

## BLESSED BEGINNINGS



Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! As I step into the role of your new lead pastor this June, I am reminded of the words in Ecclesiastes 3:1, "To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." This season brings me to you, filled with anticipation and joy for the journey that lies ahead in our shared ministry.

A little about myself and my family - I come to you enriched by diverse experiences from various communities, each of which has deepened my love for God's word and dedication to community outreach. My ministry has always been driven by a desire to embody God's love in the world, and I am excited to bring this passion to Gastonia, nurturing it within the vibrant community at Holy Trinity. My wife, Natalie, and our children, Jonah and Hannah, are eager to meet each of you and share in your life's journey at Holy Trinity.

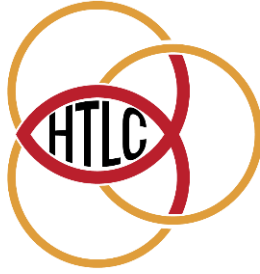
As we begin this new chapter together, I look forward to discovering the unique gifts each of you brings to our church. Our collective talents and spirits will undoubtedly enhance our worship, strengthen our fellowship, and extend our service beyond the church walls into the wider community. Together, we will continue to create a living faith that supports, uplifts, and inspires all who are part of our church family.

In the spirit of fellowship, I eagerly anticipate getting to know you all. Over the coming weeks, I plan to engage with as many of you as possible, to hear your stories, learn your passions, and discuss your visions for our future at Holy Trinity. Your insights will be vital as we forge our path forward, united in our mission and faith.

As we move forward, let us pray for God's guidance and blessing on our new ministry, inspired by the promise in Isaiah 43:19: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." May this verse remind us of the constant renewal of life and faith through God's grace and power.

May God bless our journey with abundant joy, deep faith, and enduring peace. Let us embrace the new season with hope and excitement, confident in the strength we draw from our unity and the boundless opportunities that await us when we walk together in faith.

**God's richest blessings this summer!**  
**Pastor Ryan Henkel STS**  
**Lead Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**



*You are cordially invited to the  
Installation Service of  
The Reverend Ryan M. Henkel*

*Sunday, June 9, 2024  
4:00 p.m.*

*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
805 South York Street  
Gastonia, NC 28052*

*Reception to follow service*

## PASTOR RYAN HENKEL'S ARRIVAL



**May 31** – The Henkel family will arrive in NC

**June 2** – Pastor Ryan will preach and lead worship at both services.

**Week of June 3** - Pastor Ryan will get settled into his office and work with staff to learn the “in’s and out’s” but he will not hold office hours.

**June 9** – Pastor Ryan will lead us in a Combined Worship Service. He will be installed as our Lead Pastor later that day.

**Week of June 10** – Pastor Ryan will begin holding office hours.

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### COMBINED WORSHIP Sunday, June 9 at 10:30 a.m.

We will have one combined worship service on Sunday, June 9 at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. This will allow those preparing for the reception following the Installation Service to set up and prepare for the event.

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### GIFT CARD POUNDING . . .

If you've moved in the last 5 years or so,  
you may still be dreaming of trips to  
Lowe's or WalMart.

Pastor Ryan and Natalie are scheduled to close on their new house at the end of June. So they don't end up with more sugar or toilet paper than they can store, let's “pound” them with gift cards to help them get their house set up. Some suggestions are Lowe's, WalMart, Amazon, Food Lion, or Ingles. They might also appreciate restaurant gift cards for those days when they've unpacked to the point of exhaustion.

Gift cards may be placed in the offering plate. From there, they will be compiled and set aside for the Henkels.



**VETERANS' LUNCH ON THE 4TH TUESDAY**  
*June 25*

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

**All Veterans are welcome!**

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**“HONOR YOUR HERO! BE A HERO! GIVE BLOOD!”**

**Monday, June 24 ~ 2:00 - 6:30 p.m.**

The theme of our June blood is “Honor your hero! Be a Hero! Give blood! The definition of a hero is “a person who is admired or idolized for courage, outstanding achievements or noble qualities.”

According to Romans 15:1-2 heroism is 1) helping those in need 2) buttressing the weaknesses of others with our strengths and 3) contributing to the welfare of others. Notice, these are all active words. Being a hero means being a helper, a supporter and friend. So how better to be a hero than through giving blood.

Jesus said in John 15:13, “greater love has no man than this: to lay down one’s life for his friend.” One pastor said that “laying down our life for others means going out of our way to meet another’s need. It means giving up a part of our lives, sacrificing our own resources and energy to meet the needs of another. Jesus was asking for you to give life to your neighbor. So, I’m asking you to give life by giving blood. How better to follow Jesus words than taking the time to donate blood.

As our theme says, “Be a hero! Give blood!” There are many of you here who have donated blood. We would be honored if you could join our ranks and **give blood at our June blood drive which will be held on Monday, June 24 between 2:00 – 6:30 p.m.** You can sign up before and after each service in either the PLC Welcome Center or the vestibule of the sanctuary. Also, you can contact John and Charlotte Sautner at [2sautners@gmail.com](mailto:2sautners@gmail.com) or 704-860-3399. You can also sign up online. Also, if you cannot give blood, please contact Pepie Jones, our canteen operator. She can find something for you to do.

**John & Charlotte Sautner**  
**Holy Trinity Blood Drive Coordinators**



## JUNE IS A USO MONTH

June is USO month. The center is especially in need of the following:

**Individual snacks**  
**Pop Tarts**  
**Juice boxes**

**Individual oatmeal, honey & granola bars**  
**Travel size toothpaste**

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

**Charlene Lisenmayer**  
**Holy Trinity USO Contact**



## YORK CHESTER COLLECTION BOX

York Chester Middle School has received the May donations and asks that our congregation “take the summer off.” With limited staff on hand to receive any collections we would make over the next few months, they ask that Holy Trinity resume collections when school begins in the Fall. We will safely tuck away our collection box after May 31 and resume collections later in the year. Watch for new signage and announcements later in the year.

Meanwhile faithful disciples, please spread your love on many of the other areas of giving opportunities that are still available at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church: Displaced Roses, CAM, USO, etc.

Also please remember if you would like to sow financial contributions directly into the **York Chester ATHLETIC Fund**, please mark your checks: YC ATHLETIC Fund. You can contribute over the summer months specifically for athletic needs. What a blessing for the school and its students to have much needed equipment when they return, and the new season begins.

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



Our ministry partner, Displaced Roses, serves the entire Gaston County homeless population and works with other community organizations to meet their needs. Services include meal distribution, crisis response, furnishing "Forever" homes, dignity in death and street outreach.

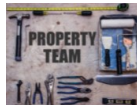
Each of these services requires donated supplies that we as individuals and a congregation can provide. Please place your items in **the Donation Corner located at the red double doors adjacent to the connector hallway and PLC**. Labeled baskets on shelves are provided for your convenience for **"recurring" (R)items**.

**Immediate needs (listed in priority order - all are recurring items)**

- Lotion (large bottles)
- Men's Deodorant
- Men's or Sensitive Body Wash
- Men's Belts
- Laundry Detergent
- Canned Soda
- Single-serve Snacks (salty & sweet)
- Paper Towels
- Women's Sports Bras
- Tote Bags

Displaced Roses needs volunteers to provide meals for 30 people on Wednesdays and to help with sorting on Thursday each week. Please contact Danielle Webb (828-773-2815) for volunteer opportunities. Visit <http://www.DisplacedRoses.com> for more information and like their Facebook page.

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**FACILITY ENHANCEMENTS**  
**Keeping Our Community Spaces in Top Shape!**

**Nature's Makeover:** Recent storms reshaped our landscape, toppling a tree by the Sanctuary. Thanks to our volunteers' swift action and the City's help, we're now planning a beautification project to fill the void left behind.

**Playground Safety:** A playground assessment on May 17 has set the stage for regrading and mulching work. We are also considering a proactive tree removal in the playground courtyard to prevent trips and falls, keeping our children's play area safe and sound.

**Richard DeFreitas**  
**Council Rep. Property**



## LADIES, MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**On September 13 and 14**, we will remain in Gastonia for our **Fall Retreat** instead of going to Blowing Rock. Just think, you won't have to pack any bags to attend. Over the two days, we will focus on fellowship, service, and spiritual growth. If any of you would like to be a part of the planning, contact Ana Mathews at [abarretomathews@gmail.com](mailto:abarretomathews@gmail.com) or 704-718-2646. Stay tuned for more information.

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Plan to be a part of hosting the Carolinas Lutheran Women's convocation on **October 19** here at Holy Trinity.

### Women's Ministry Team

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#### June 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!**

**Circle of Patience:**      **Sunday, June 2**                      **After 11:00 Worship**      **Walker Lounge**  
**Bring your lunch. Dessert and drinks will be provided.**

Program:                      Elizabeth Lethermon  
Hostesses:                    Michelle Lanier, Elizabeth & Harriett Lethermon,  
Martha Sofley

**Circle of Goodness:**      **Thursday, June 13**      **10:00 a.m.**                      **PLC Room 25**

Program:                      Marsha McLamb  
Hostess:                        Sarah Waldrop  
Card Ministry:                Sissy Moxham



## Family Ministries Summer Schedule

While our usual Sunday night ministries take a break during the summer, we don't stop meeting together! Here are a few things to look forward to:

- Solid Rock Day Camp for elementary students the week of **July 7-12**
- Confirmation Camp for middle school students the week of **July 14-20**
- Middle-high beach trip the weekend of **August 16, 17, and 18**
- Bi-weekly events for youth, such as mini golf, etc...
  - See weekly email for more information!
- Pop up coffee/ice cream events!
  - See weekly email for more information!
- Bi-weekly events for children
  - See weekly email for more information!
- Monthly events for whole families
  - The first event is **Saturday, June 22**  
Cookout, water activities, and St. John's bonfire at church!  
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
  - Other dates TBA!







## **Solid Rock Day Camp**

Solid Rock Day Camp is a ministry of the Carolinas Mission Region that provides a high quality, Christian day camp experience for children in rising Kindergarten through rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Camp programs are led by faithful, college-age counselors who come to your church to lead camp activities and build relationships with your campers. Activities include worship and music, games, age-appropriate Bible study, crafts, special activities, onsite field trips, and more!

**WHEN: July 7-12, 2024**

**TIME: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. M-Th, Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**AGES: Rising K through Rising 6th Grade**

**COST: \$100/per child**

Registration opened **February 25**. Payment is due by the first day of camp. (Checks can be made payable to the Carolinas Mission Region.) **Scholarships are available!** Speak to your pastor for more information on financial assistance.

**Day Camp will be hosted at Antioch Lutheran Church located at  
330 Old NC 277 Loop Road  
Dallas, NC 28034**



## COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### *Making History . . .*

When we think about the fact that our Lead Pastors have a tenure of 13-18 years, installing a Lead Pastor is momentous. We are making history!

Last month, I wrote about the legacy of the 22 people who birthed Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and the legacy we might leave. **This month, we will install a new Lead Pastor, the Reverend Ryan Henkel.** This day will be notable in the history of our church.

It is my hope that we will each do all we can to support and encourage Pastor Ryan in his spiritual leadership of our congregation. We can begin by **being present at worship on June 2 when Pastor Ryan begins his ministry with us and again on June 9 when he is installed.**

In Exodus 17, we read the story of Joshua fighting the Amalekites. To support Joshua's army, Moses committed to standing at the top of the hill and holding up the staff of God. But, Moses grew weary. As long as his hands were held high, the Israelites were winning. When he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. So, when Moses grew tired, Aaron and Hur sat him on a stone and held up his hands. They held his hands steady until sunset. Because of this support, Joshua and the Israelites overcame the Amalekites.

Let's be Aarons and Hurs for Pastor Ryan, Cody, our staff, and each other. God does not call one to do it all. He calls us all to be a part of His plan.

Let's unite together in prayer for the ministry that is blossoming at Holy Trinity and for each person's role in moving it forward.

**Blessings to all,  
Anna Houser  
2024 Council President**





## **CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS** *From the May 20, 2024 Regular Meeting*

At the May 20 meeting of the Church Council, the following actions were taken:

- Received and approved April financial report from Treasurer, Lee Stadther (see Herald article).
- Finalized the allocation of the Lead Pastor's compensation allocation between salary and housing.
- Approved an honorarium for Pastor Steve King for assisting with worship in September 2023 and May 2024.
- Presented nominations for the Memorial and Benevolence Committees.
- Received a report from the Treasurer regarding the premium for the Lead Pastor's health insurance.
- Approved new credit card limits with the addition of Pastor Ryan Henkel and the removal of Chris Murphy.
- Received a Personnel report. Lee Young is now serving as the Council liaison and the Chair of Personnel.
- Received staff and committee reports.
- Next Council meeting: June 17, 2024

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### **UPDATE ON CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HELD MAY 12**

A congregational meeting was held on Sunday, May 12 to vote on a motion to elect Donna Allen to a second 3-term on the Endowment Committee.

**This motion was approved.** Donna will fill the June 2024 - May 2026 term.



## 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 we 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 April 2024 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>Month of April 2024</b>	<b>YTD through April 2024</b>
<b>Gifts Received:</b>	\$38,812	\$157,015
<b>Budget for Ministries:</b>	\$48,533	\$206,266
<b>Difference:</b>	(\$9,721)	(\$49,251)
Previous Year (2023) Comparison:	\$43,556	\$162,700
Difference between 2024 and 2023:	(\$4,744)	(\$5,685)

Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of Holy Trinity.

**Lee Stadther**  
**Church Council Treasurer 2024**

## RECOGNIZING GRADUATES 2024



**Holy Trinity is happy to celebrate the High School graduation of**

**Andrew Kirby** graduated from Cherryville High School on May 24. Andrew is the son of **T.J. and Robin Kirby**.

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**We are also happy to celebrate the High School/College graduation of family members of Holy Trinity disciples**

**Anna-Taylor Harbin** graduated from Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine. She will be doing her Residency at Prism Greenville Family Medicine Hospital in Greenville, SC. **Anna-Taylor is the granddaughter of David and Martha Williard** (where her brains come from...).

**McKenna Hedrick** graduated from Stuart Cramer High School with future plans undecided. **McKenna is the granddaughter of Ken and LaVerne Davis**.

**Olivia Hedrick** graduated from UNC Charlotte with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a concentration in Art Education. She will be teaching art at Ashbrook High School. **Olivia is the granddaughter of Ken and LaVerne Davis**.

**Camden Myers** graduated from Dutch Fork High School (Irmo, SC). He will be attending Western Carolina University where he has signed to play football. **Camden is the grandson of Butch and Tess Gibbons**.

**Jacob Myers** graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of South Carolina. He will be starting Dental School at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston in June. **Jacob is the grandson of Butch and Tess Gibbons**.

***Congratulations to all of these graduates as they begin the next chapter of their lives!  
Please keep them in your prayers to make Christ-focused decisions on their paths,  
and for God's blessings to surround them in all that they do!***

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**Congratulations to Ben Jones and Jennifer Craven**  
who will be married on June 1 in Cary, NC.  
Ben is the son of **Rick & Pepie Jones**.



- **Baby Colter**, grandson of Bob & LaVada Barnhill and son to Erin, as he has been born, but has a mass on his back which is attached to the spinal cord and will need surgery soon.
- **Murphy Clark**, teenage neighbor of Bruce and Judy Zander, going into the hospital to await heart transplant
- **Dottie Stevens, Emily Martin, and the rest of the family of John Stevens**, uncle of Lori DeFreitas, at his death on 5/15
- **Samantha Bushu**, a friend of Frankie Lewis, praise for improving health and a return to work (part- time)
- **Pastor Ryan Henkel and family**, for their transition as they relocate to Gastonia
- **Jann Green-Webb**, daughter of James & Janet Green, healing from surgery to fuse a portion of her lower vertebrae on 5/14/24
- **Lavonne**, sister of Norman Radermacher, healing from toe amputation
- **Nicole Mote**, protection and provision while facing homelessness
- **The father of Karen Leonard**, who has recently been placed in hospice care
- **Robert Hess**, friend of Norman Radermacher, healing and recovery from several strokes
- **For friends and family dealing with cancer:** Ed Bridges, Dean Lawson, Melanie Henry, Beth Rudin, Julie Hill, Chad Barnes, Jim Higgins, Marilyn Lateulade, Lee Allen, Jackie Lybrand, Jim Siedel, Teresa Hartman, Kelly Powell, Octavia Glenn, Margo Schopper, LeaAnn Buckwell, Bob Burleson, Tina Heracklis, Artie McGlohon, Braxton Morris, Pastor Bill White
- **Homebound:** Caroline Banker, Pinkney Froneberger, Paul Kaiser, Janie Norton, Kathy Wallace, Iris Work
- **Family and friends actively serving in the military:** 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 families in distress**
- **For our ministry partner, Displaced Roses**, and for the Holy Spirit to stir us up to serve our neighbors in need
- **For the North American Lutheran Seminary System 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 June & July. 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 Brooke Barnes, Fred Cloninger  
 4 Layne Rickle  
 5 Bill Eaker  
 7 Charlie Black, Bob Kosak  
 8 Josh Young  
 9 Evie Heffner, Chevis King,  
 Samantha Thomas  
 10 Dennis Christman, Anna Houser  
 11 Cissy Belton  
 14 Jordan Bryant, Kailey Hinds  
 16 Judy Zander  
 17 Charlie Niemeyer  
 18 Will Niemeyer  
 19 Cody Carpenter  
 21 Gwen Nenninger, Pastor Ryan Henkel  
 24 Trenton Abernathy, Andrew Horsley  
 25 Joelee Stroupe  
 26 Erin Busler, Brittani Wells  
 29 Linda Anderson, Charlene Linsenmayer  
 30 Debbie Gardner



1 Jaine Burleson  
 4 Tess Gibbons  
 5 Leisa Brown, Dick Dubler  
 9 Claire Lemke, Ana Mathews  
 11 Kerri Luksa, Christopher Sisk  
 12 Don Huffstetler, Liam Cate  
 14 Samantha Kirby  
 15 Tia Abernathy, Judy Weatherford  
 18 Barbara Kies  
 20 Gene Keller  
 23 Noah Brown  
 24 Karen Beam  
 29 Glenn Rupp  
 30 Kristi Carpenter, Carolyn Niemeyer  
 John Waldrop  
 31 Pat Huffstetler



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

*If your birthday is incorrect, or you have a birthday in June/July 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  
Seminary Ministry Assistant  
Organist  
Office Administrator  
Nursery Supervisor  
Custodian

Ryan Henkel  
Cody Carpenter  
Matthew Noonan  
Kim Borromeo  
Evelyn Anthony  
David Stephens

[cody@holytrinitygastonia.org](mailto:cody@holytrinitygastonia.org)  
[matthew@mwnoonan.com](mailto:matthew@mwnoonan.com)  
[kim@holytrinitygastonia.org](mailto:kim@holytrinitygastonia.org)  
[office@holytrinitygastonia.org](mailto:office@holytrinitygastonia.org)