



The Monthly Newsletter
of
Holy Trinity Lutheran
Church



As the warm days of summer begin to wane and the anticipation of the new academic year fills the air, I find myself reflecting on the past two months with immense gratitude. These early days of shared ministry with you have been a time of growth, discovery, and deepening connections. We are truly blessed to call Holy Trinity Lutheran Church our home.

The summer months have provided a wonderful opportunity to ease into this new chapter. From our joyful Sunday services to the vibrant fellowship events, every moment has been a testament to the love and faith that bind this congregation together. I have cherished the conversations, the laughter, and even the moments of quiet reflection we have shared.

As we look forward to the start of the academic year, I am reminded of Ecclesiastes 3:1: “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” This verse resonates deeply as we transition from the restful days of summer to the busier, yet equally blessed, season of autumn.

Three Points of Focus for the Upcoming Months:

- 1. Supporting Our Students and Educators:** With the new school year approaching, our focus will be on supporting our students and educators. We will pray for their success, offer encouragement, and provide resources to help them thrive. Let's remember to uplift them in our daily prayers and be a source of strength and guidance.
- 2. Engaging in Spiritual Growth:** As the rhythm of life picks up, let's commit to deepening our spiritual practices. Whether through participating in Sunday School Classes and/or Bible studies, attending prayer gatherings, or finding quiet moments of personal reflection, let us seek to grow closer to God together.
- 3. Expanding Our Outreach:** The start of the school year brings new opportunities to serve our community. We will explore ways to support local schools, assist families in need, and reach out to our neighbors with the love of Christ. Your ideas and involvement will be crucial as we expand our outreach efforts.

As we step into this new season, I encourage each of you to consider how you can be a part of these initiatives. Can you mentor a student, volunteer your time, or join a small group? Every act of service, no matter how small, contributes to the strength and vitality of Holy Trinity.

Continued →

Let us approach this academic year with a spirit of eagerness and hope, ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those around us, shining the light of Christ in all we do.

May the Lord bless this new academic year, and may He fill our hearts with His peace and wisdom. Let us trust in His guidance, knowing that He has great plans for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

God's richest blessings!
Pastor Ryan Henkel STS



As Natalie, Jonah, Hannah, and I have settled into our new home in Dallas, we have been deeply moved by the outpouring of love and support from our wonderful church family. Your kindness has truly been a reflection of Christ's love, making our transition not only smooth but also joy-filled.

Thank you to everyone who lent a helping hand, offered words of encouragement, or simply kept us in your prayers during this time. Whether you helped us unpack boxes, shared a meal with us, or gave us valuable advice about the area, your generosity and support have made all the difference. We feel incredibly blessed to be a part of this community.

Additionally, we were touched by the beautiful birthday and anniversary cards. Each one brought a smile to our faces and reminded us of the strong bonds we share in this church. Your thoughtful gestures have added to the joy of our celebrations and have made us feel truly loved and appreciated.

We are grateful for each of you and look forward to many more years of growing together in faith and fellowship. May God continue to bless and guide us as we serve Him and one another.

With heartfelt thanks,
Pastor Ryan, Natalie, Jonah & Hannah Henkel





SAVE THE DATE!
Sunday, August 25 ~ 12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Our next Rise Against Hunger event at Holy Trinity will be on Sunday, August 25. Volunteers are needed to set up following the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service. **The meal packing will begin at 2:00 p.m.**

If you haven't helped with one of these events, you don't know what you're missing. Come join the fun and fellowship while packing meals!



Photos from the 2023 Packing Event



SONshiners will not be meeting the month of August.

Have a great summer and we'll see you in September!



VETERANS' LUNCH ON THE 4TH TUESDAY
August 27

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

All Veterans are welcome!

125th Anniversary

As you know, we will be celebrating Holy Trinity's 125th Anniversary the weekend of October 26 and 27. We hope to include opportunities to serve others, fellowship, and worship. To accomplish these goals, we are creating small task forces to oversee the different aspects of the weekend's events.

We hope everyone will find a place to serve. Please review the list of task forces below and let either the person listed or Anna Houser (annaplus2girls@gmail.com / 704-813-6560) know where you would like to serve. Thank you.

- Marketing/Communication – Kristin Parsons-Rupp
 - Food
 - IT/AV
 - Service Project
 - Worship – Pepie Jones
 - Children/Youth Games & Events – Cody Carpenter
 - Photos/Memorabilia
-

MISSED WORSHIP ON SUNDAY?



If you miss a Sunday, feel free to mail your gift to the church using your offering envelope which can be used as a self-addressed envelope or give online @ www.holytrinitygastonia.org/ and click on the Online Giving* tab.

*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church discourages the irresponsible use of credit cards. We offer the opportunity to donate by credit/debit card as a convenience to those who manage their finances in a God-honoring way.

AUGUST FESTIVALS & COMMEMORATIONS

Join Us For Vespers to Commemorate These Saints

Each month, we will have opportunities to celebrate the lives of the saints who have walked the path of faith before us, and we are reminded of the profound impact their journeys have on our own. **Join us for Vespers (Evening Prayer) in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. as we commemorate the lives of Mary, the Mother of our Lord (on August 15) and St. Bartholomew, Apostle (on August 24).** After our time of worship, we will gather for Gemütlichkeit (fellowship) - a time to share in joyous company, delicious food, and the warmth of our community. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with one another, sharing stories and experiences that strengthen our bonds of faith and friendship.



August 15th, we commemorate Mary, the Mother of Our Lord. Mary's faith, courage, and obedience to God's call serve as an inspiring example to us all. Mary's "yes" to God's plan brought the Savior into the world, demonstrating her unwavering trust in God's promises. Her life was a testament to humility and devotion, qualities we strive to embody in our daily walk with Christ. Join us as we reflect on Mary's life and her pivotal role in the story of our salvation.



August 24th, we honor St. Bartholomew, Apostle. Known for his unwavering dedication to spreading the Gospel, Bartholomew's missionary zeal took him far and wide, proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. His life challenges us to embrace our own call to discipleship with courage and perseverance. We will delve into the life and legacy of St. Bartholomew. Through scripture and prayer, we'll explore how his witness continues to inspire us to be bold in our faith and steadfast in our mission to share God's love with the world.

These commemorations offer us a chance to not only remember the saints who have gone before us but also to draw strength and inspiration from their lives. We hope you will join us for these special services and the fellowship that follows. Together, we can celebrate the enduring legacy of faith that connects us to the saints and to each other.

May the lives of Mary and St. Bartholomew encourage you in your own journey of faith, and may our times of worship and fellowship draw us closer to God and to one another.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!
NALC Disaster Relief Health Care Kits



Women's Ministry is requesting congregational assistance with the service project attendees will be doing during their fall retreat at Holy Trinity. During the month of August, pick an item(s) from the kit-contents list below and place your contribution on the designated table in the hallway of the PLC. Retreaters will pack the kits.

Dark-colored wash cloth	Regular size shampoo
Regular size bar of soap	Deoderant
Sealed toothbrush	Toothpaste
Comb	Nail clippers

Thank you in advance for your contributions to this project!



BACKPACK WEEKEND FOOD PROGRAM

We're Getting Ready for the 2024-2025 School Year

It is time for another school year to begin. When school starts back, so does the Backpack Weekend Food Program (BWFP). The program has been in the works for 13 years and has provided more than 2 million meals to needy students in Gaston County.

Here at Holy Trinity, we have provided Backpack meals to children at Lingerfeldt Elementary. This year we have agreed to help up to 40 elementary children at Lingerfeldt and up to 20 middle schoolers at York Chester.

With that being said, we will need some volunteers to help with packing for the schools each week, delivering the food bags to York Chester, and unloading the monthly food at the church and putting it in the Holy Trinity BWFP room. If you would be interested in volunteering, please let me know. You can email, call, or text me: cloningersinc@bellsouth.net - 704-913-8037

Thank you in advance!!
Rebecca Cloninger
Holy Trinity BWFP Coordinator



FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS



Fall Schedule Coming Soon!

What a fast summer this has been! We will soon begin fall programming for family ministries, and boy will it be great! We will have new preschool ministries, along with new opportunities for children and youth to engage in worship, service, and grow together in the Christian life in partnership with the *whole parish*. Stay tuned for activity schedules, which will be posted soon! We will have ample opportunities for folks to roll up their sleeves and volunteer, including:

- Sunday school teachers
- Youth group meal prep
- Trip chaperones
- Mentors
- And many more!

Youth Group Beach Trip

We will be going to Myrtle Beach the weekend of August 16 - 18. We will leave at 4:30 p.m. Friday, head down to the beach house, and spend all of Saturday and most of Sunday at the beach. There is **no cost** to attend, but please have money for dinner out on Saturday, as well as spending money for trinkets, convenience store stops, etc...

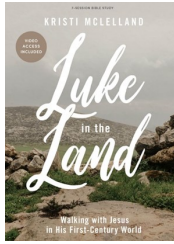
Reach out to Cody for more information.

Christian Education

As part of my new role as Director of Christian Education, I want to begin acting as a resource for your small groups, Sunday school classes, and any other study needs. I will be working on revamping our small group library and would like to meet with all Sunday school teachers in person or via Zoom on **Thursday, August 8** at 7:00 p.m. to prepare for the coming fall season and to gather some information about what your class offers.

Additionally, I am hoping to get more folks involved in Sunday school, whether in current classes or creating new classes to supplement what we already have. If you would like to plug into a class, please reach out to me!

Cody Carpenter
Pastoral Assistant/Director of Christian Education



AUGUST LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

New Start Date - August 14

In our Bibles, we have four Gospels describing Jesus's time on earth: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The land of Israel—the place Jesus walked and taught during His earthly ministry—is often referred to as the “fifth Gospel.”

Follow Kristi McLelland through Israel as we study snapshots from the Gospel of Luke to see where the stories of the Bible took place. Over 7 sessions, challenge the way you read the accounts of Jesus through teaching videos that take you to locations in Israel like Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Gethsemane, Jerusalem, and the road to Emmaus. Along the way, you'll see how Jesus, the Messiah, brought His kingdom to earth for everybody.

Benefits:

- Travel through Israel in teaching sessions filmed in Bethlehem, the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, and more to behold the gospel story in a whole new way
- Gain a deeper understanding of stories of Jesus's life from a first-century point of view
- Explore cultural and historical concepts that will give new perspective on well-known biblical stories

The date for the first session will be on **Wednesday, August 14 at 6:30 p.m.** This will be an in-person study. **Please contact Anna Houser (704-813-6560 / annaplus2girls@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating.** The church will purchase and provide the book. A love offering will be collected to supplement the cost.

Circle Meetings

There will be no Women's Circle Meetings in August.
Enjoy the rest of your summer and we'll see you in September!



WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Attention Female Disciples and Friends - Join Us For Our Fall Retreat September 13-14 Attend one or both events

September 13 6:30-9:00 p.m. Fall Retreat Kick-off Event Food, Fun, and Fellowship

Come, bring a friend or two and enjoy an evening of refreshments and our own Grant Sparks leading line dancing. Even if you think you have two left feet, you can enjoy trying - no pressure. Grant is a patient, easy-to-follow instructor. If you do not want to dance, still come and enjoy fellowshiping and watching others' efforts.

September 14 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Sharing Christ Through Service

Again, bring a friend or two and enjoy a day of FREE fellowship, music, Bible study, a speaker, lunch, and a service project. Child care will be available with prior arrangements. If needed, contact LaVerne Davis at 704-616-0570 by September 8.



CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS *From the July 15, 2024 Regular Meeting*

At the July 15 meeting of the Church Council, the following actions were taken:

- Received and approved June financial report from Treasurer, Lee Stadther. (See Herald article page 12.)
- Approved the 2nd quarter distributions as recommended by the Benevolence Committee.
- Received and approved the following motions from Personnel:
 - A new full-time position for Seminarian Cody Carpenter entitled Pastoral Assistant and Christian Education Director.
 - A job description for a part-time Director of Music.
 - The establishment of office hours from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (M-F).
- Received a report on the 125th Anniversary Celebration scheduled for October 26-27.
- Noted that St. John the Baptist Academy has selected another location and will not be using Holy Trinity's facilities.
- Received staff and committee reports.
- Next Council meeting: August 19, 2024



THE ENDOWMENT FUND 2025 Grant Application Process Begins August 1

The application process for 2025 funding will begin August 1, 2024 and end at midnight September 15, 2024.

Just a reminder, the process has been changed to electronic format versus paper forms. You may submit your Endowment Grant application via Google Forms.

You may access forms via :



OR www.TinyURL.com/HTEndowmentApplication2025

If you have any issues with navigating the form online or need a hyperlink sent direct to your email, please do not hesitate to reach out to an Endowment Committee member or contact the committee at endowmentholytrinity@gmail.com.

From prior year's Herald articles, most Holy Trinity Disciples are aware of the origin of the Endowment Fund and how it all began back in 1986; birthed by a vision of a few of our forefathers and foremothers. Today we continue to reap the blessing of having these funds to faithfully sow into God's Kingdom.

We would like to share again how the funds are distributed based on the by-laws of the Fund. There is a very short answer for this; a maximum of 1/4th into each of the areas, with a max of 1/2 in any one area.

- **Capital improvements and debt reduction** - By being good stewards of the property Holy Trinity has been entrusted with, the area is constantly maintained and improved to offer an inviting worship and available ministry space to members, visitors, and those seeking a home congregation to join in God's Plan. As our building begins to age and as we offer this God given space for ministry use, the expense to maintain the space rises. The Endowment Fund helps support this expense as the costs continue to exceed what the annual budget can support.

- **Scholarships for training** - Holy Trinity recognizes the need for ongoing training and education for those in the areas of full-time service to the church. Enabling servant leaders and rising servant leaders within Holy Trinity to receive additional training and fresh vision enables us all to benefit from their spiritual nourishment.
- **Community Outreach** – Holy Trinity is a congregation that is engaged and seeks to remain engaged in serving the needs in the community around us. Loving, Knowing and Sharing Christ is our vision statement and likewise should be what makes our hearts beat. Outreach is essential to live out a life being lived for God. Serving those around us and ministering to needs is core to who we are as disciples of Jesus and of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Gastonia.
- **Missions** - “Whom shall I send? Here I am Lord; send me.” Isaiah 6:8 Not all of us are able to physically go and be missionaries overseas or even beyond our own town but each of us are still key components and called to be Sowers in sending and supporting others. We are just a small part of the Body of Christ, and yet we have the opportunity to impact many Brothers and Sisters and those coming to Christ all around the globe. Holy Trinity’s members join in “the going” by supporting youth and adult missions at home and the mission fields abroad.

We are truly grateful to be able to participate in ministry opportunities that have been funded by past and present members’ contributions to the Endowment Fund.

**In God’s Service,
The Endowment Committee**

HOMEBOUND / SPECIAL SAINTS’ BIRTHDAYS



Please join us in celebrating our Homebound / Special Saints’ birthdays.

Phylliss Froneberger will turn **90 years young** on **September 13** and
Shirley Anderson will turn **80 years young** on **September 14**.



If you would like to send a birthday card, their mailing addresses are:

Phylliss Froneberger, 2105 Monticello Dr., Gastonia, NC 28056

Shirley Anderson, 3799 Duckworth-Carpenter Lane, Vale, NC 28168

Thank you for helping us to celebrate these special ladies in our church family!



COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WHAT DO YOU HAVE?

Elisha asked her, "What can I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?"
2 Kings 4:2 CSB

There's a story in 2 Kings about a widow who is on the brink of losing all she had, even her children, to her creditors. She was very poor and believed she had nothing of value. At her wits end, she approaches the Man of God, Elisha, and pleads with him to help her. He directed her to start with what she had, no matter how little, and to trust God to bless her efforts.

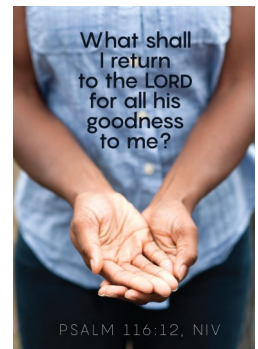
The woman was focused on what she did not have rather than what she did have. When asked, she realized that she had a small jar of oil. By following Elisha's directions and through God's blessing, she was able to take what she had and fill many jars. It was enough to earn the money to pay her creditors and have some left to provide for her and her sons.

How often do we approach situations or challenges in our lives by focusing on what we're missing versus what we have? How often do we do this at Holy Trinity? Do we give to God what we have and seek His direction?

We are so blessed at Holy Trinity with people who are gifted in various ways, with people who are generous with their time and finances, a large facility, a prime location to serve the community, prayer warriors, a faithful pastor and staff, and the list goes on and on. Surely, if we present these things or people to the Lord, many blessings will follow, both to us and those we serve.

My hope is that we approach all opportunities and challenges by starting with an inventory of what we already have in our "house" and presenting it all to the Lord.

**Blessings,
Anna Houser
2024 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 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 June 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.

	Month of June 2024	YTD through June 2024
Gifts Received:	\$37,789	\$224,519
Budget for Ministries:	\$60,667	\$315,466
Difference:	(\$22,878)	(\$90,947)
Previous Year (2023) Comparison:	\$36,645	\$240,343
Difference between 2024 and 2023:	\$1,144	(\$15,824)

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

Lee Stadther
Church Council Treasurer 2024



- **Jann Green**, daughter of James and Janet Green, for continued healing from extensive back surgery
- **The family of Patricia Hughes**, mother of Charlotte Eaker, at her death
- **The family of Jackie Lybrand**, at her death
- **Bob Burleson**, for healing from cardiac ablation 07/02 to help control AFIB
- **Brenda Jenkins**, at Courtland Terrace for rehabilitation after knee surgery
- **Katrina Hinds**, still in pain from knee replacement on 5/29
- **Sandy**, co-worker of Elizabeth Lethermon, for healing and recovery from hip replacement and leg surgery on 3/28
- **For friends and family dealing with cancer:** Pastor Kristen Phillips, Walter Martin, Barbara Zinke, Rebecca Cloninger, Alex Melvin, Ed Bridges, Dean Lawson, Melanie Henry, Beth Rudin, Julie Hill, Jim Higgins, Marilyn Lateulade, Lee Allen, 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 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 August & September. 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.



1 Kim Borromeo, Laura Silverstrim,
Lee Stadther
3 Luke Busler
5 Jerry Campbell, Charlotte Murphy
8 Chuck Biddle
11 Lori DeFreitas, Frank Garrison
15 Grant Sparks
16 Anita Hollifield
17 Sissy Moxham
18 Charlie Biddle, Andrew Kirby
20 Pam Young
21 Linda Albright, Lee Hinds, Jim Warren
22 Bob Lemke
24 Amy Novinc
26 Laurieann Ratz
27 Chuck Niemeyer
29 Joseph Fox, Noah Fox
30 Tommy Kirby, John Long

2 Adam Cate, Sandy Dulin
4 Taylor Barnes
6 Molly Heffner, Brylyn Norton
8 Heidi Kelt
11 Jill Scot-Cochran
12 Stephen Lineberry, Debbie Long
Kathy Wallace, Grace Young
13 Phylliss Froneberger
14 Shirley Anderson, Kenric Barnes
15 Debbie Brackett, Tyann Johnson
17 David Stephens
18 Frank Moxham, Nancy Sparks
19 Morayo Orija
20 Ben Bogle
23 Bryson Rupp
25 Sam DeFreitas
27 Amy East, Michelle Lanier
28 LaRae Campbell, Liam Luksa
29 Brenda Biddle, Susan Black,
Richard Waits
30 Betty Janssen



Did we miss your birthday?

If your birthday is incorrect, or you have a birthday in August/September 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
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Knowing, Loving and Sharing Christ

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MINISTRY STAFF

Lead Pastor
Pastoral Assistant/Director of Christian Ed.
Organist
Office Administrator
Nursery Supervisor
Custodian

Ryan Henkel
Cody Carpenter
Matthew Noonan
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