one of the following and print clearly. ➡

Given by \_\_\_\_\_ Env. # \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

*Complete this form and place it with your check in the offering plate.*

I give my poinsettia(s):

\_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ to the Glory of God.

*(Please keep text to a minimum as space is limited—thank you.)*





**CHRISTMAS DECORATING** ... Many hands means busy work with decorating the church for Christmas! **ABOVE (left):** Alex DeLuca and Bob Keener work together to hang a wreath by the altar. **ABOVE (right):** Alexa Sandmann fluffs a wreath. **BELOW (right):** Stephen White hangs the garland in the south transept. **BELOW (left):** Karen Nevergall prepares to hang garland from the balcony. †



## New Members ... continued from page 3



### Alex Pantages & Molly Linden

Alex and Molly met in high school, but it wasn't until after college that they began dating. Molly is an OSU alum, and Alex a graduate of Rose Hulman Institute of Technology. Molly works as the Store Manager of Build-a-Bear in Canton and Alex works as a plant engineer for Freshmark in Canton. They are excited to continue their journey in faith with Holy Trinity and are looking forward to their wedding there next August. Alex and Molly will be welcomed as members in the future. †

## Christmas SERVICES at Holy Trinity

Below is the schedule for Advent, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services.

### Sunday, December 24

#### **Advent Services**

8:30 & 11 a.m.

#### **Christmas Eve Services**

**Family Service—7 p.m.**

(Prelude begins at 6:45 p.m.)

**Candlelight Communion—10 p.m.**

(Prelude begins at 9:30 p.m.)

### Monday, December 25

#### **Christmas Day Service**

9:30 a.m. Holy Communion



Congratulations to the below listed 2018 Council officers. Council meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. All church members are welcome to attend.

**President — Sonya Nagle**  
**Vice President — Alexa Sandmann**  
**Secretary — Ann Lawson**  
**Treasurer — Bob Leddon**





## MISSION @WORK

**'ON THE TABLE'** - Holy Trinity hosted its version of 'On the Table,' an initiative coordinated by the Akron Community Foundation where thousands of area residents gathered to share a meal on October 3 and discuss meaningful ideas to strengthen the community.

Several representatives from partner organizations

attended and participated in a lively discussion on how we can better meet and serve the needs of the community. †

*ABOVE: Pastor David Nevergall gives instructions before the group discussions begin.*

*BELOW: Everyone gathered to 'harvest' or share what was discussed in the various groups in order to find common ideas.*



## New Exhibit @ The Chapel Gallery

**In Pursuit of Meaning:  
Art Quilts by Carole Pollard**

**Sunday, November 19, 2017 -  
Sunday, January 7, 2018**

In 1995 after retiring, I was looking for a way for making art a major focus of my life. By chance I discovered curved, two-patch piecing and began designing and making art quilts. The prospect of spending the rest of my life making beautiful things inspired and energized me."

*Carole Pollard, artist*



### BLOOD PRESSURES

will be taken on Sunday, December 3,  
between services in Room 201,  
9:45-10:45 a.m. If you have questions  
or need information, ask one  
of the Parish nurses. †

### Environmental Tip:

Recycle your live tree by planting in your yard or putting at the curb or other advertised sites to be mulch for cities and parks. Bring your boxes and paper to the church for our recycle bin. Save bows and ribbon for future gifts. Take fronts of cards and unwanted 2018 calendars to Long Term Care facilities for crafts and the residents use. They love the beautiful calendars! †



### Prayer of the Month:

Please pray for those who have been involved in the many disasters and tragedies that have occurred recently—the injured people, those who are grieving the loss of loved ones and those aid workers who have assisted in restoring order from chaos. †







Warm clothing give-away at Grace Park.



Ward 5 Councilwoman Tara Mosley-Samples (l) with Kathy Tiemann and Sandy DeLuca.

## MISSION @WORK

Holy Trinity supported the Warm Clothing Give-Away coordinated by Ward 5 Councilwoman Tara Mosley-Samples by providing coats, hats and gloves. A HUGE thank you goes to Kathy and Dave Tiemann for shopping and labeling all the items for the distribution that took place on November 25. †



Donele Hilton (in white) and Erica Davis (in black) helped to coordinate the team from Providence Baptist Church. They also provided some of the warm clothing and blankets. Also pictured is Deacon Marla Wood Kay (second from right) and Sue Merzweiler, a Holy Trinity worshiper.

### Holy Trinity's Warm Clothing Give-Away ... Holy

Trinity along with a team of people from Providence Baptist Church (pictured below) handed out warm clothing and blankets to our neighbors from Grace Park and the surrounding area on November 18. These are not life changing events, but they are small opportunities to bridge divides between people that need each other. Between communities that need each other. It's a joy to come together and serve the community. †



### December Birthdays

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

December 1 – Kurt Seiberling  
 December 2 – Justin Bader  
 December 2 – Vivian Fenske  
 December 3 – Tina Laybourne  
 December 4 – Joan Amon  
 December 4 – Nancy Chancey  
 December 5 – Thomas Bouton  
 December 5 – Dorothy Creed  
 December 8 – Julie Sanders  
 December 9 – Dennis Dick  
 December 9 – Logan Seiberling  
 December 10 – Winifred Aikey  
 December 11 – Dorothy Shoemaker  
 December 12 – Kenneth Burkins  
 December 12 – Gregory Mitchhart  
 December 14 – Valerie Clark  
 December 16 – Gilliam Godding  
 December 16 – Ella Izenour  
 December 16 – Samantha Lupo  
 December 16 – Marcy Nagy  
 December 18 – Deborah Ickes  
 December 18 – Joan Radabaugh  
 December 18 – Andrew Snowball  
 December 19 – Paul Anacki  
 December 19 – Carole Bader  
 December 19 – Bob Nagle  
 December 21 – Jennifer Bennage  
 December 21 – Alex DeLuca  
 December 21 – Ryan Giffels  
 December 22 – Natalie Spencer  
 December 24 – Lor Breyley  
 December 25 – Jacob Isenhardt  
 December 25 – LJ Kimble  
 December 26 – Jordyn Rogers  
 December 27 – Heather Kubiak  
 December 27 – Jacob Padget  
 December 28 – Matthew Vowles  
 December 29 – Jim Feeman  
 December 29 – Samuel Forbes  
 December 29 – Delaney Kubiak  
 December 29 – Debbie Schramm  
 December 30 – Daniel Detwiler  
 December 30 – Sandy Plummer  
 December 30 – Marla Wood Kay  
 December 31 – Grace Kay

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.



## Read about a Favorite Holy Trinity Christmas Hymn

*Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:*

**(Refrain) Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

*Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
Yonder shines the infant light: (Refrain)*

*Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations;  
Ye have seen His natal star: (Refrain)*

*Saints, before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear;  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear: (Refrain)*



Text writer James Montgomery (1771-1854), a newspaperman in London, served time in prison – twice – for his controversial editorials. This poem ran in his column on Christmas Eve, 1816, without complaint.

Montgomery contributed a great deal to the development of Christian hymns.

He championed the cause of the poor and downtrodden, as well as foreign missions. In writing this hymn, Montgomery referred not only to the Gospel accounts of Christ's birth, but also to the messianic prophecies of the Old Testament, where the Messiah is called the desired of all nations (Haggai 2:7), who would come suddenly to His temple (Malachi 3:1).

We sing this hymn to music composed by a blind organist, Henry Smart (1813-1879). An outstanding musician of his day, Smart designed and built some of England's finest organs. †



## January is a great month to join a choir.

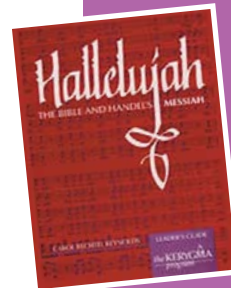
We start the year fresh, with new music for all. Contact Deacon Ruth Anderson in the church office for further information.



**Wednesday @ 11 a.m.**

**Thursday @ 6:30 p.m.**

*Led by Pastor David Nevergall*



## Hallelujah: The Bible and Handel's Messiah

December 6 / 7  
*Who May Abide  
the Day of His Coming?*

December 13 / 14  
*For Unto Us a Child is Born*

December 20 / 21  
*Glory to God in the Highest*

## Season of Advent

... continued from front page

- Talk about the things you need each day to care for yourself. Pray for those who often have to choose between food and basic care items for survival.

### Week 4 (December 24<sup>th</sup>) – How would Mary & Joseph care for baby Jesus?

- Place BABY ITEMS (bottles, diapers, wipes, etc.) in a bag for the infants and toddlers cared for by Harvest Home.
- Talk about the many ways babies depend on their caregivers for basic needs. Pray for those who are learning to care for their infants and toddlers through help received at Harvest Home.

For more information, please contact Rachel Núñez at the Church office. †



## A Look at the Numbers

It is a privilege to worship, serve, and give of ourselves as we share God's Good News with others. We do that as individuals by the choices we make in everyday life. And we do that together by our work as a congregation. That's what good stewardship is all about.

For that reason, we monitor statistics on attendance and giving to the church. They offer a glimpse into the health of our congregation. Through the first forty four weeks of the year, average weekly worship attendance at Holy Trinity (Sunday morning and midweek services) was 172. That's up from an average of 159 per week during the same period last year... **an increase of a bit more than 8%.** Worship is fundamental to the strength of the community and mission we share. Thanks for making it a priority in your life.

Through the first nine months of the year, our undesignated giving in support of Holy Trinity's ministry was \$360,969. Our budget estimate for that same period was \$303,968. That's **18.8% better** than we had expected. Total income year to date was \$544,973, or **about 112% of what we had hoped to achieve.** Total expenditures were \$520,103. Thank you for your attention to your own giving habits. We continue to be blessed by your generosity. We encourage you to continue that generosity into the new year. There will be an opportunity during Lent to learn more about giving as a spiritual discipline and to assess your own habits. In the meantime, we ask you to prayerfully consider your ongoing support for the work we share. Thank you for being intentional in what you give.

More and more folks are moving to electronic giving means, and we have the ability to accommodate that, too. Many find that it is an especially convenient way to manage financial stewardship. Contact Rick Kimble, our financial secretary, for more information about available options and/or to set it up. Please remember: Your tithes and other gifts not only pay the day to day bills here. They extend God's love and grace through our mission work in this area and well beyond.

Your faithful participation by means of worship, work and support bear witness to the significance of Christ's place in your life. It says to others that what you believe is important enough to affect the way you live. **Thank you** for being good stewards of the gifts with which God has equipped you. And remember to join us...this and every week...as the work of Christ's Church goes on. †

## Communion Bread Recipe

### Ingredients:

- 1½ cups whole wheat flour
- ½ cup regular white or bread flour
- ¾ teaspoon baking soda
- 3 tablespoons butter (*unsalted is best; may substitute margarine*)
- ¾ cup warm water
- 3 tablespoons honey
- ¾ teaspoon salt

### Directions:

- Combine the first four ingredients well. Cut in the butter, and work in thoroughly.

- Combine the water and honey. Stir this into the flour/butter mixture, and combine until you have a sticky dough.
- Turn out onto a board/counter, adding flour until you can knead it. Knead until smooth.
- Divide the flour into four equal parts. Roll or press each part into a 6" flat circle.
- Lightly score a cross into the top of each circle. Brush with vegetable oil. Place onto a lightly-greased baking sheet.
- Bake at 350 for no more than 12 minutes. (Over baking makes the bread crumbly.)
- Remove and allow to cool completely.
- When cool it can be bagged for use later in the week or bagged and frozen for use up to three weeks later.



### Houston Fund

*In memory of Elizabeth Peterson*

John & Nan Riemenschneider  
Donna & Fletcher Carroll  
Pastor Landis & Judy Coffman  
Gary Radanof  
Gloria Woodford  
Chuck Bond  
Pat McRowe  
Sargent & Lundy LLC

*In memory of Jim Hofbauer*

John & Nan Riemenschneider

### Organ Fund

*In memory of Jim Hofbauer*

Pastor Landis & Judy Coffman

### Arts @ Holy Trinity Fund

*In memory of Jim Hofbauer*

Joan Kull  
Donna & Fletcher Carroll  
Linda & Dave Vowles

### Memorial Fund

*In memory of Elizabeth Peterson*

Ruth Hervol

### Memorial Flowers Fund

*In honor of Trinity Lutheran Church*

Andy & Ruth Gates



### Virginia Stackel

will celebrate her

### 100th birthday

on January 7, 2018!

To mark this occasion, Virginia would be pleased to receive birthday greetings in a card or note. If you would like, a donation may be made in her honor to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal (or charity of your choice). At Virginia's request, the family has not planning any public celebration event. Your greeting will help to make this a special day for her!

*Thank you ... John, Martha & Drew Stackel*

Please send cards and notes to:

Virginia Stackel  
733 Plantation Estates Drive, #D-212  
Matthews, North Carolina 28105-2538

To donate to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, please visit [www.elca.org/hunger](http://www.elca.org/hunger)

# December 2017 Worship Stewards

DATE	ACOLYTES/CRUCIFERS	READERS	COMMUNION ASSTS	SOUND
<b>December 3</b> 8:30 a.m. 11 a.m.	<u>8:30 a.m.</u> Emma Seltzer, Kristine Johnson <u>11 a.m.</u> Beatrice Moxon (c) Kazia Bethel	<u>8:30 a.m.</u> Lynn Kane <u>11 a.m.</u> Debbie Ickes	<u>8:30 a.m.</u> Mike Ameling, Donna Carroll, Fletcher Carroll, Pat Keller <u>11 a.m.</u> Christine Hinman, Mary Ann James, Shirley Keller, Samantha Lupo	<u>8:30 a.m.</u> Fred Spencer <u>11 a.m.</u> Joe Moxon
<b>December 10</b> 8:30 a.m. 11 a.m.	<u>8:30 a.m.</u> Emma Seltzer, Steve Mitchhart <u>11 a.m.</u> Anna Scheck (c) Camdynn Stevens	<u>8:30 a.m.</u> Sally Richenbacher <u>11 a.m.</u> Diann Jenkins	<u>8:30 a.m.</u> Alice Bouton, Donna Carroll, Fletcher Carroll, Jack Harig <u>11 a.m.</u> Shirley Keller, Samantha Lupo, Ann Lawson, John Sefanik	<u>8:30 a.m.</u> Mike Ameling <u>11 a.m.</u> Michael Wilson
<b>December 17</b> 8:30 a.m. 11 a.m.	<u>8:30 a.m.</u> Kristine Johnson, Steve Mitchhart <u>11 a.m.</u> Michael Wilson (c) Ben Mormino	<u>8:30 a.m.</u> Bob Leddon <u>11 a.m.</u> Cathy Snelson	<u>8:30 a.m.</u> Pat Keller, Sandy DeLuca, Alice Bouton, Stephen White <u>11 a.m.</u> Mary Ann James, Christine Hinman, Ann Lawson, John Sefanik	<u>8:30 a.m.</u> Dennis Dick <u>11 a.m.</u> Bob Ethington
<b>December 24</b> 8:30 a.m. 11 a.m.	<u>8:30 a.m.</u> Emma Seltzer, Steve Mitchhart <u>11 a.m.</u> Ethan Scheck (c) Anna Scheck	<u>8:30 a.m.</u> Mike Ameling <u>11 a.m.</u> Gregg Loesch	<u>8:30 a.m.</u> Mike Ameling, Donna Carroll, Fletcher Carroll, Sandy DeLuca <u>11 a.m.</u> Joan Derrig, Carole Bader, Manny Núñez, Rachel Núñez	<u>8:30 a.m.</u> Joe Moxon <u>11 a.m.</u> VACANT
<b>December 24</b> 7 p.m. 10 p.m.	<u>7 p.m.</u> Beatrice Moxon (c), Luke Nagle <u>10 p.m.</u> Ethan Scheck (c) Anna Scheck, Camdynn Stevens	<u>7 p.m.</u> Amanda Mormino <u>10 p.m.</u> Rachel Nunez	<u>7 p.m.</u> Marsha Asente, Amanda Mormino, Bob Nagle, Sonya Nagle <u>10 p.m.</u> Mike Ameling, Liz Anacki, Paul Anacki, Joan Derrig	<u>7 p.m.</u> VACANT <u>10 p.m.</u> Mike Ameling
<b>December 25</b> 9:30 a.m.	Luke Nagle, Mia Nagle	Karen Nevergall	Katie Krieger, Rachel Núñez	Lorin Sickafoose
<b>December 31</b> 9:30 a.m.	Beatrice Moxon (c) Abby Mormino	Bob Nagle	Marsha Asente, Jack Harig, Bob Keener, Stephen White	Lorin Sickafoose

## USHERS


<u>8:30 a.m.</u> Bill Bulgrin Fletcher Carroll Donna Carroll Bob Leddon <u>Ron Nockengost</u> Gary Radanof Karl Stutz Gloria Woodford	<u>11 a.m.</u> Gregg Loesch Larry Morton Pat McRowe <u>Rich Williams</u>
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Underlined name indicates head usher.

## altar CARE

**Candles:** Joan Kull & Marcy Nagy    **Flowers:** Pat McRowe  
**Altar Care:** Mary Ann James & Pat Keller

**Communion:**  
 December 3, 8:30 a.m.: Stephanie Black; 11 a.m.: Joan Derrig & Deborah Ickes  
 December 10, 8:30 a.m.: Stephanie Black; 11 a.m.: Joan Derrig & Susan Detwiler  
 December 17, 8:30 a.m.: Joan Kull & Sylvia Hackbarth  
 December 17, 11 a.m.: Joan Derrig & Deborah Ickes  
 Dec. 24, 8:30 a.m.: Sally & Norm Richenbacher; 11 a.m.: Joan Derrig & Mary Ann James  
 December 24, 7 p.m.: Marsha Asente; 10 p.m.: Pat & Dean Keller  
 December 25, 9:30 a.m.: Sally & Norm Richenbacher  
 December 31, 9:30 a.m.: Donna Carroll & Gloria Woodford



## Communion Bread

Thank you to  
**PAT KELLER**  
 for baking the communion  
 bread throughout this month.

*If you love baking, why not bake the Communion Bread to use during Sunday worship? The sign-up sheet and recipe can be found at the Welcome Center.*



# December 2017 Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 7 p.m. Lesson & Carols (Sanc. & FH)	<b>2</b> 10 a.m. Stewardship Meeting (Office) <b>11 a.m. DLM Food &amp; Resources Open</b>
<b>3</b> 8:30 & 11 a.m. Worship w/ Eucharist 9:45 a.m. Middle Hour 12:15 p.m. Agape Club (YR)	<b>4</b> 1 p.m. Staff Meeting <b>3 p.m. LINKS (FH)</b>	<b>5</b> <b>3 p.m. LINKS (FH)</b> 5:30 p.m. Renaissance Meeting (CL) 7:15 p.m. Derbytown Chorus Rehearsal (FH)	<b>6</b> 9 a.m. TTTs <b>9:30 a.m. Kindermusik</b> 11 a.m. Mid-Week Study (CL) 12:15 p.m. Worship (Sanc.) <b>3 p.m. LINKS (FH)</b>	<b>7</b> <b>9 a.m. Good Neighbors</b> 11:45 a.m. HT Annual Holiday Luncheon at UA Crystal Room <b>3 p.m. LINKS (FH)</b> 4:30 p.m. Girl Scouts (SL) 6 p.m. Evening Prayer (Sanc.) 6:30 p.m. Trinity Bells 7:30 p.m. Trinity Choir	<b>8</b> 3:30 p.m. Property Team Meeting (CL) 6 p.m. Youth Christmas Lock-In (YR)	<b>9</b> 8:30 a.m. Men on A Mission (CL) 4:30 p.m. Either side of 40 Caroling at Concor- dia
<b>10</b> 8:30 & 11 a.m. Worship w/ Eucharist 9:45 a.m. Middle Hour 9:45 p.m. Christmas Cookie Sale (CL) <b>3 p.m. Warriors Journey Home (CL)</b>	<b>11</b> 1 p.m. Staff Meeting <b>3 p.m. LINKS (FH)</b>	<b>12</b> <b>3 p.m. LINKS (FH)</b> 6:30 p.m. Music & Worship Ministry Team Meeting (Room 202) 7 p.m. Personnel Meeting (CL) 7:15 p.m. Derbytown Chorus Rehearsal (FH)	<b>13</b> 9 a.m. TTTs <b>9:30 a.m. Kindermusik</b> 11 a.m. Mid-Week Study (CL) 12:15 p.m. Worship (Sanc.) 3 p.m. LINKS (FH)	<b>14</b> <b>9 a.m. Good Neighbors</b> <b>3 p.m. LINKS (FH)</b> 4:30 p.m. Girl Scouts (SL) 6 p.m. Evening Prayer (Sanc.) 6:30 p.m. Grief Recovery Class (FH) 6:30 p.m. Quilters (Rm. 202) 6:30 p.m. Trinity Bells 7:30 p.m. Trinity Choir	<b>15</b> 12 p.m. Lutheran Loafers (Waterloo Restaurant)	<b>16</b> 9 a.m. Women's Bible Study (home of Velma Pomrenke) <b>11 a.m. DLM Food &amp; Resources Open</b>
<b>17</b> 8:30 & 11 a.m. Worship w/ Eucharist 12:15 p.m. Youth Lunch & Devos (Rm. 202)	<b>18</b> 1 p.m. Staff Meeting <b>3 p.m. LINKS (FH)</b>	<b>19</b> <b>3 p.m. LINKS (FH)</b> 6 p.m. Council Meeting (home of Sonya & Bob Nagle) 7:15 p.m. Derbytown Chorus Rehearsal (FH)	<b>20</b> 9 a.m. TTTs <b>9:30 a.m. Kindermusik</b> 11 a.m. Mid-Week Study (CL) 12:15 p.m. Worship (Sanc.) <b>3 p.m. LINKS (FH)</b>	<b>21</b> <b>9 a.m. Good Neighbors</b> 4:30 p.m. Girl Scouts (SL) 6 p.m. Evening Prayer (Sanc.) 6:30 p.m. Grief Recovery Class (FH) 6:30 p.m. Quilters (Rm. 202) 6:30 p.m. Trinity Bells 7:30 p.m. Trinity Choir	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 8:30 a.m. Men on A Mission (CL)
<b>24</b> 8:30 & 11 a.m. Worship w/ Eucharist 9:45 a.m. Middle Hour 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service 10 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	<b>25</b> 9:30 a.m. Christmas Day Worship w/ Eucharist  CHRISTMAS DAY – OFFICE CLOSED	<b>26</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>27</b> 9 a.m. TTTs	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Church Office closes at 1 p.m.	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9:30 a.m. Worship w/ Eucharist					 <p><i>Mission @ Work activities appear in bold. For more information, please contact the Church office at (330) 376-5154. Thank you!</i></p>	

Volume #76, Issue #12

## Trinity Highlights

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

(USPS 640880)

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

# Lessons and Carols

## Advent Procession of Lessons & Carols

Friday, December 1, 7:30 p.m.  
Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall

ARTS  
HOLY TRINITY

Hear traditional Bible readings for Lessons and Carols: words from the prophets and the gospels that move us from darkness to light, Advent to Christmas. Choral anthems and congregational songs punctuate each reading. Music leaders include adult and child/youth

vocal choirs from First Congregational Church and Holy Trinity. A brass choir, handbells and other instruments enhance the choral and congregational offerings. Reception follows in the Fellowship Hall. †

NOTE: Doors open 30 minutes prior.

## Worship With Us *Christmas Eve*

### Festive Services Planned Christmas Eve

Many members of Holy Trinity, from the very young to the older, will share their gifts of time, talent, and energy to lead us in worship Christmas Eve. In the 7 p.m. service of Lessons and Carols, our youngest members offer to God vocal and instrumental selections. The prelude begins at 6:45 p.m.

The later liturgy begins with a prelude at 9:30 p.m. followed by the processional hymn at 10 p.m. Musical leadership includes the Trinity Bell Choir, Brass Ensemble, various instruments and Trinity Choir.

Both services incorporate a host of favorite Christmas hymns along with a few new expressions of the season's message of joy, hope, praise, and wonder. Come celebrate the Incarnation. A blessed Christmastide to all! †