



# Holy Trinity

Lutheran Church

NOVEMBER 2017

## Mission Initiative: FACETS Thanksgiving Food Drive



### Thanksgiving Food Drive

Please help the families and individuals we serve in Fairfax County enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner this holiday season.

Donate a box or basket with the non-perishable food items listed below and a \$25 grocery store gift card so the recipient of your generous donation may purchase a turkey or other perishable items they need to complete their meal. Or use the list below as a shopping list to collect as many items as you wish. **Bolded items are considered high-need.**

Questions? Contact Frank Garvey at 703-272-3710 or [FGarvey@FacetsCares.org](mailto:FGarvey@FacetsCares.org).

**Please drop off your donations in the narthex or FACETS' main office by Friday, November 17.**

10640 Page Avenue, Suite 300, Fairfax, VA 22030

NON-PERISHABLE	FOOD DONATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 cans of assorted vegetables (e.g., green beans, corn etc.)</li> <li>2 cans or bags of beans (e.g., black, red, lentils, chick peas etc.)</li> <li>2 cans or jars of tomato sauce</li> <li>1 box of bread or muffin mix</li> <li>1 large bottle fruit juice</li> <li>1 box or can of coffee, tea, or cocoa</li> <li>1 bag of potatoes</li> <li>1 container of oatmeal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 small bag of sugar</li> <li>1 container of salt and 1 container of pepper</li> </ul> <p><b>HIGH NEED ITEMS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1 bottle of olive oil or vegetable oil</b></li> <li><b>2 boxes of pasta</b></li> <li><b>1 box or small bag of white rice</b></li> <li><b>1 small bag of wheat flour</b></li> <li><b>1 \$25 grocery store gift card (Giant, Safeway, Walmart etc.)</b></li> </ul>

- ♦ The Rev. Michael Gutzler, Pastor  
[pastormike@holytrinityfallschurch.org](mailto:pastormike@holytrinityfallschurch.org)
- ♦ The Rev. Krista Vingelis, Pastor of Youth and Family Ministry  
[pastorkrista@holytrinityfallschurch.org](mailto:pastorkrista@holytrinityfallschurch.org)
- ♦ Joan Buscher, Parish Administrator  
[office@holytrinityfallschurch.org](mailto:office@holytrinityfallschurch.org)
- ♦ Josh Brown, Director of Music  
[josh@holytrinityfallschurch.org](mailto:josh@holytrinityfallschurch.org)
- ♦ Greg Bloy, Accompanist  
[gregbloy@holytrinityfallschurch.org](mailto:gregbloy@holytrinityfallschurch.org)
- ♦ Greg D'Addario, Communications Administrator  
[greg@holytrinityfallschurch.org](mailto:greg@holytrinityfallschurch.org)

- ♦ Kateleigh Clark, Director of Social Media and Brand Management—Falls Church  
[kateleigh@holytrinityfallschurch.org](mailto:kateleigh@holytrinityfallschurch.org)
- ♦ Laura Rose, Accountant
- ♦ Felicito Arana, Custodian
- ♦ Cynthia Espinoza, Nursery
- ♦ Eugenia Davis, Newsletter Editor  
[eugeniamdavis1@gmail.com](mailto:eugeniamdavis1@gmail.com)

#### 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



## Pastor's Peace

### The Next 500 Years...

*<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 18:19-20)*

By the time you read this, or very soon afterwards, we will be on the other side of the 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation. We have had an Oktoberfest, a special Organ Concert, collected funds to buy 500 books for the children at Graham Road Elementary, learned about how some of Martin Luther's contemporaries Encountered Grace, very nearly invited 500 people to anything at Holy Trinity, and prayerfully considered what God's grace means for us individually. What an abundance, thanks be to God!

But what about the next 500 years? What will the church look like in 2517?

2517?! Gulp! Can't say I have even seen that year on paper before. What will the church look like in 2517; how about what will our world look like in 2517?

If science fiction is any indicator of where we will be 500 years from now, we may be able to download information and skills directly to our brains, we will colonize Mars, we will find life somewhere else in the universe, and computers/machines will be fully integrated into our daily lives and activities. Contemplating life 500 years from now is fun, but for any of these possibilities (and more) to exist, the world needs us faithful Christians to live out our calling today.

What is our calling? Very simply we are to love God and to love neighbor. How can we do this? From the perspective of your pastor, we need to remember that in order to love God or to love neighbors we need to know God and know our neighbors. This means we need to spend time in conversation with God and reading scripture, as well as spend time with people in order to develop deep relationships. We would be, as Pastor Krista reminded us in a recent children's sermon, a divine family.

With any family there are challenges, but family can also create a common bond and will. In our case, together, we have the capacity and ability to have a very positive

impact on one another's lives. When there is loss, we come together for support. When there is pain, we come together and provide healing. When there is suffering, we come together and provide relief. Why, because we are a group of Jesus followers/disciples who know God's love and want to share it.

Sometimes we forget about God's love for us. Regularly the world forgets about God's love. Maybe that is why Matthew ends his Gospel with a commission: to go and baptize, aka, to perform the ritual of reminding people they are loved by God and their past is forgiven - forever. We, the people of Holy Trinity, exist as divine family in this place so love can abound for us and for those who are looking for family from our community.

As I write these words I am continuously interrupted by loud banging and sawing going on underneath my feet. The renovation for a day care that will create a space where community families can have safe care for their infants and children is an incredibly loving act for our community and I am so proud of us. In the same way, I am looking forward to the new ways we decide to share more love within and outside of our walls. I am also looking forward to the new ways we respond in love to those in need like we did with the Oktoberfest fundraiser for ELCA Disaster Response. Together, as family and with God's help, nothing is impossible.

So, what does the church look like in 2517? Maybe it will be what we are called to be today: a deeply loving (inwardly and outwardly) community of people that looks like a divine family. Sounds like something I want to be a part of and help create, and I hope you do too.

### Pastor Mike



Pr. Mike at Augsburg  
September 2017



## Council News

*"Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings." - William Arthur Ward (1921-1994), one of America's most quoted writers of inspirational maxims.*

As we approach Thanksgiving and our November 19 Fall Congregational Meeting & Celebration, it's a good time to look back at what our congregation has accomplished over this past year, give thanks for the many opportunities and blessings that have come our way, and think about our direction and goals for the year ahead. You'll receive details of this past year's accomplishments in Holy Trinity's Annual Report later this month as well as at our Fall Congregational Celebration, but I want to give you a brief overview in this month's update from your church council.

I'm delighted to share with you that together, our congregation has completed or made significant progress on the seven goals we adopted as your council for 2017:

**- Grow our membership.** We successfully stabilized the decline in our membership and added a few names to our rolls.

**- Start a Holy Trinity blog or other online written resource.** With the help of Kateleigh Clark and Kristin LeMunyon, HTLC has reenergized its presence in social media over the last year. And our pastor now writes a regular blog at [www.therevpreneur.com](http://www.therevpreneur.com).

**- Fully support the implementation of the Multisite Proposal.** This is an ongoing goal for us that has seen significant progress over the last year.

**- Complete outstanding property renovations and upgrades.** We completed the final phase of our In Faith Building Campaign over the last year, but, of course, effective property maintenance is an ongoing goal.

**- Support our community by renovating and providing our available space for a daycare.** You can see by the construction work at the church that this is an ongoing goal, and you can find updates on the renovation project in the weekly announcements.

**- Develop, advertise and implement a summer discipleship program including VBS.** This goal was completed over the summer and much fun was had by those who participated in our neighborhood potluck barbecues.

**- Celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation by:**  
**a. Sending a contingent of members and friends to Germany.** Done!  
**b. Offering a worship/sermon series on Luther's theology.** Done!

**c. Invite 500 people to anything Holy Trinity related.** Ongoing.

**d. Hosting an Oktoberfest.** Done...and so much fun!

**e. Hosting an organ concert.** Done!

**f. Seeking opportunities for Catholic-Lutheran dialogue.** Ongoing.

I am extremely grateful to all the folks in our congregation who have helped us meet or make progress on these goals, with special gratitude to Eric Chancellor and Dave Badger for their extensive work overseeing the day care renovations that are underway and to Joan Buscher, our parish administrator, for managing many of the day-to-day logistics related to the day care construction work.

In addition to looking behind us, your church council over the last month has also been looking ahead and discussing what goals we'd like to adopt for 2018. You'll hear more about these goals at the Congregational Celebration, but here are a few key ones under consideration, with a theme of assessing what we're doing and finding ways to do it even better:

- ◆ Conduct a full evaluation of our Sunday schedule, including the number of worship services, service times, and music programming to assess whether our current offerings are meeting our congregation's needs, are effective tools of discipleship for our congregation, and are an effective use of our resources.
- ◆ Conduct a full evaluation of our Youth Program and Sunday Night Life to assess whether these programs are meeting our current congregation's needs and are effective tools of discipleship for our congregation.
- ◆ Develop a strategic plan for long-term capital maintenance and improvements.
- ◆ Increase the active participation population (as opposed to "membership") of both our Holy Trinity campuses (Falls Church & the Mosaic District) by 5%.

I look forward to seeing many of you – I hope, most of you! – at our fall celebration, where, in addition to reviewing our Annual Report and discussing upcoming goals, we'll provide an update on the church's finances, talk about accomplishments at our Mosaic site, update you on the child daycare renovations, hear a report from our Vitality Committee, and discuss this year's Breakfast with Santa event.

Finally, on behalf of your church council, I wish everyone in our congregation a very happy and healthy Thanksgiving. We are so grateful every day for your generosity, which comes in so many forms -- your energy, time, ideas, talents, and financial contributions.

Pamela Kabati, 2017-18 Council President



## Youth and Family News

by Pastor Krista, Youth and Family Ministry

November may be the month to fall back but it sure isn't the time to fall out - of the loop, that is!  
Check out what's around the corner for children, youth and families...

### FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION INVITATION



Families interested in having their child/ children prepare to receive Holy Communion are invited to **a time of fellowship and instruction during SNL on Sundays, November 5<sup>th</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

To "RSVP" for these gatherings, speak with either Pr. Mike or Pr. Krista.

### SUNDAY NIGHT LIFE (SNL)

November 5	Kids' Movie and Dinner 3:30-6:00 pm
November 12	Confirmation Dinner & Activities, 4-7 pm
November 19	National Youth Gathering 4-7 pm includes a movie, dinner and activities
November 26	Intergenerational Thanksgiving activity and Potluck Dinner, 4-6 pm

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**—Christmas is just around the corner and now is the time to get your kids involved in the Sunday School's Christmas Pageant worship. What a fun way for the kids to not only LEARN the significance of Jesus' birth but SHARE it with others.

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**—This annual event is scheduled for Saturday, December 2. Watch future bulletins for more details and volunteer opportunities!

**NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING (NYG)**—Team building is underway as we prepare to send a group of our 8th-12th grade youth and their adult leaders into service next June in Houston. The NYG includes gathering with 30,000 of your closest Lutheran friends from across the country for worship, service learning, experiential learning, music, fun, friends and so much more!



**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19**  
following the 11:15 service

### FALL CONGREGATIONAL CELEBRATION and MEETING

- \* Past, Present, Future
- \* Potluck
- \* Fellowship
- \* Silent Dessert Auction NYG fundraiser

**JOIN US IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**



### THANKOFFERING SUNDAY is NOVEMBER 19

Holy Trinity Women of the ELCA invite you to join with us in this annual event to benefit the Women of the ELCA.

Thankofferings support our total budget. When our offerings are joined with those from thousands of women in thousands of ELCA congregations, they are turned into life-changing ministries that serve the entire church:

- Social justice advocates will be trained; work will be done to end domestic violence, commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking.
- There will be support for families with special needs. Women will be able to discover their spiritual gifts through workshops, retreats, resources, grants, scholarships and global education.

On Thankoffering Sunday, please enclose your offering in the blue Thankoffering envelope.

**Checks can be made payable to Holy Trinity with *Thankoffering* noted in the memo line.**

Please include your envelope number.



## Serving Our Neighbor

### Welcome Blanket Project

How do people living in a country made up of people from all over the world respond to the proposition of a wall to keep some people out and some people in? Some people knit blankets. The Welcome Blanket Project is crowd-sourced by women who are donating blankets they have knitted or woven. Holy Trinity knitters responded by sending 5 blankets to the Welcome Blanket Project which has a goal of amassing 3,200 blankets by December 17. The blankets are on display at the University of Chicago Smart Museum through December 17. When the exhibit closes, the blankets will be distributed as a welcome gift to refugees and others escaping persecution, who are entering our country. Along with each blanket is a note of welcome including a short story of the donor's own immigration history.



The letter that accompanied my blanket incorporated the following. I have spent a lot of time researching my family and the families of others so I had a lot of information on which to draw. I decided to concentrate on the four surnames of my grandparents: Blosser, Hoover, Harrison and Vincie/Vujicic. My Blosser ancestors were Anabaptists who were offered religious freedom in exchange for prison and emigrated ca. 1739 from Switzerland. I've only been able to trace the Hoovers back to the mountains west of the Shenandoah Valley in 1819. It is very possible that the Hoovers intermarried with the Cherokee Indians of the region; however it's nearly impossible to prove, given there were disincentives to claiming Native American Heritage. The Harrisons were Quakers who first settled in New York ca. 1688 and traded with the Indians living there. My only immigrant ancestor that I personally knew was my great grandfather, John Vincie, who immigrated illegally in 1905 as Johan Vujicic. We all called him Papa. Born in what was then Austria-Hungary and is now Croatia, Papa's father committed the crime of cutting down a tree. Papa burned the evidence and fled the country. He immigrated through Baltimore and worked for the railroad in Ohio until meeting a young woman from the Shenandoah Valley. They married, he became a farmer, and they raised a family of 11 children—2 of whom died in infancy and one as a teenager. Papa lived in fear of deportation most of his life and never told his wife about his status. In fact, it wasn't until 1968, when his wife had been dead for 15 years and he had children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, that he became a naturalized citizen.

My ancestors immigrated for religious freedom and for opportunities. They were helped by the native people and by those who arrived before them. These are the ideas I wanted to share with the recipient of the blanket I made. I also encouraged them to become educated because this creates more opportunities. And I wished the future blanket recipient good luck. Education and luck have helped lift me out of relative poverty, and I hope the refugee who receives the blanket I made will also prosper.

For more information, visit <https://smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/exhibitions/welcome-blanket/> Deb Wake

### Reconciling In Christ (RIC) Events

- Mon. Nov. 6 RIC Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Youth and Community Room
- Sun. Nov. 12 RIC Forum, 10 a.m. in Rothenberg Hall--What Can I Do? Seeking Social Justice and Equality for LGBTQIA+
- Mon. Nov. 20 Transgender Day of Remembrance--*This day marks the annual observance of the Transgender Day of Remembrance (TdoR), commemorating those killed due to anti-transgender hatred. The 1998 murder of Rita Hester, a Boston transgender woman, sparked the Remembering Our Dead web project and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999. Rita Hester's murder, like most anti-transgender murder cases, has yet to be solved.*



Laura Daugherty representing Holy Trinity at the People of Faith for Equality Virginia – Northern Virginia booth, NOVA Pride, Oct. 1



## Library News

by Mary Bowen, Librarian

### NOVEMBER 2017

November is the month of America's Thanksgiving holiday. It is a good time to stop and think about our many blessings. We can ask, "what has God given to us?" Then, when we realize how much God has blessed us, we can express our gratitude, by offering prayers of thanks and by helping others.

Listed below are some books in Holy Trinity's library that might help us realize what we have to give thanks for and ways to show our thanks.

They will be on the filing cabinet in the library during November. Come check them out!



1. "God's Joyful Surprise: Finding Yourself Loved" by Sue Monk Kidd. 248.4
2. "Thankful Stewards: Bible Reflections" by Marj Leegard. 248.6
3. "Giving to God" by Mark Allan Powell. 248.6
4. "Glimpses of Grace: Daily Thoughts and Reflections" by Madeleine L'Engle. 242.2
5. "Christian Caregiving: A Way of Life" by Kenneth C. Haugk. 248.5
6. "The Gift for All People: Thoughts on God's Great Grace" by Max Lucado. 242
7. "Laugh and Tickle, Hug and Pray: Active Family Devotions" by Julaine Kammrath. 249

And for the younger crowd:

1. "Thank You for this Day" by Debbie Trafton O'Neal and Nancy Munger. C 242.82
2. "Thank You for this Food" by Debbie Trafton O'Neal and Nancy Munger. C 242.82
3. "Blessings Every Day: 365 Simple Devotions For the Very Young" by Carla Barnhill and Elena Kuchanik. C 242
4. "This is the Earth That God Made" by Lynn Downey and Benrei Huang. C 231.7



Dear Friends,  
Katharine, Mark and their families join me in thanking all of the members of Holy Trinity for their many expressions of comfort at Harry's sudden passing. Your prayers and hugs have sustained and uplifted us in our time of grief. Your cards and the beautiful flowers from the Church Council were much appreciated, as was the lovely reception after Harry's funeral service. The spirit of a church is truly shown by the character of its people, and you all are wonderfully compassionate and loving.  
Beth Search



### POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Beginning November 5,  
order forms will be in the bulletin  
and the narthex.

Price is \$8.00 each (red or white)

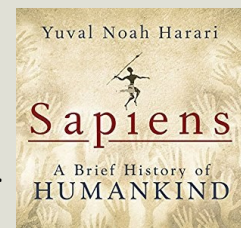
**Last day to order is November 22.**

**The church office will be closed on:  
Friday, November 10—Veteran's Day and  
Thursday, November 23—Thanksgiving Day**

### Faith Outside the Box

**We will meet in the Library on  
Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm**  
to complete our discussion of  
"Sapiens: A Brief History of  
Humankind" by Yuval Noah Harari.

All are welcome to join us!



### SUNSHINE SECRETARY

**Sandra Lee** [leeassociates@aol.com](mailto:leeassociates@aol.com)

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



### PRAYER CHAIN

**Marcia Ihnen** [mcihnen@aol.com](mailto:mcihnen@aol.com)

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



### Our Annual HTLC Oktoberfest was October 14

Holy Trinity family and friends celebrated in true German style during our first Oktoberfest.



The beer was flowing, the brats and kraut were steaming while the entire 150+ attendees sang songs, danced the polka, played games and enjoyed the music provided by our official Oompah Band (Holly Hambley, Sue Becker and Greg Bloy). Our special guest MC Brent Stone kept the participants entertained and who can forget Denise Meister for leading us in the Chicken Dance!



A special thank you to all those who volunteered to make it such an enjoyable and festive day! The event was such a success that the Vitality Team is adding it to the 2018 calendar. Mark the date now so you don't miss out on the celebration — Saturday, October 6, 2018! Noon – 3:30pm.

This year's Oktoberfest was held as a fundraiser for hurricane relief. Many thanks to all who donated.

## Milestones

**New Council Member:** Beginning with our November meeting, Patrice Shibuya will join council for a new, 3-year term. Thank you for your service to HTLC!

**Congratulations** to Joel Ihnen, on his recent marriage to Katie Shanahan. Katie and Joel reside in Arlington, VA.

**November Birthdays:** Jean Ball, Ilse Bornemann, Kateleigh Clark, Donna Cook, Stella Daniels, Laura Daugherty, Eugenia Davis, Lynde Engquist, Eric Hegemann, Peggy Johnson, Emily Kile, Kevin Konort, Lisa Konort, Matt McKay, Caleb Merkel, Phoebe Meyer, Clare Murphy, Benjamin Reno, Wallace Rohrer

**November Anniversaries:** Marcus and Jean Artman, Ursula and Dick Jones



**Remember to turn your  
clocks back 1 hour on  
Saturday night,  
November 4th.**



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Congregation

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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)  
13—Pancake Supper  
14—Ash Wednesday  
19—President's Day holiday  
23-24—30-Hour Famine  
25-March 3—Hypothermia

### March

4—Blanket Sunday  
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—HTLC Spring Concert  
14—Sunday School, SNL end  
20—Youth Sunday, Pentecost  
27—Begin 10 a.m. Summer  
Worship Schedule  
28—Memorial Day Festival  
and Parade

### June

10—**Spring Congregational  
Celebration & Dessert  
Auction**  
17—Father's Day

### July

4—Independence Day  
holiday

### August

6—Sundae Sunday