

## WELCOMING JUSTIN RADFORD AS OUR NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR

It is with joy we announce the appointment of Justin Radford as our new Music Director at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. As the Personnel Chair, I have had the distinct privilege of working closely with Justin throughout the selection process, and I am genuinely excited about the talent and dedication he will bring to our congregation.

Justin holds a degree in Music with a focus on Jazz Performance from the University of North Carolina at Asheville. With over 20 years of experience in playing and leading music at churches, Justin has served in various capacities, including as Worship Director at Salem Church, a Music Teacher with Cleveland County Schools, and currently, a Music Teacher for K-12 students with Rutherford County Schools. He also served as the Music Director at Caroleen Baptist Church.

Our connection with Justin began through Chris Murphy, having played at our church during the Jazz Vespers, and leaving a lasting impression on all who attended. Justin's dedication to teaching and sharing his love for music extends beyond the church, as he inspires and nurtures the musical talents of elementary school children.

On a personal note, Justin is married to Amber Radford, and they share a supportive and loving relationship. His family is an essential part of his life, and we are thrilled to welcome them into our church community as well. Justin and Amber reside in Forest City, and Justin hailed originally from Ellenboro, North Carolina.

Please join me in extending a heartfelt welcome to Justin as he embarks on this new journey with us. We are confident that his contributions will be a blessing to our church and will enhance our worship experience in profound ways. Let us keep Justin and Amber in our prayers as he transitions into this role and continues to serve God through his musical gifts.

**Sincerely,  
Lee Young  
Personnel Chair, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**

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## SPONSORING ALTAR FLOWERS FOR 2025

The flower chart for 2025 is available in the Narthex of the church. There are still opportunities for members of the congregation to honor a loved one or a special occasion. Cost of sponsorship is \$60.00 per week. Checks should be marked "flowers" in the memo line and sent to the church office or placed in the offering plate.





## A JOURNEY OF RENEWAL: EMBRACING LENT WITH FAITH AND PURPOSE

As we step into March, we find ourselves on the threshold of Lent, a season marked by reflection, repentance, and renewal. On March 5, Ash Wednesday, we will once again receive the cross of ashes upon our foreheads, hearing those sobering words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." These words are not spoken in despair, but in truth—a truth that humbles us and calls us back to the heart of God.

In these last several months, we have walked together through seasons of growth and transition. We have celebrated new beginnings, navigated challenges, and prayerfully discerned how God is shaping Holy Trinity for the road ahead. Our mission—Knowing, Loving, and Sharing Christ—remains our anchor, guiding us in all we do. From deepening our ministries to expanding our outreach, God has been at work among us, stirring in our hearts a desire to live more fully into His calling.

Now, as Lent begins, we are invited to slow down and walk a different path—a path not of hurried activity, but of quiet surrender. This season urges us to ask the deeper questions:

- Where have I been placing my trust?
- What are the things I need to release in order to follow Christ more fully?
- How is God calling me to renewal in my faith, my relationships, and my daily life?

Lent is often seen as a time of giving something up, but at its heart, it is about making space for God—turning away from distractions and turning toward His grace. Through prayer, fasting, and acts of mercy, we intentionally shape our lives around the rhythms of Christ's journey to the cross.

As a congregation, we will embark on this Lenten journey together. Our Midweek Lenten Services will center on The Seven Marks of the Church according to Martin Luther, drawing us deeper into what it truly means to be the body of Christ. Each week, we will meditate on the foundational gifts Christ has given to His Church—the Word, the Sacraments, the Office of Holy Ministry, Worship, and even the Cross itself. I invite you to come, to listen, to pray, and to be renewed.

Dear friends, sisters and brothers in Christ, Lent is not just about looking inward—it is about fixing our eyes on Jesus. As we journey through this season, may we remember that the cross is not the end of the story. Beyond the sorrow of Good Friday lies the joy of Easter morning. But to arrive at resurrection, we must first walk the path of the cross.

**Let us walk it together.**

**In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Ryan Henkel STS**

## WELCOMING ANDREA PIERRE AS OUR CUSTODIAL CARETAKER

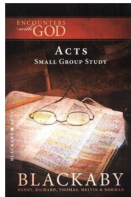
Dear Holy Trinity Family,

I am pleased to introduce Andrea Pierre as our dedicated Custodial Caretaker at Holy Trinity. Andrea has graciously filled in during the past as our caretaker took vacation. Those who worked with Andrea in the past have always been thrilled with her thoroughness and attention to detail. She will be a great asset in helping to maintain the cleanliness of our church and ensuring that our facilities are always in top condition. Her reliability and dedication have already made a significant impact on our church environment, creating a pleasant and inviting atmosphere for all who enter.

Please join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Andrea for taking on all of our caretaking needs. Her contributions are deeply appreciated, and we are fortunate to have her as part of our Holy Trinity family.

Sincerely,  
Lee Young, Personnel Chair, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

### BACK TO BASICS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS *Beginning Sunday, March 2*



Beginning Sunday, March 2, we will begin a study of Acts using the Encounters with God study by the Blackabys.

In this 7-week study, we will explore the world-changing events that unfolded *after* Jesus' resurrection, as his Spirit-filled followers set out to "make disciples of all nations!"

Among others, some of the topics cover: Empowered to Witness, Empowered to Serve, and Empowered to Endure and Persevere.

If you are interested in joining a Sunday School class, we welcome you! We meet in the room to the right of the PLC kitchen as you face it. You may contact Anna Houser (704-813-6560 / [anaplustogirls@gmail.com](mailto:anaplustogirls@gmail.com)) for more information.

### SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER *Tuesday, March 4 - 6:15 p.m.*

Shrove Tuesday is March 4. Please join us at 6:15 p.m for a wonderful pancake supper. The youth will help burn palms for Ash Wednesday after supper.



### OUR LENTEN JOURNEY BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY *Wednesday, March 5 ~ 12:00 Noon & 7:00 p.m .*



The services that day will be at 12:00 Noon and at 7:00 p.m. with the Imposition of Ashes.

*There will not be a meal on Ash Wednesday.*

**2025 LENTEN MID-WEEK SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY**  
*A Season of Reflection and Renewal*



As we journey through the sacred season of Lent, we invite you to join us for our **Lenten Mid-Week Services**, a time of worship, reflection, and deepening our faith in Christ. This year, our theme is:

**"The Seven Marks of the Church"** – exploring Martin Luther's insights into what makes the Church truly the Church. Each week, we will focus on a different mark, drawing from Scripture, Lutheran tradition, and the life we share in Christ.

**Service Schedule: Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

- **March 12** – Proclamation of the Word
- **March 19** – The Sacraments
- **March 26** – The Office of Holy Ministry
- **April 2** – Worship
- **April 9** – The Cross

This year, our services will be framed by the beautiful and contemplative Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. Through its simple melodies and reflective tone, Holden Evening Prayer invites us to step away from the busyness of life and dwell in the presence of God.

Through prayer, song, and reflection, these mid-week services offer a sacred pause in our busy lives, inviting us to dwell in God's presence and prepare our hearts for Holy Week and Easter.

Come and be nourished by God's Word as we walk together toward the cross and the empty tomb.

**"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me." – Psalm 51:10**

**SCHEDULE FOR SOUP AND SANDWICH MEALS DURING LENT**  
*Soup and Sandwich meals at 6 :00 p.m. followed by Worship at 7:00 p.m.*

**Soup & Sandwich Meals Will Be Provided By:**

- **March 12**           Upper Room Sunday School Class
- **March 19**           Lingle Sunday School Class/LaVerne Davis Life Group
- **March 26**           Back to Basics Sunday School Class/Ladies Bible Study
- **April 2**             Cody's Sunday School Class
- **April 9**             Cancel Choir

**HOLY TRINITY HOSTING COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE & LUNCH**  
*Wednesday, April 2*

Holy Trinity will host the Community Lenten Service and Lunch on Wednesday, April 2. **CAN YOU HELP?** If you would be available to help with this lunch, please contact **Janet Green, Pepie Jones or Marsha McLamb**. Many hands will be needed!

**COMMUNITY LENTEN LUNCH SCHEDULE**  
*Wednesdays During Lent at 12:00 noon*

The “downtown” churches will be hosting midweek services once again this year. Each luncheon will begin at noon followed by a brief worship service. It will include a brief devotional meditation from local clergy or a special presentation from other organizations. Please see the schedule below:

<u><b>Date:</b></u>	<u><b>Host Church:</b></u>	<u><b>Preacher/Program:</b></u>
March 12	First Presbyterian	Cramerton Middle School Choir
March 19	First ARP	Rev. Dwayne Burke (FBC)
March 26	First Baptist	Kim Wheeler, Director Of CAM
<b>April 2</b>	<b>Holy Trinity</b>	<b>Rev. Ryan Henkel (Holy Trinity)</b>
April 9	First United Methodist	<b>Seminarian Cody Carpenter (Holy Trinity)</b>

**MARCH FESTIVALS & COMMEMORATIONS**



**On Tuesday, March 25, join us for Evening Prayer (Vespers) for The Annunciation of Our Lord – at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.** Following the service, we will gather in the PLC for fellowship and refreshments, celebrating our shared faith and community.

In the midst of Lent, when our focus is on repentance and the journey to the cross, the Church pauses on March 25 to celebrate the Annunciation of Our Lord—a festival that breaks into this penitential season with a message of hope and promise. On this day, we remember the angel Gabriel’s visit to the Virgin Mary, announcing that she would conceive and bear the Son of God (Luke 1:26-38).

The timing of this feast is significant. March 25 falls exactly nine months before Christmas, a reminder that the incarnation—the mystery of God becoming flesh—did not begin in the Bethlehem manger but in the quiet, humble “yes” of Mary in Nazareth. With faith and obedience, she responds to the angel’s message: “Let it be to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). In that moment, the eternal Son of God took on human flesh in her womb, the beginning of our salvation.

The Annunciation is a festival filled with wonder. It reminds us that God is faithful to His promises, that nothing is impossible with Him, and that He chooses to work through the humble and lowly. Mary, though young and of no worldly status, is called to bear Christ. Likewise, God continues to call each of us—wherever we are, whatever our circumstances—to bear Christ in our lives, sharing His love and truth with the world.

In the ancient Church, March 25 was also believed to be the date of the crucifixion. This connection between the Annunciation and Good Friday is profound: the same Christ who was conceived in the womb of Mary came to die for the salvation of the world. His coming into the world and His sacrifice upon the cross are inseparably linked.

As we observe this festival in the midst of Lent, let us rejoice in the mystery of the incarnation and the faithfulness of our God. The Annunciation reminds us that God’s promises are sure, that Christ is Emmanuel—God with us—and that our redemption is already at hand.

**A Prayer for the Annunciation of Our Lord:**

*O Lord, as the angel announced the good news of salvation to Mary, so proclaim Your grace to us. Open our hearts to receive Your Word with faith, that we, like Mary, may trust in Your promises and bear Christ’s love to the world. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

## EXCITING NEWS: REALM IS LIVE AT HOLY TRINITY!

We are thrilled to announce that **Realm, our new church management system, is now live!** Over the past few months, we have been working diligently to implement this platform to help us stay better connected as a church family and improve communication, event registration, and volunteer coordination.

**What is Realm?** Realm is a secure and user-friendly system that allows you to engage with our church community in new and exciting ways. Through Realm, you can

- Update your personal contact information
- Manage your family relationships and household details
- Sign up for upcoming events and activities
- View your giving history and make online contributions
- Volunteer for service opportunities
- Receive important church announcements

**Invitations Have Been Sent!** If you are a member or regular attendee of Holy Trinity, you should have received an email invitation to join Realm. If you haven't received one, please check your spam or promotions folder. **If you still do not see an invitation, contact the church office so we can update your email address and resend it to you.**

### How Can You Get Started?

1. Open the invitation email and follow the instructions to create your account.
2. Download the Realm Connect app on your smartphone or access Realm through a web browser.
3. Log in and explore all that Realm has to offer!

**What's Next?** To make Realm even more accessible, we will be setting up **kiosk stations on March 1** where you can check-in for Worship and Sunday School, update your profile, and ask any questions. Additionally, we will be reaching out to those who have not yet accepted their invitation to ensure everyone gets connected.

We are excited about the many ways Realm will enhance our church community. Thank you for embracing this new tool as we continue to be **Knowing, Loving, and Sharing Christ** together!

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the church office.

**Blessings,  
Pastor Ryan Henkel & The Holy Trinity Communications Team**

### CAN YOU HELP?

A new year provides new opportunities for those who attend the 8:30 Contemporary Service to volunteer. We are always looking for new Greeters, Ushers, Lectors, Prayer Leaders and Communion Assistants. If you have the desire to volunteer in one of these important ministries, please reach out to Donna Allen or Pastor Ryan.



## NEW MEMBER CLASS BEGINS THIS LENT!

Are you new to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church? Are you looking to deepen your understanding of the Lutheran faith and become more connected to the life of our congregation? This Lent, we invite you to join our New Member Class, a five-week journey through the foundations of our faith and the history of Holy Trinity.

**Beginning Sunday, March 9 at 9:45 a.m.**, during the Sunday School hour, we will gather each week to explore

- The history of Lutheranism & Holy Trinity
- Luther's Small Catechism and what we believe
- The Seven Marks of the Church and how they shape our life together
- Worship, ministry, and opportunities to serve at Holy Trinity
- What it means to be a member of the Body of Christ

This class is for newcomers, those seeking membership, and anyone who wants to refresh their understanding of the Faith. We will conclude on April 6, and new members will be received during the Palm Sunday Worship Service on April 13.

**If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please contact Pastor Ryan Henkel.** We look forward to walking this faith journey with you!




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### YOUTH AND FAMILY SCHEDULE FOR MARCH



<b>March 1:</b>	Confirmation class outing 11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
<b>March 2:</b>	Confirmation/High school small group 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Family trip to Tony's Ice Cream after!
<b>March 4:</b>	Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, 6:15 p.m. Youth will help burn palms for Ash Wednesday after dinner
<b>March 5:</b>	Ash Wednesday services at 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
<b>March 9:</b>	Confirmation/high school small group 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
<b>March 16:</b>	Confirmation/high school small group 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
<b>March 23:</b>	Confirmation/high school small group 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
<b>March 29:</b>	High School Lenten Day Retreat, 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
<b>March 30:</b>	Confirmation/high school small group 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

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### Souper Bowl Sunday: Thank you!!

**On Sunday, February 9, we raised over \$1,100 for Displaced Roses. Thank you for your generosity.**

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### A Journey through Luther's Large Catechism

On Sundays in Lent, the Recharge Class will be journeying through Luther's *Large Catechism*. If you would like to learn more about the Lutheran expression of the Christian faith, come join us during the Sunday School hour. We're a fun bunch, and we love authentic conversations.

**ANNUAL CONVOCATION**  
**Carolinas Mission Region of the North American Lutheran Church**  
*May 2 - 3*

Come to Christ's Lutheran Church, Stanley, NC, on Friday, May 2 and Saturday, May 3, to meet and worship with fellow Lutherans from North and South Carolina at the annual region convocation. Find out about new and familiar ministries such as Fish Stix Ministry, Sharing Shepherds, Kairos & Local Prison Ministry and CMR Missions Team. As an added treat the ice cream bar will be available. **Look for the registration forms and agenda in the Holy Trinity Welcome Center.** If you register by April 7, the cost is only \$50 for the two-day meetings. Our Council president, Anna Houser, will be our church's delegate. Everyone is invited to attend. Let's show this region that we are Holy Trinity-Gastonia strong! Sign up soon.



**WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS FOR MARCH**

Overcoming some seating issues, a group of Holy Trinity ladies still enjoyed Galentine's Day at Cheddar's on February 13. Fellowshiping with church friends is always a positive event.

Having received recommendations from attendees at the General Meeting on January 25, the 2 different circles and women's Bible study group prioritized their individual choices at their respective meetings. As a result of the survey, the HTLCW team approved a \$250 donation to each of the following top four organizations: Holy Trinity's Backpack Weekend Food program, Crisis Assistance Ministry, Least of These, and the Gastonia Women's Shelter.

**HTLCW Team**

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**March Circle Meetings**

This is a time of fellowship, snacks, a program led by a Circle member and service projects that are for Holy Trinity Disciples and people in the community. These groups are always open to new members. **Please join us!**

<b>Circle of Patience:</b>	<b>Sunday, March 2</b>	<b>Following 11:00 Worship</b>	<b>PLC Room 25</b>
		<b>Bring your lunch.</b>	
	Program:	LaVerne Davis	
	Hostesses:	Pepie Jones, Barbara Kies, Ann Koors, Frankie Lewis,	
<b>Circle of Goodness:</b>	<b>Thursday, March 13</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>PLC Room 25</b>
	Program:	Marsha McLamb	
	Hostess:	Judy Zander	
	Card Ministry:	Judy Zander	



## CRISIS ASSISTANCE MINISTRY CELEBRATING 49 YEARS

As a current board member and volunteer of Crisis Assistance Ministry, **I encourage you to attend the celebration of the 49<sup>th</sup> year of CAM** serving families in our community who are experiencing a financial crisis.



The **celebration will be held at our newly refurbished building on Thursday, March 27 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.** at 805 W. Airline Street. Our own Bill Eaker was a major contributor of time and effort of the refurbishment which we are so proud of. The project was accomplished with funds provided by individuals in our community; therefore, no CAM funds were used for the project. The celebration will include food and live music and provide an opportunity to connect with other CAM supporters in our community.

**Please remember CAM when making financial contributions.** We are projecting a deficit of approximately \$80,000 this year because of the discontinuation of the "Community Foundation Run." This deficit will directly affect client financial assistance. Please consider giving a portion of the contribution you would have made to the "Community Foundation Run" directly to CAM.

Thank you for your faithfulness as a congregation for giving a portion of our annual budgeted benevolence to CAM and for the annual food drive that we have in April of every year. CAM is grateful for your support.

A special thank you to the Women's Ministry for making CAM a part of the retreat program in January and for the offering of \$680. Awesome!

**We are serving Christ by serving others,  
Carla McMahan**

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## YORK CHESTER COLLECTION ITEMS FOR MARCH

Thank you for the ongoing support for our neighbors at York Chester Middle School.



Items requested for March are **Boys (Youth Sizes) black socks, Expo Markers** for white boards in the classroom, **#2 Pencils**, and of course, the ongoing need for **Tissues**.

Please place items in the YORK CHESTER box located in the main hallway of the PLC.

**In Christ,  
Diane George  
Holy Trinity York Chester Contact**

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## MARCH IS A USO MONTH

The USO Center in Charlotte serves anywhere from 500 to 700 guests daily. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.



**Especially needed items at this time are:**

**Juice Boxes**

**Individual Snacks**

**Capri Suns**

**Dish Towels (Inexpensive like \$ Tree)**

**Charlene Linsenmayer  
Holy Trinity USO Contact**

## ORGAN MUSIC WITH MATTHEW

This is the first of a multi-part series on the organ in Lutheran worship. Today we will start with the prelude. I almost always play a chorale prelude as the organ prelude before the late service each Sunday. The chorale prelude as a type of music is uniquely Lutheran in its origin. In the years before Luther, there were several pre-reformation Catholic musicians who would take a part of the Catholic mass or a particular prayer and set it to music. The idea of taking a melody and adding a variation of harmony or embellishment was not new to Luther and the early Lutheran musicians. What was new was the degree to which the music became developed and its use.



To a certain degree, more complex music such as counterpoint and harmonic development were minimized by the Roman Catholic Church. Luther and those early musicians embraced the new, complex counterpoint style and offered their music in it. With the new Lutheran church five centuries ago, music in general was highly regarded and had a higher purpose than just “mood” music. Music was a vehicle for teaching and instruction. For as long as there have been Lutheran churches, musicians have embellished the hymns that the congregation sings to reinforce the hymn. Even in post-Reformation Europe, our Anglican brethren continued to play “Voluntaries” before their services, usually an abstract piece of organ music not tied to any scripture or text. In the Lutheran church, the prelude has purpose - often to give the congregation the tune of the hymn before they sing it. It is in this tradition of Lutheran organists that I continue this practice.

On any given Sunday morning, I typically play a chorale prelude based on a hymn that we will later sing in the service. The title of the chorale prelude is the hymn tune, such as “Ein Feste Burg, ist unser Gott” while the hymn title would be the words we sing such as “A Mighty Fortress is Our God.” Unlike this example, where the two are the same just in different languages, many times the hymn tune name and the actual hymn name are different. Hymns are titled based on the text while hymn tunes can reflect the person who wrote them, the original text to which the tune was set, or a certain town or place that was central to the hymn tune’s composition.

Though I am a bit biased, I believe that the Lutheran church has the greatest music written for it; uniquely Lutheran hymns and chorale preludes were written by Lutheran musicians and intended for use in the Lutheran church. So rich is the Lutheran musical heritage that every other denomination, even Catholic, uses some of the Lutheran hymnody. Most of these great music composers: Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn, Brahms, all wrote some music for the Lutheran church of their era. While it is normal for composers to write a Catholic mass setting, even Bach did this, the bulk of their sacred music was written for the Lutheran church.

So the next time you are in the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, listen to the prelude and match up the hymn it goes with. Most of the time the prelude will be directly related to a hymn you are about to sing. And while many churches have hymn arrangements and chorale preludes, the idea of matching it up to the hymns of the upcoming service is very Lutheran.

Soli Deo Gloria (To the Glory of God Alone)

**Matthew Noonan**  
**Organist**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
*Salvation Matters*



When you joined Holy Trinity, you became part of a large family. In essence, you married into the family; or, one might say, you were grafted into the family tree. No matter how well a family gets along, challenges always arise. Why is that? It is because we all have strong feelings, or convictions, about things that are important to us. And, what's important to me might not be important to you. Or, it might be VERY important to both of us, but our feelings on the matter differ. That's when things get really challenging.

I can talk until I'm blue in the face and share all my "wisdom," but I cannot change the conviction of another person. You simply cannot argue with feelings. What are some of the convictions we might find within our Holy Trinity family?

- Style of Worship
- Style of Worship music
- How one should dress for church on Sunday
- Location of Worship
- Whether we should commune every Sunday or not
- Bible translations
- \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank)

It is important that we respect each other for being people of conviction and not belittle anyone for his or her convictions or feelings on a matter. In fact, if you don't understand, you might find it enlightening to ask the person to tell you why he or she feels so strongly on a matter. Most often, we all have a pretty good reason for feeling the way we do.

While acknowledging our convictions, I'd like to challenge us to weigh our convictions against salvation matters as we go about the work into which God calls us, individually and collectively. Some salvation matters that come to mind include:

- Glorifying God
- Inviting and welcoming others into His fellowship
- Teaching and sharing the love and salvation of Jesus Christ
- Lifting each other up during the difficulties of life
- Giving our members the tools and opportunities to serve and witness
- Serving those in need
- Meditating on the Word
- Spending time in prayer
- Etc.

Our mission statement, *Knowing, Loving, and Sharing Christ*, provides a perfect measuring stick for anything we do. If we can hold our plans and decisions up to this criterion and know that we are aligned with it, we will know our hearts and minds are set on salvation matters.

**Blessings,**  
**Anna Houser**  
**2025 Council President**



## HOW DO YOUR FINANCIAL GIFTS GLORIFY GOD?

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:21 NIV)*

Our Giving is an act of Worship. In light of what Christ has done for us on the cross and the amazing grace we receive, our giving should be a reflection of what our heart treasures. Our giving should be viewed as a part of our worship to the Lord. If we are just giving to mark off a line on our spiritual checklist, we are merely involved in charity and are missing out on the great joy of being a cheerful giver.

We give because God has given to us. God has given us everything (James 1:17). He gave His Son to provide for our salvation. He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ (Ephesians 1:13). He "richly supplies us with all things to enjoy" (1 Timothy 6:17). Because He has given so abundantly to us, we should respond by giving generously back to Him. What is your response to those blessings God has bestowed on you?

### For those that like numbers...

Noted below we show our January 2025 offerings compared with our monthly budgeted ministry plan. Our staff and leaders continue to manage our expenditures. Our church leadership is doing their best to be good stewards of our financial resources.

<b>Gifts Received in January 2025:</b>	\$32,353
<b>Monthly Budget for Ministries:</b>	\$46,825 (4 Sunday month)
<b>Difference:</b>	(\$14,472)
Gifts Received in January 2024:	\$40,734

**Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of Holy Trinity,  
Lee Stadther  
Church Council Treasurer 2025**

### VETERANS' LUNCH ON THE 4TH TUESDAY March 25



**Soup and Sandwich  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
PLC**



**All Veterans are welcome!**



## CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

### *From the February 17, 2025, Regular Meeting*

At the February 17 meeting of the Church Council, the following items were taken:

- Received staff reports from Pastor Ryan and Cody.
- Received committee reports from the Property Committee, Communications, Worship and Music and the Welcome Team.
- Received report that the REALM software is being used for the attendance records for 2025, and by the next council meeting in March, all of 2024 should be updated.
- Received the actual receipts for December 2025.
- Approved motion to accept the actual receipts for January 2025.
- Approved the motion from the Benevolence Committee for the fourth quarter recommended disbursements.
- Approved the nomination of Anna Houser, Council President, to attend the Carolina Mission Region Convocation on May 2 and 3 at Christ's Lutheran Church in Stanley, NC.
- Approved the motion to accept the changes to the HTLC credit card policies.
- Approved the motion to allow Classical Conversations School Co-op to use the church facility for their 2025-2026 school year.
- Approved a motion to provide \$12,000 to the Security Task Force for updates to the security system.
- Next meeting is March 17, 2025.



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Holy Trinity,

Thank you for your gift in the amount of \$1000.00 to Joy Mission Church for my living expenses and future ministry expenses of Rehoboth Ethiopian Church, Columbia, SC. We appreciate your partnership in the mission that we share as the Body of Christ. May our Lord Jesus bless you and make you to abound always in His grace and love!

**In Christ's service and to His glory,  
Rev. Marta S. Sabore  
Mission Planter called by Joy Mission Church**



- **Cissy Belton**, recovering from a broken hip in rehab at The Ivy at Gastonia
- **Carson Reed**, local high school senior, in need of a heart transplant
- **Danny McDaniel**, friend of Frankie Lewis, diagnosed with pancreatic cancer
- Carla Winters, friend of Pepie Jones, recurrence of cancer. Awaiting treatment options.
- **For the family of Jeanne Anderson** – especially her husband, Alan – daughter-in-law of Shirley Anderson, after her death on February 7th
- **Jennifer McLamb**, daughter-in-law of Steve & Marsha, recently diagnosed with a brain tumor and waiting on treatment options.
- **Dale Christman**, recovering from knee replacement on 2/17
- **Robby Williams**, coworker of Dan Hawkins, diagnosed with stage III cancer
- **Maria Heracklis**, mother of Pepie Jones, for her overall health
- **Terry Sain**, cousin of Harriett and Elizabeth Lethermon, under Hospice care
- **Jann Green-Webb**, for relief from pain following second back surgery
- **Christine Smith**, under Hospice care
- **For all caregivers to the sick and infirmed**
- **For friends and family dealing with cancer:** John Barreto, Peggy Kies, Alisha Woody, Marque Jabbar, Gene Keller, Doug McSpadden, Kelly Palmer, Dennis Christman, Maria Brimmer, Pastor Kristen Phillips, Barbara Zinke, Rebecca Cloninger, Alex Melvin, Dean Lawson, Melanie Henry, Beth Rudin, Julie Hill, Jim Siedel, Teresa Hartman, Kelly Powell, Octavia Glenn, Margo Schopper, LeaAnn Buckwell, Braxton Morris
- **Homebound:** Caroline Banker, Pinkney Froneberger, Paul Kaiser, Janie Norton, Kathy Wallace, Iris Work
- **Family and friends actively serving in the military:** Braeden Lawing, Brett Boyd, Logan Cape, Mae Dodd, Josh Holland, Andrew Lambert, Luke Saylor, Liam Overby, Ryan Wallace, Jacob Lawing
- **For healthcare workers and first responders:** William Niemeyer, Chuck and Bridget Niemeyer, Beth Michaels, Melodie Garrison, Kailey Hinds, Cindy Isenhour, Lynn Ledbetter, Anna Murphy, Reggie Parlier, Jennifer Sutley, Jon Michael Brackett
- **Robin Simmons**, for her health
- **All the persecuted**, including Leah Sharibu
- **All missionaries**, including the Thorstad family and the Voice of the Martyrs
- **For those outside the Church**, that they may be brought to faith in Christ Jesus
- **For the youth and children of Holy Trinity**, for the Holy Spirit to guide them
- **For all our ministry partners**, and for the Holy Spirit to stir us up to serve our neighbors in need
- **College Christian ministries**, and the establishment of one at Gaston College
- **For the North American Lutheran Seminary System, their new President, the Rev'd Dr. Jukka Kääriäinen, and for an increase in vocations to the ministry**
- **For our Bishop, Dan, our dean, Steven, and for all clergy and people of the Carolinas Mission Region**

## Upcoming Birthdays

*With special joy, we recognize and celebrate these birthdays in the months of March & April. We are thankful for the life and spirit of the birthdays we celebrate. May the blessings of God flow in the life of each of you.*



2	Matthew Fox
3	Jaimie Cline, Janie Norton
4	LaVada Barnhill
6	Tim Black, Martin Brown, Natalie Henkel
7	Alex Johnson
8	David Fogle, Katrina Hinds
10	Tim O'Donohue
11	Kinslee Stroupe
12	Ryan DeFreitas, Donna Motsinger
13	Gabriella Rupp
18	Bruce Blalock
22	Kevin Novinc
23	Paul Kaiser
26	Mitch Wells
29	Butch Barnes, Anna Currie



1	Beth Heffner
4	Kristie Gornto
5	Martha Williard
6	Amy Godwin
9	Cierra Fox
12	Garrett Oakes
13	Carson Johnson
15	Sawyer Norton
16	Donna Allen, Kristen Parsons-Rupp
17	Les Miller, Bruce Zander
18	Robbie Oakes
20	Betty Blalock
21	Debbie Keller, Ashley King, Bridget Niemeyer
24	Reggie Parlier
25	Margaret Abernethy
28	Johnathan Hawkins
29	Marian Clemmer
30	Dale Christman



### ***Did we miss your birthday?***

*If your birthday is incorrect, or you have a birthday in March/April and your name is not on this list, please call or email the church office and give us the correct information.*

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
805 SOUTH YORK STREET  
GASTONIA, NC 28052

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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**Knowing, Loving and Sharing Christ**

Phone: 704-864-0378

Website: [www.holytrinitygastonia.org](http://www.holytrinitygastonia.org)

**MINISTRY STAFF**

Lead Pastor

Pastoral Assistant/Director of Christian Ed.

Office Administrator

Music Director

Organist

Nursery Supervisor

Custodian

Custodial Caretaker

Ryan Henkel

Cody Carpenter

Amber Diffley

Justin Radford

Matthew Noonan

Evelyn Anthony

David Stephens

Andrea Pierre

[pastorryan@holytrinitygastonia.org](mailto:pastorryan@holytrinitygastonia.org)

[cody@holytrinitygastonia.org](mailto:cody@holytrinitygastonia.org)

[amber@holytrinitygastonia.org](mailto:amber@holytrinitygastonia.org)

[justin@holytrinitygastonia.org](mailto:justin@holytrinitygastonia.org)

[matthew@mwnoonan.com](mailto:matthew@mwnoonan.com)

[office@holytrinitygastonia.org](mailto:office@holytrinitygastonia.org)