



Holy Trinity

Lutheran Church

JANUARY – MARCH
2020

Lifting Up • Reaching Out

MISSION INITIATIVES: Hypothermia & Blanket Sunday

Hypothermia Week: March 1-8

As most of you know, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church participates in the Fairfax County Hypothermia Shelter sponsored by FACETS. Throughout the winter, 34 faith communities take turns hosting the shelter, offering safe places to sleep and nutritious meals.

- Your HT leaders this year are: Rob Young, Tracy Strunk, and Charles Luoma-Overstreet.
- Our week this year is 3/1-3/8. We will be open from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., and we expect 30-45 guests for each night of the week.
- We need volunteers to help with evening hospitality (share a meal... with us and the guests), providing breakfast, dinner or dessert for one of the days, overnight supervision and clean up the next morning. Please consider signing up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0e48a9a82ea57-htlc6>

From Rob:

Please check your calendars to see when you could support any of our volunteer activities.

Please also consider whether you could be a snow emergency volunteer. Generally, FACETS asks the congregations to stay open during the day anytime the Fairfax County Schools close for inclement weather. As you can imagine, these days are particularly challenging since the libraries and other public places are also closed. If you can take a snow day off and can volunteer for these emergencies, please sign up. We would need at least 4 volunteers here to stay open.

Feel free to contact me at 703-629-1058 with any questions or send me an email at rbyitguy@gmail.com. Tracy can be reached at 703-887-7904 or tdstrunk@gmail.com and Charles can be reached at 571-457-2581 or cluover@gmail.com.

Thanks so much! We had a tremendous response last year and we love the energy that the members of our congregation bring to this cause.

Rob Young, Charles Luoma-Overstreet and Tracy Strunk



March 1 is Blanket Sunday

During Holy Trinity's hypothermia mission season, we have the opportunity to blanket our neighbors with love through Church World Service's **Blanket + Program**.

A \$10 donation will provide one wool blanket for persons in need of shelter and warmth.

You are invited to look for the CWS contribution envelope in the March 1 bulletin. Please make checks payable to Holy Trinity, note Blanket Sunday in the memo line and complete the information requested on the label applied to the envelope. More on page 13.

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Pastor's Peace

Happy New Year – Let's Study the Gospel of Mark!

On the slim chance you have not been to church since Christmas Eve, let me be the first to tell you that you need to come back and check out our deep dive into the Gospel of Mark. The Gospel of Mark is a very important document that ultimately shapes our understanding of Jesus still today.

Just to make sure you understand how important this opportunity is to study the Gospel of Mark, here are my top 10 reasons why you should come to love and understand the Gospel of Mark.

- 1) **No Christmas!** Wait, what?! That is correct, the Gospel of Mark starts with the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River. This has significant ramifications on how we come to understand the person of Jesus. What if the Christmas story was either not known or not important to the author's community?
- 2) **No Resurrection!** Wait, what?! That is also correct, the earliest versions of the Gospel of Mark end with the empty tomb but no resurrected Jesus sightings. The gospel ends with a focus on salvation.
- 3) **Mark was Copied.** Yes, it is true, both Matthew and Luke took Mark's writing word for word for their own gospels. Nearly all scholars agree that both Matthew and Luke had Mark's gospel in front of them when they wrote their own.
- 4) **The Gospel of Mark is the Earliest.** This is important for several reasons:
 - a. It was written before the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem and was intended for the followers of the early Jesus movement.
 - b. There is no other text like it. Mark is the first one to call this biography-style written document a Gospel.
 - c. This is the first written story of Jesus. Most likely there were oral stories shared about Jesus to go along with the letters of Paul, but there was never a complete compilation of the whole Jesus narrative until Mark's Gospel.
- 5) **The Messianic Secret.** Secrets?! Oh yes. The Jesus of Mark's Gospel continually instructs people not to tell anyone about what he has done. Why would this original written narrative have Jesus act so secretly?
- 6) **Parables, but no Sermon.** Mark's Gospel is primarily a collection of stories about what Jesus did, and less about what Jesus said. We don't have a Sermon on the Mount or a Sermon on the Plain like we do in the Gospel of Matthew and Luke respectively. This makes the limited words we have in the Gospel of Mark that much more intriguing.
- 7) **Radical Shift in Thinking about what is "Holy."** One of the main themes of Mark that still impacts us today is the new idea that holiness is not limited to a geographical space. Jesus moves the concept of holiness away from the temple and starts to talk about the Kingdom of God coming near.
- 8) **Radical Shift in Thinking about what is "Unholy."** To counterbalance Jesus' take on what is considered holy, he also helps change the perspective on what is considered unholy by eating, drinking and spending time with sinners.
- 9) **God of Rules to a God of Love.** Just a couple chapters into Mark's Gospel it is clear to see Jesus is a rule breaker, more specifically a religious rule breaker. To his audience this would be considered outrageous. Upon a closer look, the reader will also notice the breaking of the religious rules is always out of love for the other.
- 10) **The Real Meaning of Messiah.** Probably the greatest shift of all is in the understanding of what it means to be a messiah. The people around Jesus were looking for one particular kind of messiah – someone who looked like King David, but Jesus offers them something else – a crucifix. And thus, this symbol of death transforms our lives to the point that we wear it today as jewelry.

In addition to these top ten reasons, there are also a bunch of great stories of people Jesus encounters along his way. Their stories are also our stories of religious ancestors. I hope you join us for the journey to Palm Sunday so you too many be inspired by this very important and world changing document which we call the Gospel – good news.

Pastor Mike



Council News

Fall 2019 Highlights

The HT Council had a busy fall and kept up the pace through the end of 2019. A part-time Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) Coordinator position was established and filled to provide more support for that ministry area while we continue to seek candidates for a full-time position. Numerous required amendments to the HT Constitution were accomplished at the Fall Congregational Meeting on November 17th. And once the final donations to the 70th Anniversary Special Campaign arrived, more than \$18,000 was distributed to benevolent organizations, including Lutheran Social Services, FACETS, and United Lutheran Seminary, and more than \$18,000 was moved to HT's Long-Range Maintenance fund to be invested in facility improvements or repairs needed over time. (The remaining \$18,000+ had previously been designated for the one-year "seed money" funding of the new CYF staff position.) It was great that the people of HT evidenced such thankfulness to God for our 70 years of ministry.

Fall 2019 also saw establishment of a new Stewardship Team that developed and implemented a successful Fall Campaign around a theme of joyful generosity. The Campaign goals were to increase the number of pledge cards returned and the average total weekly giving to HT by \$1000 so as to enable continued funding of a CYF staff position and meet increased operating costs. A special \$5000 "challenge gift" was offered by one of our members if the target for returned pledge cards was exceeded—and happily it was. The increased weekly giving goal was more than met as well, thanks in part to new giving pledges from many of the people who joined HT in 2019. Thank you to all who responded to the stewardship messages with joyful giving! And thank you also to the Stewardship Team—Deb Haynes, Autumn Kendrick, Lauren McCann, Kim Silva, Brent Stone and Pastor Mike—and others who provided the materials, videos, temple talks, and so much more that invited our consideration of what we are called to do in response to God's many blessings in our lives.

2020 Goal Setting and Planning

Council also spent time over several meetings this fall to consider what our annual goals should be for 2020. The work included completing a needs assessment focused on the "four quadrants" expression of HT's mission (Inviting, Connecting, Discipling, Sending/Serving) and discussing what recent and upcoming developments (e.g., re-establishment of a Stewardship Team, Pastor Mike's sabbatical) should mean for 2020 Council goals.

Four goals emerged from this process and were formally adopted by Council at our January 13th meeting:

1. Develop Targeted New Services and Resources to Improve Ministry Reach and Effectiveness
2. Fill a Full-Time Staff Position to Lead CYF Ministry and Support Other Ministry Development
3. Develop a Year-Round Stewardship Program
4. Develop Comprehensive Property Management Procedures and an Expanded Property Committee

Council's "goal work" for the next few months will be focused on Goal #1. Our efforts will include interviewing HT visitors, new members, and established members as well as several of our "small groups" to elicit their thoughts and experiences regarding HT outreach, ministries, and operations. The interviews are an important part of the process Council is using to determine what new services and resources to develop, so if you are asked to participate, please say yes! Work also will be underway on the other three goals.

Another focal point for Council in the coming few months will be planning for Pastor Mike's upcoming sabbatical and the related "Congregational Renewal" activities that are being made possible by the Lily Foundation grant received by HT and Pastor Mike. In addition to covering the expense of substitute pastoral care and worship leaders, grant dollars will fund summer fellowship and relaxation activities for the congregation, a special congregational learning and reflection program, and post-sabbatical programming this fall through which Pastor Mike will share what he learned and discerned in his time away. A Lily Grant team is being assembled to do the detailed planning for the Congregational Renewal activities. If you'd like to help, just let me (lori.wicks01@gmail.com) or Pastor Mike know.

God's peace be with you all,
Lori Wicks
Congregation/Council President

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

2019—2020 CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Lori Wicks, President	Joe Kile, Treasurer
Scott Sherard, Vice President	
Mary Minette, Secretary	
Beth Search	Seth Clark
Julie Davis	Lynn McKay
Karen Cockerham	Brent Stone
Charles Luoma-Overstreet	



Invite a Friend

HT Game Night—Make plans to join us on Saturday, January 25th

Game lovers of all ages are welcome, and a pizza dinner will be provided. **Come and Play!!!** We had so much fun last November. If you missed it, be sure to attend this one! We look forward to seeing you. Questions? Contact coordinator Charles Luoma-Overstreet at cluover@gmail.com.



CONCERTS AT HOLY TRINITY



INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL



JAZZ COFFEE HOUSE

Featuring Adrian Duke & Friends

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Music Starts at 7:00pm
3022 Woodlawn Ave, Falls Church, VA

Flyers are available in the narthex with the full schedule of *Concerts at Holy Trinity*.
Take a few to share with family and friends!

Jazz Coffee House Needs Cooks, Bakers, Helping Hands – and a Few Lamps!

As in past years, the JCH planning team is looking to HT's talented cooks and bakers to provide sweet or savory finger foods for JCH, taking place this year on Saturday, February 8th, and, also as usual, is looking for people to help with set-up on Saturday morning and with clean-up right after the event. We also would like to borrow 4-5 table lamps for the evening to add to the ambience. If you can help meet any of the needs, please use the sign-up sheet on the Narthex coffee counter to let us know or sign-up online at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4DADAE1-jazz>.

Any questions can be directed to Lori Wicks at lori.wicks01@gmail.com.



Children, Youth, & Family Ministry



Psalms 136:1 – Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.

As 2019 came to a close, we take time to reflect back on the memories made these past few months for our younger congregation members.

October was filled with excitement in Sunday school as students discovered more incredible Bible characters. From celebrating Israel's new king, David, to joining Josiah on his treasure hunt for Bible stories, students of all ages continued to learn the importance of these stories.

The fun didn't stop there as we rolled into November with Holy Trinity's Game Night. Tensions ran high in a group game of spoons while our youngest members stacked and knocked down towers.

We then took to the stage as anticipation grew with the coming of Jesus Christ during the Advent season. Shepherds herding sheep and angels announcing good news warmed the hearts of many during our 2019 pageant.

We happily welcome the new year with more activities for all ages!

Sarah Jagels
Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Coordinator
sarah@holylrinityfallschurch.org



Sunday School

Confirmation: February 9 – Confirmation class March 14 – Service Learning

Elementary: February 23 – Lunch & Bowling

High School: April 24 – Mission Trip, Habitat for Humanity

Holy Trinity offers Sunday School for all ages during the Christian education hour beginning at 8:45 a.m.

Children aged 7 and under are invited to gather in the Sanctuary with their parents for a musical opening at 8:45 a.m. Following the opening, kids aged 4-7 are encouraged to attend Sunday school class in Fellowship Hall, while younger children and their parents are invited to attend a devotional led by Pastor Mike.

A separate musical opening followed by grade-level Sunday school instruction will begin at 8:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for youth in 3rd through 6th grade.

A Confirmation class is offered in Fellowship Hall for youth in grades 7 and 8, while High School students enjoy topical discussions in a laid-back atmosphere in the youth room.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Martha Kile or the church office.



Getting Connected



Thank you so much for your generous support of the music program here at Holy Trinity.

The Advent "Cookie" Concert went very well, and that couldn't have happened without countless volunteer musicians, volunteer bakers, and volunteer audience members.

I do hope you will consider attending our upcoming concerts in February and March. For all you caffeine addicts and jazz aficionados alike... don't miss the annual Jazz Coffee House with Adrian Duke at 7 p.m. on Saturday, February 8th ! As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we are also very excited to be hosting another group from the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington in March.

Please join us for a program by The Rock Creek Singers on March 28th at 7 p.m. Hope to see you at either or both of these great upcoming events!

Joshua Brown
Director of Music

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

OWLS (Older, Wiser, Loving, Souls)

11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

First Wednesday of each month

PLEASE NOTE: Due to hypothermia week, the OWLS potluck will be held on the second Wednesday, March 11. All are welcome to join us for fun, food and fellowship.

REMINDER: St. Jude's Children's Hospital would love to have your old greeting cards. Tear off the fronts and place them in the box on the narthex shelf. Questions? See Jean or Leona or visit: <https://stjudesranch.org/recycled-card-program/>. More details on page 13.



HT's Walking Club—Looking for a fun way to satisfy that new year's resolution?

All are welcome to join us! Treat yourself for 45 minutes to fresh air, light aerobic exercise and fellowship. We will meet at HT, stretch, and walk around the neighborhood. Led by Joan Buscher.

Tuesdays from 8:45 to 9:30 a.m.

Please bring your water bottle. Contact the church office if you have any questions.





Getting Connected

Tai Chi at HTLC

Two Tai Chi opportunities are available at Holy Trinity. One group meets Wednesdays from 6 to 7 p.m.; the second group meets Thursday mornings from 9:45 to 11:00 a.m. Both groups meet in the Narthex, and are led by Ruth Gowell, an experienced Tai Chi instructor. The free groups are open to all HT folks and community members.

Tai Chi is a soft martial art, with roots going back 800 or so years to China and India. It is slow, graceful and calming. Through slow and gentle stretching, one gradually strengthens the body, works deep muscle groups and internal organs, improving coordination and flexibility, relieving soreness and pain and reducing risk of injury.

If you have questions, speak with Denise or Eric Chancellor about the Wednesday evening class or with Judy Baker about the Thursday morning class.



Free Music Time for Young Children

All are welcome to join us on **Tuesday mornings** from **10-11** in the **narthex** for songs, movement, and rhymes. Caregiver participation is required. For more information, please contact class leader Sammi Miller at Sammi2290@gmail.com.



Sign up for Candle and Flower Dedications

See the charts and dedication forms outside the HT nursery. Sign up to celebrate a special occasion or in honor of a loved one. The suggested offering is \$15 for candles and \$35 for flowers. Questions should be directed to the church office.



SUNSHINE SECRETARY: Sandra Lee

leeassociates@aol.com

If you know of someone who is celebrating a special occasion, having health concerns or mourning the loss of a loved one, please contact Sandra.



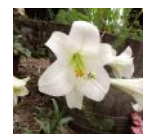
PRAYER CHAIN: Marcia Ihnen

mcihnen@aol.com

To start a request or to be added to the Prayer Chain, please contact Marcia.



EASTER FLOWERS: Look for order forms in the bulletins in February. **Easter Sunday is April 12.**



HT'S INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

General Policy on Delays and Closures: Holy Trinity follows delayed opening and closure decisions as announced by Falls Church City Schools for weekday, evening, and weekend activities except for Sunday mornings. A delay or cancellation notice will be placed on the Holy Trinity website for the convenience of community groups and others who use Holy Trinity facilities.



Sunday Morning Worship and Education Program Delays and Closures: Any decision to delay or cancel Sunday morning worship or education programs due to inclement weather will be announced on the Holy Trinity website and by a special email to those who have provided their email address to the church office.



Getting Connected



BBQ & Bluegrass with Two Ton Twig

November 2, 2019



Photos with Santa, breakfast and crafts

We welcomed more than 100 guests!

Thanks to our many dedicated
volunteers.

December 7, 2019





Getting Connected



Annual Advent Concert and Cookie Reception

Featuring HT's vocal choir,
handbells, Praise Project,
Wind Ensemble & others

Thanks to Directors Josh and
Jeremy and to all of our
musicians, singers, ringers
and cookie bakers.

Thanks to the HT Women of the
ELCA for hosting the reception.

December 15, 2019





Getting Connected



Thank you to everyone who helped with decorating, as well as un-decorating, the church for Christmas. Plan now to join the fun next year. It will be a wonderful time of Christmas music, food, and fellowship! Marcia Ihnen, Coordinator.



On Wednesday, February 26, Ash Wednesday services will take place at Holy Trinity at 12 noon and 7:30 p.m.

**The church office will be closed on
Monday, February 17 (President's Day)**

**Daylight Savings Time begins
on Sunday, March 8.**

Make sure your clocks spring forward 1 hour on Saturday night, March 7.



Giving News - Stock Donations Made Easier

HT now has several members who regularly take advantage of the tax benefits that come with providing financial support to the church by donating stock.

To make the donation process easier, the Church Council recently voted to open a TD Ameritrade brokerage account for the church. Donors will now be able to have stock shares electronically transferred to the church's account.

If you'd like to make a stock donation, email Pastor Mike at pastormike@holyltrinityfallschurch.org for more information on the new account - and thank you for your support!





Growing in Faith



Morning Prayer is offered Sundays at 8:00 a.m., lasting approximately 35-40 minutes. This is not a worship service, but an opportunity to be in a reflective environment and center ourselves around God's Word and communion.

All are welcome to join us on Sundays!

8:00 Morning Prayer
8:45 Christian Education
10:00 Worship Service

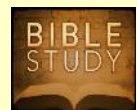


Acolytes needed—Students fifth grade and up (who are not already acolyting) are needed on Sunday mornings (adults are welcome, too). This is a very important part of the Sunday worship services. You would be serving with another person, lighting the candles, and helping with offering and communion. Each acolyte is scheduled to serve approximately once per month. Training is available. The acolyte service schedule is prepared by Jean Strandlie, so if you have any questions or are available to serve, please see Jean or contact the church office.

LEARN—SHARE—GROW

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

- ♦ **Sunday Bible Study—8:45 a.m., in the Library.** What's with the Lutheran obsession with grace? Come study Paul's letter to the Romans with us and discover why we are free to love the neighbor! (Leader is Deacon Deb.)
- ♦ **Faith Outside the Box—Mondays at 7:00 p.m., in the Youth/Community Room.** We will meet monthly to discuss relevant books and videos decided by the participants. **All are welcome to join us.** For topics, check the Sunday bulletin or contact John Bowen.
- ♦ **Adult Forum—8:45 a.m. in Rothenberg Hall.** Join us Sundays to hear from speakers on thought-provoking topics or HT members sharing their faith stories. Check the bulletin for current topic.
- ♦ **Women's Monthly Bible Study—** We meet in the Youth/Community Room. **Weekdays on the third Friday at 1 p.m.** (Miriam/Lydia group). **Weekends on the fourth Sunday at 5:30 p.m.** (Naomi Circle). New members are always welcome. For questions or further information, contact the church office at office@holytrinityfallschurch.org.



Holy Trinity's Annual Women's Retreat

April 24-26



Save the date for attending Holy Trinity's Women of the ELCA's Annual Retreat. The retreat will be held at the A. Felix DuPont Memorial House in Rehoboth, Delaware.

The cost of the retreat is \$280, which includes a two night stay and six meals. Scholarships are available. Carpools will be provided.

Further information and a sign up sheet will be available in February. If you have any questions, please see Marcia or contact the church office.



Serving Our Neighbor

Graham Road Elementary School News

In late November, we received a request from the counselor at Graham Road school to support some of their neediest families for the holidays. Because the request came when it did and we were already sponsoring the Angel Tree for FACETS families and the Metro DC Gifts of Hope, we didn't put out a general appeal to the congregation. Instead, some HT members who have volunteered at the school stepped up to help two families.

One was a single-parent family, a mother with three children at GRES, twin boys in 4th grade and a girl in 6th grade. The second family consisted of a mother, father and three children. The mother had recently given birth to her third child. She hadn't been able to return to work since his birth and the father was unemployed. Their two daughters are in kindergarten and first grade.

With their permission, we contacted them to find out what they needed. Both mothers requested warm clothes and a book for each child. Although no toys were requested, we purchased one toy in addition to a book for each child, along with warm shirts, pants, and coats. We got non-perishable food items from the Knox Food Pantry and \$50 gift cards for each family from Giant for perishable items.



We wrapped all the gifts, labeling them to each child from Santa, and delivered them along with the food on a day the children were in school. Seeing the meager furnishings in their apartments, it was clear their needs are great. Both moms were very grateful for the gifts and food.

It was gratifying to be able to bring some Christmas cheer to these two families in our community. Perhaps next year, with more advance notice, Holy Trinity can offer help to more families.

Book Give-Away

Stay tuned for the date when we'll deliver books to the children at the school. We are currently in discussion with the principal and reading specialist to determine the best day for this program. We hope you'll consider helping us give these books to the students this spring. Details will be forthcoming.

Judy Baker



In addition, thanks to all who attended the Advent/Cookie concert, HT WELCA was able to donate its share of the offering (more than \$300) to the Graham Road Elementary School fund for books and food cards

To all who joined the HTWELCA on Thankoffering Sunday with generous donations, almost \$1,000 was sent to the National Women of the ELCA for its many outreach ministries.

To Kris Luoma-Ovestreet, for volunteering as Stewardship Secretary, initially on an interim basis. Thanks to Lori and the counting team captains for the support they are providing Kris.

Reconciling in Christ (RIC) News

The RIC Committee meets on the third Sunday of each month at 11:30 a.m. We need your help to continue to develop more ways to show our welcome to the community. We have a dedicated account, RIC Initiatives, that could use contributions. We'd love to hear your ideas. If you have a passion for social justice and a kind spirit, join us!



Laura Daugherty laura.daugherty@verizon.net Rob Young rbyitguy@gmail.com



Serving Our Neighbor

In 2019, congregational gifts provided over 118,000 CWS Blankets and Kits to families impacted by hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and other crises (including homelessness and poverty).

Here's what your gift could mean in 2020:

- \$10 Provides one blanket**
- \$50 Gives blankets to an entire family**
- \$250 Stocks shelves in a shelter with blankets**

You can make an online donation - complete with a receipt for your records - at cwsblankets.org/donate.

Your gift supports two types of CWS Blankets:

HEAVYWEIGHT: These woolen blankets are great for frigid temperatures. They hold heat extremely well, they're water resistant, and they don't easily catch fire so people can use them while warming up by a heat source.

LIGHTWEIGHT: Appropriate for warmer climates, these fleece blankets keep families covered without adding bulk if they have to move around a lot. Fleece is water repellant, durable, warm and soft.

Families also share that they use blankets: • As insulated padding if they have to sleep on hard, cold surfaces
• As room dividers if they're staying in shelters and need a moment of privacy • As bags to carry supplies if they must move from place to place

Thank you for embracing your neighbors in many different ways through your gift!



Our OWLS ministry: New & Used All-Occasion Greeting Cards for St. Jude's Children's Ranch! Recycle your used greeting cards and creates new holiday and all-occasion greeting cards. Recycled cards are sold to support our programs and services for abused, neglected and homeless children, young adults and families. HT collects card fronts and mails them to St. Jude's for re-use.

The program is beneficial to everyone – customers receive fun, “green” holiday or other occasion cards they can feel good sending to their friends and loved ones, and the children at St. Jude's Ranch receive payment for their work and learn basic job skills and the importance of recycling.



Place your cards in the box on the Welcome Center counter in the narthex. Please review these tips:

- **Only the card front can be used** (please check to be sure the backside of the front of the card is clear of any handwriting, etc.)
- **We cannot accept Hallmark, Disney or American Greeting cards**
- **5" x 7" size or smaller is preferred**

Any questions, please contact the church office.

Who? Me? Do you feel that the Spirit may be calling you to be more involved in the Sunday worship service? Would you like to serve as Assisting Minister, serve as lector, acolyte, usher, or greet members and visitors?

If you are wondering who to call, or what is involved, the church office can help. We will put you in touch with the right person. Contact us at 703-532-6617 or office@holyltrinityfallschurch.org.



Serving Our Neighbor

New usher teams are forming! Please consider joining a team to help out with ushering for our church services.



Duties include distributing bulletins, collecting offering, and assisting with communion.

Each team has an usher leader and teams are assigned a month to cover. If you have to miss a week or two of your assigned month, no worries! We all work together to make sure that someone will be able to fill in.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up for this easy, yet important part of our Sunday morning service, please contact Linda Williams at linda.williams9314@gmail.com.

Synod News www.metrodcelca.org

The synod staff and council have worked together over the past few months to faithfully proclaim God's mission for us.

Not just "us" as individuals, or isolated congregations, but "us" as the collaborative church body of the Metro D.C. Synod.

Together, we are the Metro D.C. Synod and together, we invite you and your congregation to fully participate in this mission.

Live into it every day, lay it on your hearts as you plan and prepare, and let it lead you to new and boundless journeys in service to God's beloved creation.



As we pursue this mission, we will:

1. Equip and develop healthy leaders
2. Empower and nurture vibrant ministries
3. Encourage and model faithful accompaniment

We also strive to:

Pray and Play.
Do less. Be More.

We welcome and need your continued support for New Connections in 2020. Visit <http://metrodcclca.org/newconnectionsthankyou2019/>.



An opportunity to serve in

Puerto Rico

July 19-July 27, July 26-August 1
August 2-August 8, August 9-15

2020

A group of volunteers from the region will be serving in Puerto Rico this summer in partnership with Lutheran Social Services of Puerto Rico in their process of rebuilding and strengthening communities after the devastation of Hurricane Maria & the earthquakes.

The bulk of our efforts will focus on construction, with a mix of skilled and unskilled volunteers. Our volunteers last year ranged from age 14 to age 70. This summer we will accept youth who have already completed 9th grade. We will also explore the rich culture and natural beauty of Puerto Rico.

- To find more information, to register, and to donate, head to **www.BuildingPuentes.com**.
- We will serve over the course of four weeks, from July 19 through August 15. Serve as long as you can.
- The registration deadline is April 1st, 2019. Registration is now open.
- Costs are \$700 for one week, \$1000 for two weeks, and \$1300 for three weeks, including flights, housing, transportation, and most food.

Building Puentes is a collaborative ministry of the Caribbean Metro D.C., and the Delaware—Maryland synods.



From the Myhre's, now in South Carolina:

Dear Pastor and Family,

We have been in our new home (apartment) for almost 4 months now. Starting to get used to things being "different". Our daughter and her husband live nearby and have been helping us as we learn our way around. We have an ELCA church just a few blocks away. It is a fairly new and very large church. We still have many great memories in our hearts about our 52 years at Holy Trinity. We pray that all is going well for you, your family and the congregation. Sincerely, Dick & Helen



Milestones

Welcome new members: On January 20, the Sauer family: Chris, Caroline, and baby Marshall. On December 15, Mia Lynn Gajewski, was baptized at Holy Trinity. Mia's parents are Julia and Joe.

Baptism: As of newsletter press time, Madeline Cockerham is scheduled to be baptized at HT on Sunday, February 23.

In Memoriam: Joann Shupp, on January 20, at her home in Delmar, MD. Joann and her husband, Lloyd, were members of Holy Trinity from 1982-2015. Joann began her career as an organist at the age of 15 in York, PA. She served as HT Parish Administrator from 1990 to 2002. The family requests that contributions be made to Cure Alzheimer's (www.curealz.org). Arrangements are in the care of Short Funeral Home in Delmar. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.shortfh.com. If you would like to send a card to the family, please contact the HT office.



Moving: HT member Don Pavlet is in North Carolina with family; Matt Roberts, to League City, TX.

In anticipation: James and Autumn Kendrick are due to welcome their child in March. Autumn is Holy Trinity's Communications Specialist.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY: Kaden Ball, Aaron Bertrand, Savannah Elliott, Katherine Franke, Katlin Froemling, Abigail Green, Tobias Isfahani, Rachel Kaczmarczyk, Carolyn Lemens, Nicholas Lemens, Reuben Luoma-Overstreet, Bill Merkel, Joyce Pampu, Michael Popelier, Nicholas Poreda, Beth Search, Anne Simmons, Ray Sparnon, Bruce Wells, Gregory Wicks, Richard Willet, Jr. **JANUARY:** Joe & Martha Kile, Albert & Sandy Lee, Charles & Liselotte Shelton

FEBRUARY: Abra Allsman, Jean Artman, Corey Bergman, Jill Cockerham-Sisk, Thomas Daniels, Karen Davis, Frank Garcia, Jr., Tracy Green, Gary Grutzik, Clara Gutzler, Chuck Hoyt, Erin Hoyt, Ethan Kabati, Christina Kaczmarczyk, Mark Kerr, Daniel Kurtz, Karen Loar, Troy Martin, Sam Merkel, Leslie Meyer, Raymond Meyer, Wanda Mikovch, Jonathan Mills, Jireh Muin, Andrew Paparella, Megan Paparella, Alan Rulis, Alfie Rulis, Julia Wicks, Jeremiah Young **FEBRUARY:** Charles & Kristine Luoma-Overstreet

MARCH: Aiden Allsman, Jackson Allsman, Michelle Andersen, Keith Ball, Kristin Ball, Linda Beaty, Maureen Elliott, Arnold Fadness, Audrey Fadness, John Grutzik, Stellan Isfahani, Ursula Jones, Anna Kaczmarczyk, Noah Kaczmarczyk, Mike Kreider, Albert Lee, Eleanore Marcey, Asa Meyer, Lee Meyer, Alexander Popelier, Bill Richards, Elizabeth Stone, Debora Wake, Lori Wicks **MARCH:** Jonathan & Abra Allsman, Phillip & Amy Loar



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A Reconciling in Christ
Congregation



AT A GLANCE

January

11—Un-decorate the church
13—Council meeting
25—Game night

February

8—Jazz Coffee house (*Concerts at Holy Trinity*)
10—Council meeting
17—President's Day (church office closed)
26—Ash Wednesday

March

1—Hypothermia week begins
Blanket Sunday
Lent 1
8—Daylight Savings Time begins
Lent 2
9—Council meeting
15—Lent 3
22—Lent 4
28—Rock Creek Singers (Gay Men's Chorus ensemble) (*Concerts at Holy Trinity*)
29—Lent 5

- ◆ The Rev. Michael Gutzler, Pastor
- ◆ Joan Buscher, Parish Administrator
- ◆ Josh Brown, Director of Music
- ◆ Greg Bloy, Organist/Pianist
- ◆ Jeremy Cochran, Bell Director
- ◆ Eugenia Davis, Newsletter Editor
- ◆ Felicito Arana, Custodian
- ◆ Yuki Shibuya, Nursery Attendant

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TRUSTEES: Jeffrey Ihnen, John Person, and Lynn Tedesco

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

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