

LENT 2018

Mission Initiative: Hypothermia

VOLUNTEERING AT OUR HYPOTHERMIA SHELTER—"one of the most rewarding experiences of my life" — That is what we hear from many of our volunteers, whether it is their first time or tenth time.

As this newsletter goes to press, we are finalizing preparations for our week of service. Starting on **Sunday, February 25 and ending on Saturday, March 3**, we will be open from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. and expect 30-45 guests for each night of the week.

Our volunteers help with evening hospitality (share a meal... with us and the guests), providing breakfast, dinner or desert for one of the days, overnight supervision and clean-up the next morning. **Current needs:** an additional volunteer for clean up - starting at 7:30 each morning. We also need help starting at 11 a.m. on February 25: cleaning up after Sunday school and setting up tables. **From our Suggested Donations List:** toiletries, plastic tarps, and gift cards would be most appreciated. Finally, please review our online sign up for open hospitality shifts from 4:30 to 11 p.m.

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Next issue:

Easter Season

Will be distributed in early April

SOME FACTS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS IN FAIRFAX-FALLS CHURCH

- On January 25, 2017, there were 964 people who were homeless in Fairfax-Falls Church
- ◆ This represents a 9% decrease from January 2016 (the total decrease from 2008 to 2017 has been 47% or 871 people)
- ♦ 490 were single individuals (similar to last year's 482)
- ◆ 474 were people in families (a drop from last year's 577, mostly a reduction in families in transitional housing)

Nature's Perfect Timing: Despite recent major temperature fluctuations, these lenten roses under HT's magnolia tree always "know" to bloom during Lent. (Photo taken on 2/19/18 by Joan Buscher)



March 25—Palm Sunday

March 29—Maundy Thursday

March 30—Good Friday

Watch the Sunday bulletins
for worship service details



DATES TO REMEMBER

March 4—Blanket Sunday (see p. 6)

March 10—Spaghetti Dinner Youth Fundraiser (see p. 6)

March 11—Begin Daylight Saving Time

March 16-18—Shekinah Retreat (see p. 4)



Pastor's Peace

I am I am talented. I am beautiful. I am powerful. I am willing. I am open. I am strong. I am valorous. I am hilarious. I am loyal. I am gorgeous. I am enough.

I AM...

Welcome to the Lenten Season.

It is forty days until Easter and we have an opportunity to collectively consider the many different ways to end the following statement: I AM...

Go ahead. Give it a shot. Fill in the blank yourself. I AM...

You could end the statement with a noun like: son, daughter, grandparent, parent.

You could end the statement with an adjective: generous, faithful, loving.

What we place after the "I AM" statement either defines us or is formative to the person we aspire to be. But what happens to our "I AM" statement when Jesus himself completes his own "I AM" statement.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus completes his "I AM" statement in one of the following ways:

- I AM the Bread of Life
- I AM the Light of the World
- I AM the Door
- I AM the Good Shepherd
- I AM the Resurrection and the Life

Each of the "I AM" statement endings give us a deeper understanding of Jesus and the nature of God. What we will come to find is that the more we know about God through these "I AM" statements, the more we know about God's relationships with us and some new ways we can complete our own "I AM" statements.

Between the start and end of the Lenten season, we have one very important week: Hypothermia. The final week of February we will host our annual Hypothermia shelter and serve our homeless guests to the best of our ability. There are so many ways, both large and small, to help support the church efforts and serve our neighbors. I hope and pray you choose to support this initiative and can say: I AM: a hypothermia volunteer or supporter or contributor.

Thanks be to God for the church, where individual disciples of Christ come together to make positive and loving change in the neighborhood. We thank God for you.

Pastor Mike

- The Rev. Michael Gutzler, Pastor pastormike@holytrinityfallschurch.org
- The Rev. Krista Vingelis, Pastor of Youth and Family Ministry <u>pastorkrista@holytrinityfallschurch.org</u>
- Joan Buscher, Parish Administrator office@holytrinityfallschurch.org
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CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS and MEMBERS:

Pamela Kabati, President; Eric Chancellor, Vice President; Terry Bathen, Treasurer; Julie Davis, Secretary Marcia Ihnen, Mark Kerr, Scott Sherard, Anne Simmons, Mary Minette, Aurelia Khorsand, Patrice Shibuya

TRUSTEES:

Jeffrey Ihnen, John Person, Lynn Tedesco, Jim LeMunyon

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND MEMBERS:

Dave Franke, Alfie Rulis, Tracy Strunk, Jeffrey Taylor, Jim LeMunyon

MISSIONARY:

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



Council News

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK... SO IT'S TIME TO STEP UP!

In this season of Lent, marked by solemnity and contemplation ahead of the celebration of Easter, I am asking for your help and input on a couple of projects that your church council will be working on over the coming months.

<u>Sunday Schedule Review</u>—As I mentioned in this column a few months ago, the church council has taken as one of its goals in 2018 to review our Sunday morning schedule to determine the best mix of services and programming to:

- meet the needs of our current -- and potential future -church community members, and;
- * best utilize our existing financial and human resources.

It's been 5 years since Holy Trinity took an in-depth look at our Sunday schedule and programming, and much has changed in our church community since then, including bringing on a new pastor and launching a second church community in the Mosaic District.

The council is now putting together a project team to undertake this review, and, as the military likes to say, we're looking for a few good men and women to help! Ideally, the project team will be comprised of a mix of people who are feeling motivated to help review and revise our Sunday schedule, including folks who have a deep history with HTLC and strong institutional knowledge, as well as those who are newer to our church family and bring fresh perspectives. Council will also be reaching out to those most involved and invested in our current Sunday schedule — our Sunday school teachers, members of our Worship and Music Committee, those who help with our Sunday Forum and bible studies, and our lay pastors and youth, among others — for their input.

Our project team will also conduct a congregational survey this spring on our current and potential future Sunday schedules, including seeking input on whether it's time for our church community to move to one Sunday service year round instead of only during the summer, especially in light of our new Sunday afternoon service in the Mosaic District. (This service was launched on February 18, runs from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the lounge area of the Angelika Theater; it continues weekly through this year. Council encourages you come out and help support this exciting new aspect of our Mosaic District Church initiative!)

If you're willing to help with this reflective review and potential re-imagining of our Sunday schedule at Holy Trinity, please call the church office or email your interest to office@holytrinityfallschurch.org to register your willingness to help. We'd appreciate hearing from you by Monday, March 5.

Calendaring Our Events AND Their Coordinators—Council is also asking for your help in a new way this year when it comes to developing Holy Trinity's annual calendar of events. Drafted in late February and early March, it plots the dates of our congregation's major community outreach initiatives for the coming 12 months. Calendar events include: Jazz Coffeehouse, Breakfast with Santa, and Oktoberfest, among other things. This year, for an event that requires volunteer support to make it onto the calendar, it has to have a coordinator's name attached to it. If no volunteer coordinator steps up to lead a particular event, then we'll likely cancel that event due to lack of volunteer support. Planning not just our events by who will coordinate them far in advance allows our lead volunteers plenty of time to plan their personal and family calendars around their volunteer commitment, and it saves church staff the last-minute scramble to find volunteers ahead of a fast-approaching major church event. All in all, it's a more efficient approach to our major event planning. Look for a sign-up board in the Narthex soon where you can volunteer to coordinate one (or more!) of our church's major events coming up during the **next year.** And expect your phone to ring with a personal plea from our Pastor or from me if we don't quickly fill all the slots on the sign-up board. If you're on the fence about stepping up as an event coordinator, it may help you to know that there's a terrific resource book in the church office that explains the tasks and timelines associated with each major event Holy Trinity has done over the last few years; it's a roadmap for every event leader.

Please prayerfully consider how you can help out with our Sunday schedule review and/or our major church events over the coming year. Our congregation needs your time, your energy, and your best thinking to help it remain a bright, vibrant beacon of Christ's light in our community. And, as the old saying goes, "Many hands make light work!"

Pamela Kabati, 2017-18 Council President

Council Members: Pamela Kabati, Eric Chancellor, Terry Bathen, Julie Davis, Scott Sherard, Anne Simmons, Marcia Ihnen, Karen Cockerham, Mark Kerr, Aurelia Khorsand, Mary Minette, Patrice Shibuya



Youth and Family News

by Pastor Krista, Youth and Family Ministry

"mainly music" a ministry for littles and their caregivers

It's never too early to foster connections between you and your child or your child and God. Starting in April, we hope to offer a community outreach program designed to help families make connections with each other, with God, and with our church. Once our application is approved by the founding organization, we'll be moving forward to host a local "mainly music" program here at Holy Trinity.

"mainly music" is a weekly, hour long program that includes a half-hour of interactive music and play for littles (infants, toddlers, Pre-K) and their daytime caregivers (parents, grandparents, nannies, etc.) along with a half-hour of relaxed fellowship over snacks. "mainly music" will be offered in mini-sessions of 3-5 weeks and/or full 10 week sessions. Participants can pay for a whole session of classes in advance or purchase a 10 class "punch card." Punch cards allow you to pay for 10 classes in advance but have the

flexibility of attendance over multiple sessions. Of course, you will be able to walk-in and pay as you go if that is your preferred option. Cost is \$5 per family per class.

In order to get our "mainly music" up and running, we need at least five people willing to serve as part of a leadership team. Some of the leadership team would have behind the scenes responsibilities and not need to be present for the classes. But we will need a few leaders who can be present day of class to help greet and sign people in, receive payments, help with snacks, and/or help with supplies (especially a quick wipe down of small instruments and play props). "mainly music" leadership team would also meet once a quarter for program review and planning ahead. And we always need folks willing to commit to prayer on behalf of these new families with which we hope to connect.

For more information or to serve in this new ministry, please contact Pastor Krista. pastorkrista@holytrinityfallschurch.org.

February & March SNL—Our Sunday Night Life programming will continue its previously advertised "rec center" style of evening. Youth grades 5-12 are invited to gather in Rothenberg Hall on Sunday, February 25 from 4-6 p.m. We have a multi-purpose game table (ping pong, fooseball and others) for play and snacks will be provided. Starting in March, we'll take a break from our regularly scheduled SNL. Recent feedback and attendance is telling us that Sunday nights are a tough time for our youth and/or families to gather. So we're going to take a step back and do some reconfiguring. We certainly remain committed to a strong and vibrant partnership with our families in the faith formation of our children and youth. To that end, Pastor Krista has submitted a proposal to council for the future direction of Youth and Family Ministry here at Holy Trinity. Check out the article about "The Way" in this and the previous newsletter. In the meantime, we will keep you posted about any future possibilities for Sunday afternoon/evening family ministry programming.

SHEMA

FROM OUR METRO DC SYNOD

SHEKINAH - A Retreat for Middle School Youth

Attention all families of 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th graders! It's time to start planning to participate in this year's Synod event for upper elementary youth. Usually held at the end of April at one of the churches within our synod, Shema will provide a wonderful opportunity for your upper elementary youth to join with other Lutheran youth outside of their home congregation for an afternoon of faith-forming activities, fellowship, food and fun!

<u>Activities may include</u> storytelling, music, worship, games, a service project, craft, and a snack.

Cost: approx. \$10 per person

Registration materials: Coming soon.

This year, eight of our 7th and 8th grade confirmation students are registered to participate in the Synod's Shekinah retreat.

We ask you to keep them and their adult leaders in your prayers as they gather for learning, service, worship and fellowship at the 4-H Center in Front Royal, VA the weekend of March 16-18.

Based on two verses (Isaiah 43:1b and Mark 1:11), this year's theme of "Named and Claimed" will be explored by: Grace Crum, Thomas Daniels, Peter Grutzik, Erin Hoyt, Nicholas Lemens, Caroline Sherard, Kaya Shibuya, Ellie Trusso, Pastor Mike Gutzler and Deb Wake.

(continued on page 5)



YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS (continued from Page 4)

The Way – A Proposal for the Direction of Youth and Family Ministry

I hope you had an opportunity to read the article included in last month's newsletter. Since reading it, a few folks have come to me with questions about "The Way." Mostly they wanted to know if "The Way" was a pre-set curriculum or something I created. Here was my reply. You might find it helpful. "The Way" is simply a name I came up with for the overarching ministry structure for all of the children's, youth and family ministry at Holy Trinity.

Under the umbrella of "The Way" there would be four levels of ministry programming: for nursery aged through Pre-K, for early elementary, for later elementary and then for jr/sr high. Each age level of programming would offer opportunities for servant events and friendship events - group gatherings for the purpose of serving, building relationship, etc. We would also connect three of these age levels to Synodical retreats and/or events appropriate to them. In addition, we're hoping to create an in-house one-on-one mentoring ministry to jr/sr high youth. And at the core of everything is a family-focused 'lifestages' or 'milestones' ministry program called 'Faith Stepping Stones.' Faith Stepping Stones is a ministry program created and designed by a Lutheran parachurch group known as Faith Inkubators. You can check out more information about it at www.faithink.com/inkubators/steppingstones.asp"

Pastor Krista





Thank you so much to all those who braved the less-than-ideal weather and came out for the first installment of our Concerts at Holy Trinity! It was a lovely evening made possible by an extremely talented trio, as well as some wonderful volunteers who really know how to throw a reception with class.

Be on the lookout for future concerts!

Josh Brown Holy Trinity Director of Music



Route 50 Road Work—February 19 was the start date of a 210 day project on Route 50 in front of our church. The project will:

- 1. Block left turns from Rte. 50 to Woodlawn Ave and instead detour left turns to Marshall Street. This is for the duration of the project.
- 2. Lengthen the left turn lane on east bound Rte. 50 at Woodlawn Avenue to accommodate more cars turning left.
- 3. Add a pedestrian striped path from the sidewalk at Woodlawn Avenue and the access road in front of our church to the bus stop on westbound Route 50 by our church.



Serving Our Neighbor



Reconciling In Christ (RIC) The RIC Committee meets on the third Monday of each month. Join us to explore ways we can make Holy Trinity more welcoming to the LGBTQ+ community. Our next meeting is on Monday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m., in the Youth and Community Room.

Notes of Thanks

Thank you to everyone who attended to many details involved with the Eya concert—such a lovely evening. Josh Brown, Lori Wicks, Jill Cockerham, Joan Buscher, Peg Corl, Marcia Ihnen, Beth Search, and Eugenia Davis.

Thank You!!

- Your generosity and good spirit helped us raise \$726 during our Super Bowl Challenge. All proceeds support our youth and adults attending this summer's National Youth Gathering (NYG) in Houston.
- To the Tedesco's for the donation of a multi-use game table for our youth and family ministries. Your support means the world!

Thank you to Becca Sechrist, for volunteering to shop for hypothermia supplies and to Robert Tedesco, for installing the bulletin board in our nathex welcome center.

BLANKET SUNDAY at Holy Trinity is March 4

During our hypothermia mission season, we have the opportunity to blanket our neighbors with love through Church World Service's Blankets + program. A \$5.00 donation will provide one wool blanket for persons in need of shelter and warmth. Look for the CWS contribution envelope in the March 4 bulletin. Make checks payable to Holy Trinity, noting Blanket Sunday in the memo line, and complete the information requested on the envelope label. Thank you!

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser—CIAO!

The youth of Holy Trinity invite you to join us from 4-7 p.m., on Saturday, March 10 as we transform our very own fellowship hall into the warmth of an Italian restaurant.

Enjoy time with friends and family as we serve up a meal of spaghetti with meatballs, bread, salad, dessert and drinks.

A freewill offering will be received with all proceeds supporting our service and learning trip to this summer's National Youth Gathering in Houston. If you'd like to volunteer alongside our youth, sign up sheets are in the church entryway to help with set up, clean up, cooking, donating ingredients, etc.

You can also contact Pastor Krista at <u>pastorkrista@holytrinityfallschurch.org</u>. Grazie!!



Youth Fundraiser

WHEN: Saturday, March 10, 2018
WHERE: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Downstairs Fellowship Hall

TIME: 4:00—7:00 p.m.
COST: Free will offering**

**All donations help offset expenses for our summer service learning trip to Houston as part of the ELCA National Youth Gathering

Mama mia! Come enjoy a spaghetti dinner at our "Italian Café."

It's sure to be a fun evening! Viene, mangiaer, buon divertimento!

Come, eat, enjoy! Grazie.







Exciting News from Graham Road Elementary School

Books—You'll recall that as part of our celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation this fall, Holy Trinity members donated \$1,000 to purchase 500 books for Graham Road Elementary School (GRES). The reading specialists at GRES have selected and ordered books from Reading Is Fundamental that will appeal to the students in every grade and reading level.



The books will be delivered to the school soon, and plans are being made to give them to the students on **Friday**, **March 23**, the last day of school before spring break. The teachers and administration want the children to have a good book to read during their week away from school.

Holy Trinity members are invited to take part in giving the books and reading to the children on the morning of Friday, March 23. If you would like to participate in the book distribution and reading, please contact Judy Baker. Watch the Sunday bulletins for the exact time to arrive at GRES for this event.

Volunteers—Holy Trinity members are volunteering at GRES every week by mentoring students as well as assisting classroom teachers and the librarian. More volunteers are always welcome. For details on how you can participate, contact Judy Baker.

Gift Cards—Another part of our on-going support for families at GRES is providing \$20 gift cards to the Family Liaison staff to give to the neediest school families. We provide the cards four times a year: at the beginning of the fall when newly arrived families need support to get settled in our area, before the winter and spring breaks when the children won't be getting fed at school, and before the end of the school year when some families need help with a transition. Your donation to the Graham Road School designated account will provide funds for these gift cards. To assist in any capacity at GRES, please contact Judy Baker at judybaker2825@yahoo.com or 703-237-8717.





Library News! We are excited to let everyone know that Richard Chancellor will be Holy Trinity's next librarian. He has experience working at Fairfax County libraries and is looking forward to taking over the management of Holy Trinity's library.

Milestones

In Memoriam: HT charter member Charlotte Brockman, age 95, passed away on January 18. Charlotte and Charles were two of the original members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church when the church was organized in 1949. Charlotte was actively involved in the church and later served as Assistant to Secretary and retired as the Church Secretary. Charles died in 2005; Charlotte continued to live in Falls Church until she moved into assisted living in Fredericksburg in 2009. In thanksgiving and remembrance of Charlotte Brockman, contributions may be made to Holy Trinity.

Congratulations and Happy Retirement to Rob Young. On February 16 Rob retired after a 35-year career at Geico. Rob joined Geico in 1982 as an entry level mainframe programmer. At retirement he was working on implementing a new billing system hosted in Microsoft's cloud.

Farewell and Godspeed to HT member Phyllis Elsass, who moved to Ohio, to be near family members.

February Birthdays: Abra Allsman, Jean Artman, Bonnie Buchanan, Jill Cockerham-Sisk, Thomas Daniels, Karen Davis, Larry Elliott, Robert Elliott, Tracy Green, Gary Grutzik, Clara Gutzler, Chuck Hoyt, Erin Hoyt, Ethan Kabati, Chris Kaczmarczyk, Mark Kerr, Karen Loar, Sam Merkel, Leslie Meyer, Ray Meyer, Wanda Mikovch, Jonathan Mills, Andrew Paparella, Jeffrey Pavlet, Alan Rulis, Alfie Rulis, Julia Wicks

March Birthdays: Aiden Allsman, Jackson Allsman, Keith Ball, Kristin Ball, Linda Beaty, Grace Crum, Maureen Elliott, Arnold Fadness, Audrey Fadness, John Grutzik, Ursula Jones, Anna and Noah Kaczmarczyk, Mike Kreider, Al Lee, Jim LeMunyon, Robin LeMunyon, Doug Lundell, Eleanore Marcey, Asa Meyer, Lee Meyer, Leslie Nightingale, Bill Richards, Elizabeth Stone, Deb Wake, Lori Wicks

February Anniversary: Charles and Kris Luoma-Overstreet; **March Anniversaries:** Jonathan and Abra Allsman; Phil and Amy Loar



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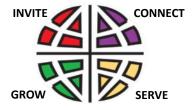
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2017-2018 AT A GLANCE

September

- 4—Labor Day holiday
- 10—Rally Sunday (service at 10:00 a.m.)
- 17—Begin Two Services 8:45 and 11:15
- 18—WELCA Salad Supper
- 23—Merrifield Fall Festival

October

- 1—Blessing of the Animals
- 9—Columbus Day holiday
- 14-Oktoberfest @ HT
- 21—Organ Concert
- 29—Reformation Sunday

November

- 5—All Saints Day
 Daylight Savings ends
- 12—Knitting Boutique Sale
- 19 —Two services followed by Congregational meeting
- 23—Thanksgiving Day
- 26—Christ the King Sunday

December

- 2—Breakfast with Santa
- 3—Fair Trade Shopping
- 10—Advent Concert/cookies
- 17—Two Services (Christmas Pageant at 8:45)
- 24—Advent 4 Service 10 a.m. Xmas Eve @ 4, 7, 9 p.m.
- 25—Christmas Day
- 31—Lessons/Carols 10 a.m.

January 2018

- 1-Office closed
- 7– Return to two services Resume Sunday School and SNL
- 15-MLK holiday

February

- 3—Jazz Coffeehouse 7 p.m.
- 4—No SNL (Super Bowl)
- 14—Ash Wednesday
- 19—President's Day holiday
- 25-March 3—Hypothermia

March

- 4—Blanket Sunday
- 10– Spaghetti Dinner
- 11—Daylight Savings begins
- 25—Palm Sunday
- 29—Maundy Thursday
- 30—Good Friday

April

- 1—Easter Sunday
- 2—Office closed
- 27-29—WELCA Retreat

May

- 6—Youth Sunday
- 14—Sunday School ends
- 20—Pentecost/Confirmation Begin 10 a.m. Summer Worship Schedule
- 28—Memorial Day Festival and Parade

June

- 3—Music Celebration Sunday
- 10—Spring Congregational Celebration & Dessert Auction
- 17—Father's Day

July

4—Independence Day holiday

August

6—Sundae Sunday