



Holy Trinity

Lutheran Church

Lifting Up • Reaching Out

APRIL—JUNE 2019

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MISSION INITIATIVES:

ELCA World Hunger
Falls Church Community Service Council, Inc.

ELCA World Hunger—This Lenten season, our goal is to raise \$2,500 where it will be used to provide a community with a simple water well. **See Page 11.**

Falls Church Community Services (FCS) maintains a food pantry at Knox Presbyterian Church which provides non-perishable and fresh food to clients in need. Volunteers are welcome. Visit us at www.fcswe care.org

WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

- ♦ **Monetary donations**—All money donated to FCS is used to assist the needy families of Falls Church that they service.
- ♦ **Pantry Needs**—All non perishable food items are appreciated. **See Page 11** for items most critically needed.



—MARK THE DATE—
June 22

Join us for the next
performance in our
Concerts at Holy Trinity
series

—**Mosaic Harmony**—
See page 6



HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday—April 18

Good Friday—April 19

Services at 12 Noon and 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday—April 21

10 a.m. Service with Holy Communion

ALL ARE WELCOME

Worship
with us!



Pastor's Peace

⁶ *They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ⁷ When they had come opposite Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them; ⁸ so, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. (Acts 16:6-8)*

The above verses of scriptures may seem a bit odd for a newsletter, but they are actually very important to us and our lives today. Right before this section, in Acts chapter 15, Paul and his companions are commissioned by the elders to go and bring the Gospel of Jesus to the Gentile community to the north. It is here in Acts chapter 16 that Paul and his companions are discerning the direction of the Holy Spirit. Notice the Spirit's guidance away from some areas and into different areas.

These verses are selected for this newsletter article, because I believe the same Spirit that guided Paul away from Asia and Bithynia is guiding us, as evangelists, away from the Mosaic District. We could easily replace the word Asia from the verse above and list a number of restaurants in the Mosaic District that did not allow us to advertise or put up a sign about hosting a Bible Study in their space.

We could also replace the area of Bithynia with the area of the Mosaic District and say with confidence that the Spirit did not let us put down roots in the area by just looking at all of the events and activities we offered without having the ability to grow a second community. For example:

Since we started in January 2017, we tried the following **gathering opportunities**: Wednesday evening gatherings on rotational themes: Education, Worship, Community Service and Fellowship @ Blackfinn, Sunday Evening Worship @ Angelika Theater, Sunday Evening Dinner Church @ Cyclone Anayas, Monthly Service Nights @ Brother's Brother, Wednesday Evening Bible Study @ Caboose Commons, Thursday Morning Playgroup @ Mosaic Community Room, and Sunday Evening Pub-Church @ Caboose.

Additionally, we tried the following **outreach initiatives**: Merrifield Fall Festivals, Holiday Auction Fundraisers @ Fair Trade Winds, Seasonal Flyer Drops in Mosaic, Non-Profit Fundraisers @ Blackfinn, January Coat Drive @ Dunn Loring Metro, Ash Wednesday Ashes @ Dunn Loring Metro, Easter Sunrise Worship, Food Donations with Mom's Organic, Fair Trade Coffee Giveaways with Fair Trade Winds, Facebook Advertising/Marketing, Meetup

Groups, Onsite Evangelist, Ice-cream Giveaway with Ben & Jerry's, Wednesday "Office Hours" @ Mom & Pop, Fair Trade Popup Store @ Caboose.

We put in a lot of hard work and effort, but we must acknowledge that the Spirit did not allow us to go into the Mosaic District. And you know what, that is OK.

The questions now become for us, where is God calling us next? Paul does not say, "oh we can't go to Asia and Bithynia so we must just give up on sharing the Gospel." No, instead he and his companions try a different direction and a different community, more specifically through Troas to Macedonia. What happens in Macedonia?

¹⁴ *A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us. (Acts 16:14-15)*

Notice the difference? Paul and his companions are welcomed, listened to, invited in, offered hospitality and the whole family is baptized – thus starting a new community of faith. This is the work of the Spirit offering affirmation, and this is what we are looking for in our next destination.

So, fellow companions, where are we to go next?

Where, as the name of the Metro DC Synod's campaign title suggests, are we to make New Connections? What is your sense of the Spirit? **Where do you see an opportunity to share the Gospel and start a second site to our congregation?** This question is completely serious—I would like to know and I encourage you to tell me if you have an idea.

The Church Council has decided to take the rest of 2019 and discern the direction of the Spirit. May it be clear and light up a bright path to our next destination.

Thank you all for your prayers and support for our efforts in the Mosaic District for over two years. I, along with many of the leadership at the larger church levels, am very proud of you and your willingness to reach outside of the congregation and introduce the Gospel to new people.

May the end of Lent and start of the Easter season bring signs of death and new life to you, your family and your neighborhood.

Pastor Mike



Council News

“All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” Acts 2:45-47

The life of the early church described in Acts seems simple viewed through the complicated lens of our daily lives, balancing the demands of our jobs, families and communities. But really, the way we come together as church is similar in many ways to the church of the early Christians: we give of what we have, break bread together and work to serve each other and our community, and above all we praise God. Thinking of the past month, where we came together and served our community through hypothermia week, giving generously of our time and our possessions, where we opened our doors to music lovers in our community with an incredible organ concert, and where we, as always, came together to praise God, I think that the early Christians would recognize us as a community of Christ.

This month, your Church Council is working on our budget for the fiscal year that will begin on July 1st. Pastor Mike has shared with you our hope that we might be able to hire a youth minister to support both our older youth and the newest and smallest members of our community in growing in their faith. He has also shared with you his thoughts, and our discussions in Council, on the difficulty Holy Trinity has faced in developing a second site in the Mosaic District, and how we are thinking of new ways to establish a second site as we move in a new direction. We also hope to continue the many programs that each of us values—not only those programs and ministries that support our own community, but also the benevolences supporting those in need in our surrounding community and around the world.

Unfortunately, we are finding that giving is less than it was at this time last year, and we are having to contemplate some difficult choices. Although I’m confident that we will be able to work through this challenge, we welcome your ideas and your prayers as we develop the budget. I would also encourage each of you to take a look at your pledges for this year, both for regular Sunday giving and for the 70th anniversary fund, to see if you’re where you hoped to be at this point in the year.

Results of Sunday Schedule Survey Check-In: A one-page paper survey was made available to members of the congregation on two consecutive Sundays — February 24 and March 3—asking how their attendance at church has or has not changed as a result of moving from two Sunday services to one last fall.

Thanks to all those who responded to the survey. A total of 66 surveys were completed with the following results:

- ♦ **80%** of respondents (52 people) reporting that going to one service has not changed their worship attendance, but four (**6%** of total respondents) indicated that they are attending the Christian Education Hour less because of the change.
- ♦ **16%** of respondents (10 people) reported attending worship and the Christian Education Hour less because of the schedule change
- ♦ **6%** of respondents (4 people) said they’re attending worship more frequently as a result of the change.

Council reviewed these results at our March 11 meeting and we plan to check in again with the congregation at the end of the summer — the one-year mark for the schedule change — to gather more input on what’s working and what’s not with the current Sunday schedule.

Mary Minette
Council President

Council meets in the library on the
second Monday of each month

2018-19 CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS and MEMBERS

President: Mary Minette
Julie Davis
Seth Clark

Vice President: Lori Wicks
Mark Kerr
Karen Cockerham

Treasurer: Joe Kile
Terry Bathen
Brent Stone

Secretary: Terri Fleck
Scott Sherard
Pamela Kabati



Corey's Corner *by Vicar Corey Bergman*



How Does One Become a Vicar? Part 3

In the last newsletter, I left off our story during the summer before I started Seminary. I had been entranced, chosen my seminary and was ready to move to Chicago. It'd be impossible to capture everything that has happened at Seminary the last two years that led me to being the Vicar at Holy Trinity so I will do my best to be brief and stick to the highlights which include meeting Maddie, Public Church Fellows, CPE, Shekinah Chapel, and Internship Assignment.

I met Maddie on a bus my first week of seminary. Our first conversation was an argument about whether Maryland or Minnesota-Duluth was the real UMD, and as far as I know it almost didn't happen. It had been a really hot day in Chicago and for some reason or another the buses were running slowly, like extremely slowly. Her group had gotten to the place where you switch from train to bus much sooner than mine, and if it hadn't been for the delay, we probably would have been on different buses and met later under different circumstances. We started dating in mid-October, and managed to keep our relationship "secret" for about 2 weeks before the whole campus knew. Suffice to say we weren't obvious, but not exactly subtle either. It helped that we had almost exactly the same schedule and were both part of a fellowship program that semester, so we spent a lot of time together. It was great, but also not all that happened, so moving on...

Public Church Fellows is a scholarship program where students who show skills in taking Church outside the four walls partner with an outside organization and work 7 hours a week as a volunteer while receiving a stipend every month. In my two years with the program I worked with a Muslim group called IMAN (Inner city Muslim Action Network) as part of their Food Desert Campaign. I helped invite community members to different events by going door knocking and also created some visuals for them to use as part of their presentations to various groups. The only downside to working with them is that their office was an hour bus ride from school and I didn't have a car, so during my second year I switched to working with the People Lobby, a grassroots organizing movement that hold public officials accountable and tries to create and implement a vision for the future in which all people are taken care of.

Clinical Pastoral Education is a requirement before you can be "Endorsed" to go on internship in the ELCA. It is a program where you work full time as a intern-chaplain at a hospital, visiting patients and honing your pastoral care skills. I did mine at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities during the summer of 2017. I learned a lot about pastoral care and working with colleagues, but for numerous reasons, it wasn't my favorite experience. Working overnights and getting no sleep, having almost every attempt to see Maddie go slightly awry (1 ticket, 2 cancelled flights, and many sleepy phone calls aren't fun). Although I learned a lot, I accepted the fact that it is very much not my calling to be a full time chaplain.

At LSTC during a student's second year, you are assigned to a local church to work for ten hours a week as part of Ministry in Context or MIC. Think of it as a very mini-internship. I was assigned to Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, IL. There were a lot of things that made my experience at Shekinah one of the best things I've done at seminary. I sang in a gospel choir, taught confirmation in a context I wasn't wholly comfortable in at first, and preached a 25 minute sermon. Those people became my family for a year, and I will always be thankful for the lessons they taught me and how they welcomed me.

The last seminary highlight that led me to you was Internship assignment. There is a normal process for being assigned a site, but Maddie and I didn't follow it. We knew we wanted to be near each other for internship, and Maddie—as part of her emphasis—needed a site with Spanish ministry, so in August, we began working with the Field Ed office to find something that would work. Weeks would go by and we wouldn't hear anything and when we did, it wasn't good news. In February, Maddie finally called one of her former bosses at the Metro DC Synod and he was able to help Field Ed find sites that worked for us. It still wasn't a smooth process though; I had two other churches fall through before Holy Trinity finally worked out, and, because of a sabbatical and summer travel, communication with Maddie was sparse from the site. Finally, in late May or early June, we both had sites confirmed and only one month to relax and prepare to move out here. Seminary has been a whirlwind so far and I'm sure that isn't going to change, but I'm really glad that I ended up here at Holy Trinity for internship.

Peace,

Vicar Corey



Getting Connected

During our 70th anniversary year, we have featured Holy Trinity's history by decades.

HOLY TRINITY 2000-2019 NEW CENTURY, NEW WAYS TO SERVE

Holy Trinity members and clergy (Douglas Ryniewicz, our pastor from 2002-2006, Jane Halpern, our associate pastor from 2003-2007 and senior pastor from 2007-2015, and Mike Gutzler, starting in 2015) have been very busy in the last two decades, both serving others and reaching out to our local community



and to others far away.

International—Holy Trinity has been of service to others in this new century. Our members and pastors have volunteered their time in Bolivia, El Salvador, Haiti, and Puerto Rico, to help those less fortunate.

Local—Within the United States, our service projects have include our annual Hypothermia week, when our church facility has become a temporary homeless shelter. Holy Trinity members have been feeding, conversing with and connecting with 30-40 homeless individuals for one week each winter. Our members support nearby Graham Road Elementary School, providing books, backpacks, school supplies, and tutors. Our members have provided household goods for refugees sponsored by Lutheran Social Services. We have provided (and delivered) sports equipment for young people in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. We have contributed to the Gifts of Hope program, and helped support the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission School in Rock Point, Arizona. Daniel Rinehart was our Director of Congregational Mission from 2016-2017 and was instrumental in many of these service projects.

Outreach—The new century has seen new programs for outreach. In 2011 the Vitality Group was formed, and its members have helped provide a presence for Holy Trinity at Falls Church City Memorial Day celebrations and at Merrifield Fall Festivals, in the newly opened Mosaic District. Programs at Holy Trinity have included Breakfast with Santa, Jazz Coffee House, and Oktoberfest. Mainly Music is a Tuesday morning hour-long program for children and their parents/caregivers offering interactive

music and play and fellowship.

In addition to the Jazz Coffee House, our music program has included visiting choirs and many wonderful concerts, many of which are recurring in our new *Concerts at Holy Trinity* series. In 2015 Holy Trinity obtained a baby grand piano for services in the sanctuary that do not use the organ.

RIC—In May 2015, after over a year-long period of discernment, Holy Trinity's congregation voted to become a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation as certified by Reconciling Works: Lutherans for Full Participation. Reconciling in Christ (RIC) is a designation of ELCA synods and churches who adopt an affirmation of welcome to persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities. The RIC Committee at Holy Trinity continues to actively seek ways to be more welcoming through outreach, hosting events and special services.

Other Holy Trinity programs of this century (some carried over from the last century) have included :

- ◆ Theology on Tap
- ◆ Men's Breakfast
- ◆ Faith Outside the Box
- ◆ WELCA Book Club
- ◆ Needlcrafters
- ◆ Knitting and Crochet Ministry
- ◆ OWLS (Older, Wiser, Loving Souls) which was formerly LAG (Leisure Activity Group)
- ◆ Friendship Tables (gatherings of Holy Trinity members for dinners together)

Soon after Pastor Mike Gutzler became Holy Trinity's pastor in 2015, our congregation voted on two significant new events in the life of our church. In November 2016, we voted to become a multi-site congregation. In the Mosaic district of Merrifield, **Mosaic District Church** was formed, and it has offered opportunities for worship, fellowship, education, and service to others, on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. At that location Holy Trinity also offered a Thursday morning playgroup for young children.

The second significant event in Holy Trinity's history was the decision, made in June 2017, to offer available space in our building for a much-needed daycare center in our community. **Building Blocks Day School II** opened in March 2018. Our church continues to look for new ways to serve others.

Mary Bowen



Invite a Friend

Thank you to all the members of our congregation who have supported our still fairly nascent *Concerts at Holy Trinity* series. These concerts are a wonderful way to get new people into our building, bring a diverse musical selection to our community, as well as support local artists. After two exciting and more relaxed events with the BBQ and Bluegrass concert featuring [Two Ton Twig](#) and the annual Jazz Coffee House featuring the [Adrian Duke](#) project, we recently had our best attendance yet (100+) with a more classical concert featuring organist [Jeremy Filsell](#) exquisitely leading us through the Stations of the Cross, paired with dramatic readings of poetry.

Don't miss our final concert of this season on Saturday, June 22 at 7:00 p.m., when we feature the energetic and spirit-filled gospel sounds of [Mosaic Harmony](#) from just down the road in Fairfax, VA!

Mosaic Harmony is an interfaith community choir where people find love and acceptance regardless of color, religion, sexual orientation, or any other differences. They celebrate diversity and inclusiveness, sharing their message through the powerful medium of song, and inspiring their audiences to embrace ALL people. They sing inspirational music much in the African American gospel tradition. Committed to the belief that inspirational music can create a community of interfaith and racial harmony, the choir members represent several different races, numerous faith traditions, and a variety of occupations. Careful; you just might end up singing along before the end of the evening!

Of course I would be remiss if I didn't speak to the rich musical offerings we will have in our own upcoming services at Holy Trinity, relying almost entirely from the talents of members of our congregation. At our single service on Easter this year (starting with a prelude a little *before* 10 a.m.) you are bound to be awakened by the power of our traditional brass quartet in combination with our lovely organ. You will also get to hear the vocal choir and bell choir as they fill out the musical portions of our service.

I would also strongly suggest marking **June 2** on your calendars for this year's **Music Sunday** as we feature both choirs, as well as our Wind Ensemble and recorder Consortium. This year's theme is somewhat home-grown: *Music from America*. Hopefully you are already planning to attend that Sunday, as it is also our congregational meeting/lunch potluck downstairs in the fellowship hall.

As always, I am extremely thankful to have a community that supports music, and is so willing to be open by sharing their talents and appreciation with not only me, but more importantly, with our church community at large.

Sincerely,

Joshua Brown, Director of Music





Getting Connected

The members of Sisters' Choice Quilters (SCQ) have gifted Holy Trinity four banners for the white seasons

The banners will debut on Easter. Amy Loar designed the banners using a "wonky" cross block. SCQ members made blocks from September through December 2018. Judy English and Judy Baker made a few too.

The banner tops were sewn during the guild's Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day on January 19th. SCQ member Denise O'Rear donated the machine quilting of the

banners, which combined, are similar in size to a king-size bed spread.

The quilting design, named "Compass," features a four pointed star. It was a perfect choice for the banners since Jesus is the Compass for our lives.



SCQ appreciates the space that Holy Trinity allows them to use for meetings and workshops, and hopes that the congregation enjoys the banners for years to come.

Amy Loar



(L-R) Josh, Brent, Bill & Greg performing for hypothermia guests (See article on p. 10)

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me."
(Matthew 25:35)

Boundless thanks to the friends and members of Holy Trinity who opened their hearts and gave their time, talent and treasure to the sheltering of our homeless brothers and sisters.

One of our many dedicated hypothermia week dinner teams: Pr. Mike, Carrie, Troy, Linda, and Vicar Corey



Thank you to our faithful concert reception volunteers who show up and assist with a variety of details—from set up, food donations, decorations and presentation—to clean up.



JUNE DATES TO REMEMBER:

- June 2** — Music Sunday
Spring Congregational Celebration and Potluck
- June 9** — Pentecost Sunday (Confirmation)



Getting Connected

OWLS (Older, Wiser, Loving, Souls)
11:30 a.m., in Fellowship Hall
First Wednesday of each month



All are welcome to join us for fun, food and conversation. Birthdays will be celebrated! Watch future Sunday bulletins for special activities, field trip or service project details.

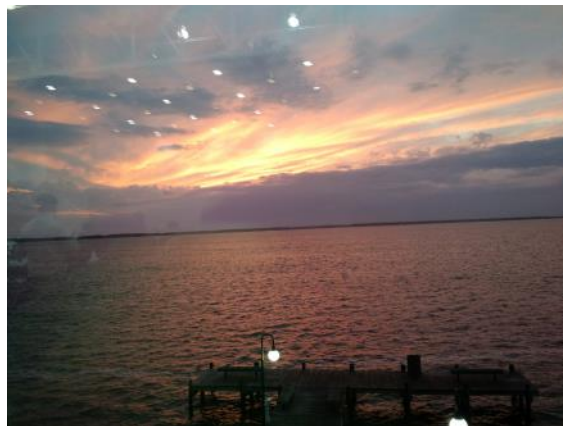


Ocean City Handbell Festival

On March 15 and 16, eleven members of Christus Bells represented HTLC at the Handbell Musicians of America Area III Festival in Ocean City, MD. Participants attended classes on various handbell topics, and participated in a mass performance with 400 other ringers from across the country.

We also took in beautiful views of the bay (the sunset on Friday night was stunning!) and enjoyed social time together in Ocean City and on the road.

Jeremy Cochran, Director of Handbell Choir



Front row L-R : Peg Corl, Rachel Cochran, Wanda Mikovch, Kris Luoma-Overstreet, Theresa Hoyt, Matt Roberts

Back row L-R : Carrie Daniels, Eva Novak, Jeremy Cochran, Eric and Denise Chancellor

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!



Samantha J. Haynes will graduate June 5 from Falls Church High School; next year will complete Cosmetology Academy and attend NoVA Community College.

Alexander Stone graduates from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM). Future plans: moving to New York City to pursue theatrical career.

Eric Hegemann graduates from Justice High School and will attend the university of Illinois at U-C. Geis College of Business, Accounting.

Laura Hegemann Rutgers University—New Brunswick, Genetics. Future plans: Kings College London; Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience, MSc Program.

MEET—LEARN—FELLOWSHIP

Listed below are some of our monthly gatherings. All are welcome to attend. If you are interested in joining us or have questions, please contact the church office.

- ♦ **Needlecrafters—Second and fourth Wednesdays** at 10:00 a.m., in Rothenberg Hall.
- ♦ **Women's Bible Study Groups—Miriam/Lydia** meets on the **third Friday** of each month at 1:00 p.m., in the Youth/Community Room. **Naomi** meets on the **fourth Sunday** of each month at 5:30 p.m., in the Library.
- ♦ **Men's Breakfast—First Saturday** at 8:30 a.m. Held at a local restaurant near HTLC.
- ♦ **Women's Book Club—First Saturday** at 8:30 a.m. Location varies between Holy Trinity or a member's home. If you are interested in joining us, please contact coordinator Linda Beaty at linda.beaty@writeme.com

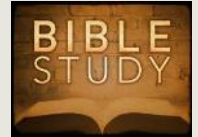


Growing in Faith

LEARN—SHARE—GROW

All are welcome to attend. If you are interested in joining us or have questions, please contact the church office.

- ♦ **Sunday Morning Bible Study—8:45 a.m., in the Library.** Studying Acts. Leader is Deacon Deb Haynes.
- ♦ **Looking for a Women's Bible Study?** HT's Bible Study group monthly schedule:
Miriam/Lydia—meets on the third Friday at 1 p.m. (in the library)
Naomi—meets on the fourth Sunday at 5:30 p.m. (in the youth/community room)
- ♦ **Faith Outside the Box—7:00 p.m., in the Youth/Community Room.** At our April 22 meeting, we'll discuss excerpts from "The Meaning of Human Existence" by E. O. Wilson. We'll read the first six chapters of that book and the last four. For future discussion topics and dates, check the Sunday bulletins or visit www.holytrinityfallschurch.org
- ♦ **Reconciling in Christ** —The RIC Committee meets on the third Sunday of each month after church in the Youth and Community Room. Please join us as we explore ways to be more welcoming to members of the LGBT community.
- ♦ **Holy Trinity offers Sunday School for all ages during the Christian education hour beginning at 8:45 a.m.**



HT WELCA Annual Women's Retreat is April 26-28

Theme: IMPROVISATIONAL WISDOM

Life is an improvisation. How does God speak to us in the unexpected daily surprises that we experience? We are asked to let go and let God. How do we do that? Our Retreat Leader is Deacon Kathy Garrison, Spiritual Director, and Hospital Chaplain (photo at R). Cost is \$275 for five meals and two nights' lodging at the peaceful A. Felix DuPont Memorial House in Rehoboth, DE. Scholarships are available. Carpools arranged. **If you are planning to attend, please sign up in the narthex by Friday, April 12.** Contact Judy Baker, Marcia Ihnen, or Joy Wells.



Serving Our Neighbor

From Stonewall to Reconciling in Christ

June 28, 1969. The Stonewall Inn in New York City's Greenwich Village was the site of a revolution. In the early morning hours following one police raid too many, the LGBT patrons of the bar rose up against the police and began a riot that echoes to this day. Many consider this rebellion against the anti-gay legal system in NYC the beginnings of the fight for LGBT rights in the United States.

In 1974, the group Reconciling Works: Lutherans for Full Participation was formed to advocate "for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church, congregations, and community." They instituted the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) program to provide a structured way for ELCA congregations, synods and other ministry settings to discern and promote their willingness to be fully inclusive and welcoming to all.

There are currently 865 RIC communities, with 385 engaged in their discernment process. Holy Trinity

completed our over a year long journey to RIC on May 31, 2015. We voted to become a RIC congregation, and to approve this Affirmation of Welcome: *Holy Trinity Lutheran Church welcomes the participation of people of all ages, ethnic back-grounds, sexual orientations, gender identities, educational backgrounds, and economic conditions. We welcome all who seek to know God. We commit to being a Reconciling In Christ congregation.*



This year, in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Stonewall, we celebrate our 4th year as a RIC congregation. Stay tuned to your bulletins, social media and emails for more info on plans being made for June:

- **The Capital Pride Parade and Festival 2019 will be held in D.C. on June 8th and 9th.**
- **Please plan to attend our RIC Sunday worship service on June 30th**, the day dedicated to ours being a church that truly welcomes all who enter. We look forward to seeing you. There will be cake!

Laura Daugherty



Serving Our Neighbor



Book Give-Away at Graham Road Elementary School Friday, April 12 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Do you have an hour and a half to volunteer on Friday, April 12? On that day – the last day before Fairfax County's Spring Break – we will be giving away the books your contributions purchased for our neighborhood Title 1 elementary school.



As we did last year, we'll meet in the school lobby, pick up our classroom assignments, books and goody-bags. Once we arrive at our classroom, we'll give out the books and the items purchased through a Thrivent Action Grant.

We'll spend five or ten minutes beginning to read the book and encouraging the students to continue reading the book during their spring break. Join us! You're guaranteed to enjoy the morning!

Contact Judy Baker to let her know you're coming – judybaker2825@yahoo.com, 703-237-8717.

From Rob & Tracy: *We want to thank the FACETS staff as well as all of you who participated in this year's hypothermia program. We did it! And we did it well.*

The meals this week were fantastic and VERY appreciated by our guests. I heard comments on Sunday's meatloaf three days later. Thanks again to the Fleck family and the folks from Griffith Energy where Terri works.

Monday—roast turkey with all the fixings, thanks to Chris Hegemann. The turkey was tender, moist and delicious. Pastor Mike's huddle group cooked Tuesday's dinner—vegetarian, beef and chicken chili with cornbread and salad and desserts of brownies and blondies.

Wednesday—beef stew prepared by Judy English, Beth Search, Mo Elliott, Holly Hambley and Gloria Hviding. It was delicious! Eva Novak also prepared her baked French toast on Wednesday night - all ready for the morning crew to put in the oven. Thursday—pork roast, mashed potatoes, broccoli and salad prepared by Lynn Tedesco, Karen and Jill Cockerham, with girl scout cookies and ice cream for dessert, and blueberry scones Charlie Strunk was baking for breakfast. Friday—Lisa Taylor and Travis Reznik made delicious vegetarian and turkey lasagna. I really appreciate the effort that they have put into hypothermia this year. The HT Book Club prepared tacos for Saturday night, with Judy Baker, Wilma Dublin, Mary Bowen, Genie Davis, Wanda Mikovch, Linda Beaty, Holly Hambley, Carol Kercheval, Joyce Wells, Joan Vehc, Alfie Rulis and Denise Meister all contributing to the meal. Judy, Holly, Genie, Gloria, Joy and Denise were there on Saturday to serve and clean up. We are well known in hypothermia for our meals - all healthy and home made. Great job, folks!

We also had some great entertainment through the week. We had a mean game of UNO going most nights

and Scrabble on at least one night. On Sunday night, Ethan Kabati played his guitar with several of the guests. The "Praise Project", Josh Brown, Greg Bloy, Bill Merkel and Brent Stone played a jazz set for about an hour on Tuesday night. It was great - with Greg switching between piano and flute (see photos on p. 7). On Wednesday night, the Christus Choir performed before the Ash Wednesday service. We announced the service before our meal and had four of our guests attend. On Friday night, we had Frank Cassell and Katie Newton perform an hour and 1/2 set of bluegrass. "Jolene" was particularly well received and encored at least once. Amy Loar was there with her sewing machine on Tuesday night, and Judy Baker did sewing on Wednesday and Saturday. I particularly enjoyed her story about one of our guests who had a hole in the knee of his jeans. Judy told him she would bring in iron on material on Sunday and that she had something that would match... NO! He wanted something special. She brought in a patch with a flower and sequins and he loved it. These folks don't get a lot of "yeses" in their lives, and I am thrilled each time we can say yes! Earlier, that same guest wanted "ice milk" - a glass of ice with milk.

Overall we had an average of about 42 guests per night - substantially more than last year. We had 89 different volunteers put in a total of 890.5 hours on the program. Six Thrivent members were able to get Thrivent gift cards to help pay for expenses.

I look forward to this week every year - because of the outpouring of love and caring I see from our congregation to our guests and each other. Thanks so much to each of you for supporting this ministry with Tracy and me.

Our hypothermia week next year is March 1-8!



Serving Our Neighbor

Our Mission Initiative this Lenten season is to raise \$2,500

This amount will be sent to ELCA World Hunger where it will be used to provide a community with a simple water well and access to clean drinking water.

Please make checks payable to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and note 70th Anniversary in the memo line.

Thank you.



Current Food Pantry Needs—All non-perishable food items are appreciated, but most critically needed are:

- Crackers
- Beef Stew (or other meals in a can)
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Jelly
- White Rice (1 lb. size)
- Boxed Macaroni and Cheese
- Canned Fruit (no pie filling please)
- Diapers (especially large sizes)
- Cleaning and laundry supplies

Milestones

Births: Congratulations to Great-grandmother Genie Davis and the Davis family on the February 18 birth of Clara Grace Saddington, daughter of Jennifer and Thomas, sister of Caleb.

In Memoriam:

- ♦ Richard (Dick) Jones, husband of Ursula, passed away on March 27. A celebration of his life was held at Holy Trinity on Sunday, March 31 at 1:00 p.m.
- ♦ HT member Edward Brawand passed away on March 18. A memorial service will take place at Holy Trinity on Saturday, May 4 at 10:00 a.m.
- ♦ Norman Kramer, former HT member and father of HT Account Laura Rose, passed away on March 17. A service celebrating his life was held on March 31 at his church in North Carolina.

April—June Birthdays and Anniversaries

APRIL

Arnold Baker, Evelyn Blomquist, Richard Chancellor, Charlotte Crum, Matthew Forsgren, Tim Froemling, Matthew Griffith, Renee Grutzik, Pr. Mike Gutzler, Laura Hegemann, David Jackson, Deborah Jackson, Michael Jewett, Albert Lai, Jillian Luoma-Overstreet, Kaley McCann, Lynn McKay, Michael Mellett, Caroline Merkel, Joshua Murphy, Patrick Murphy, Jennifer Rohrer, Kristin Sherard, Ruth Shomo, Brent Stone, Nick Stone, Bill Tatum, Linda Williams

ANNIVERSARIES: Terry and Linda Bathen, David and Deborah Jackson, Paul and Terri Konort

MAY

Marc Allsup, Josh Brown, Charles Crum, John English, Judy English, Greg Fleck, Hao-y Froemling, Steve Griffith, Kim Grutzik, Deb Haynes, Laura Konort, Kristin LeMunyon, John Newton, Isabelle Paparella, John Person, Rebecca Schneider, Peter Shibuya, Carl Stepp, Alex Stone, Jeffrey Taylor, Joan Vehec

ANNIVERSARIES: Christopher and Lynde Engquist, Bud and Audrey Fadness, Brad and Lynn McKay

JUNE

Sue Becker, Debbie D'Addario, Carrie Daniels, Julie Davis, Victoria (Amber) Ferratier, Barbara Galindo, Dora (Holly) Hambley, Christine Hegemann, Colin Hoyt, Marcia Ihnen, Annika Kile, Joe Kile, Sandra Lee, Jody Lundell, Ryan Mellett, Tim Mellett, Hannah Murphy, Nancy Neiswander, Kaya Shibuya, Yuki Shibuya, Linda Stone, Jean Strandlie, Charlie Strunk, Lynn Tedesco, Allison Veltman, Chase Wells, Elizabeth Young, Grace Young

ANNIVERSARIES: Dave and Leona Badger; Gerald and Carol Barney; Larry and Maureen Elliott; John and Kim Grutzik; Brian and Barbara Lunde; Rodney and Christine Hansen; Alan and Alfie Rulis



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A Reconciling in Christ
Congregation



AT A GLANCE

April

1—Council meeting
14—Palm Sunday
18—Maundy Thursday
19—Good Friday
21—Easter Sunday
22— Church Office closed
26-28—WELCA Retreat

May

5—Youth Sunday
12—Mothers Day
13 Council meeting
27—Memorial Day Holiday
(Church Office closed)

June

2—Music Sunday
Congregational Meeting
9—Pentecost Sunday
10—Council Meeting
14-15—Synod Assembly
30—RIC Sunday

- ◆ The Rev. Michael Gutzler, Pastor pastormike@holytrinityfallschurch.org
- ◆ Vicar Corey Bergman vicarcorey@holytrinityfallschurch.org
- ◆ Joan Buscher, Parish Administrator office@holytrinityfallschurch.org
- ◆ Joshua Brown, Director of Music josh@holytrinityfallschurch.org
- ◆ Greg Bloy, Accompanist gregbloy@holytrinityfallschurch.org
- ◆ Autumn Kendrick, Communications communications@holytrinityfallschurch.org
- ◆ Jeremy Cochran, Handbell Director
- ◆ Laura Rose, Accountant
- ◆ Felicito Arana, Custodian
- ◆ Nursery Attendant

TRUSTEES: Jeffrey Ihnen, John Person, and Lynn Tedesco

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND MEMBERS: Jeffrey Taylor, Alfie Rulis, Lynn McKay, and John Bowen

MISSIONARY: Stephen Deal (Latin America and the Caribbean) ELCA Division for Global Mission

Submissions for our next issue are due to
Editor Eugenia Davis,
eugeniamdavis1@gmail.com, by June 15