



Pastor's Pen

As I sit at my desk in my new office, I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude and excitement. My family and I have begun to settle in, and we officially closed our new home at the end of June. This marks a new chapter, not just for us, but for Holy Trinity as well.

The reality of this new ministry is setting in, becoming more real each day, and it fills our hearts with joy. This is a season brimming with promise and potential, and we are eager to grow in ministry together with each of you.

Our journey to Gastonia has been filled with many blessings and a few challenges, as any move can be. Yet, through it all, we have felt the guiding hand of God, reassuring us that this is where we are meant to be. Your warm welcomes, thoughtful cards, and kind words have already made us feel part of this incredible church family.

As we embark on this new ministry together, I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 1:6: *“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”*

God has started a good work here at Holy Trinity, and I am confident that He will continue to bless and guide us. There are three points of focus that I would like for our ministry together:

Growing in Faith Together: Being committed to growing spiritually together. Through Bible studies, prayer, and worship services, we will explore the depths of our faith and discover new ways to live out the Gospel in our daily lives.

Building Strong Relationships: Building and nurturing strong, authentic relationships. This means getting to know each other, sharing our stories, and supporting one another in love. We will have more opportunities for fellowship, home visits, and small group gatherings to deepen our connections.

Serving Our Community: We are called to be Christ's lights in Gastonia. We will seek out new ways to serve our community, reaching out with the love of Christ to meet the needs of those around us. Whether through participating in food drives, volunteering, or supporting local initiatives, we will make a tangible impact.

As we embark on this journey together, I encourage each of you to reflect on how you can be part of these ministry opportunities at Holy Trinity. What steps can you take to grow in your faith? How can you contribute to building strong relationships within our church? How might God be calling you to serve our community?

Again, I want to express my heartfelt thanks for the warm welcome you have extended to my family and me. Thank you for loving us just as one of your own. We are truly blessed to be part of the Holy Trinity community. As we journey forward, let us hold fast to the hope we have in Christ, knowing that He is with us every step of the way. Know that wherever you go and whatever you do in these weeks of summer, your very present God is already there, surrounding you with His never-failing love in Christ.

God's richest blessings!
Pastor Ryan Henkel

125th Anniversary

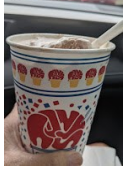
*If you are willing and available to help plan and coordinate the 125th anniversary events, please attend **the planning meeting scheduled for Sunday, July 7 at 4:30 p.m. in the PLC Lounge** (long classroom in hallway between parking lot doors).*

You may contact Anna Houser (annaplus2girls@gmail.com / 704-813-6560) for additional information. Thank you.



SONshiners will not be meeting the months of July and August.

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



**DID SOMEONE SAY ICE CREAM?
Join us on Tuesday, July 16 at 6:30 p.m.**

Escape from the heat! Join us for fun, fellowship, ice cream and/or a sandwich at Tony's Ice Cream! We'll meet in the back lot across from Tony's and across the railroad tracks, on Tuesday, July 16 at 6:30 p.m. Even if it is a hot day, there is shade in this lot. Feel free to bring a chair and a friend!



**VETERANS' LUNCH ON THE 4TH TUESDAY
*July 23***

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

All Veterans are welcome!



WHAT ARE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS? HOSPITALITY? SERVICE?

Have you thought about joining the Welcome Team as a Greeter or Usher? We are always looking for friendly, smiling faces to assist during the services.

If you are interested, please contact Donna Allen (8:30 a.m. Contemporary Service) or Pepie Jones (11:00 a.m. Traditional Service).



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!

If you have any questions, please contact Bruce Zander (bzander@att.net) for more information.

“HONOR YOUR HERO! BE A HERO! GIVE BLOOD!”
Update on June Blood Drive

Holy Trinity held their June blood drive on Monday, June 24. Thanks to a lot of "heroes," we collected 46 pints of blood.

Also, thanks go to all those who donated blood and all those who volunteered their time to make this blood drive a success.

John & Charlotte Sautner
Holy Trinity Blood Drive Coordinators



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.



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. Your donations will be collected at Holy Trinity in the donation corner. **The donation corner is 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. "**One-time**" (O) items should be placed in the larger receptacles. A list of supplies will be updated as needed each month in the Herald and weekly in the bulletin.

Immediate needs (listed in priority order):

- Nail Clippers (R)
- Men's Deodorant (R)
- Men's Underwear - Boxer Briefs only (Medium to Large) (R)
- Laundry Detergent (R)
- Women's Sports Bras (assorted sizes) (R)
- Casual Men's Clothing (Medium to X-Large in tops and sweatpants) (R)
- Men's Jeans (28" waist to 34" waist) (R)
- Women's underwear (sizes 4,5, and 6) (R)
- Single Serve Snacks (salty and sweet) (R)
- Can Sodas (R)
- Travel Size **Alcohol Free** mouthwash (R)
- Men's Tennis Shoes (R)
- Men's disposable razors (R)
- Batteries (AAA, AA) (R)
- Chapstick (R)
- Tote bags (R)

Displaced Roses needs volunteers on Tuesday, Wednesday and 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.



FAMILY MINISTRIES NEWS

Family Ministry Schedule

Our July and August events will be published via email and text message. If you would like to sign up to receive an email or sign up for text messages, contact Cody.

Parents Night Out

Beginning in July, we will have a PNO *each month* on the last Saturday from 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. This is a night of free childcare for infants through rising 6th grade. Kiddos will have dinner and enjoy different activities such as crafts, organized games, and tons of other fun activities! Look for a sign up each month.

Cody - Gone camping!

During the week of July 7-12, I will be spending my days at Antioch in Dallas, helping to coordinate our week of Solid Rock Day Camp. And then, during the week of July 14-19, I will be at Laurel Ridge for the Carolinas Mission Region's annual confirmation camp.

To ensure that I am fully present with our campers and staff, I will not be checking my email as frequently throughout the day during our day camp week. And during confirmation camp, I will have limited access to the internet and little cell service. As such, my response times will increase during these two weeks. If you have urgent needs, please feel free to contact the church office.

Cody Carpenter



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 6th 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.

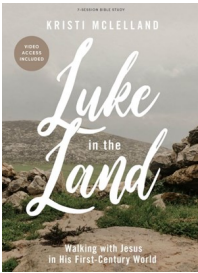
AGES: Rising K through Rising 6th Grade

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**

AUGUST LADIES' BIBLE STUDY Beginning Wednesday, August 7



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 7 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.



Council Highlights from the June 17 meeting:

- Learned that Personnel Committee is actively looking for 8:30 a.m. Service Worship Leader and Music Director position.
- Approved funding for Backpack Weekend Program (for 2024-2025 school year).
- Appointed Richard DeFreitas as NALC Mission Convocation delegate for 2024 Online Meeting.
- Appointed Chuck Biddle to Benevolence Committee.
- Accepted nominees for Memorial Committee (Rick Jones, Nancy Faulkner, LaVerne Davis, Betty Blalock).

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS JULY



Women's Fall Retreat September 13 - 14

"In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven." – Matthew 5:16

Ladies, get your calendars out and reserve September 13 and 14 to let your light shine and attend the fall Women's Retreat here at Holy Trinity. As usual, there will be fun, fellowship, and of course, food! This year's retreat will include a service project for which we will collect donations in the coming weeks. Come join us to connect with one another, have a good time and do good things!

Circle Meetings

There will be no Circle Meetings in July or August.
Enjoy your summer and we'll see you in September!



4th of July Word Search

BLUE
CONGRESS
ENGLAND
FIREWORKS
FLAG
FREEDOM
JULY
KING
LIBERTY
PARADE
RED
STATES
TAXES
UNITED
WAR
WHITE

U	R	L	W	Z	T	O	G	B	T
N	G	U	A	K	I	N	G	S	P
I	M	K	R	S	E	T	A	T	S
T	A	X	E	S	W	Y	L	U	J
E	M	O	D	E	E	R	F	M	B
D	F	Y	T	R	E	B	I	L	L
A	W	E	N	G	L	A	N	D	U
R	L	L	Z	N	W	H	I	T	E
A	S	K	R	O	W	E	R	I	F
P	J	R	U	C	Q	L	N	L	B



COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Of Mice and . . . Eagles

In a recent podcast, the presenter asked, “Are you a mouse or an eagle?” His point being that mice are down in the grass and are only focused on the details around them. On the other hand, eagles soar up high and are seeing a much larger picture. The presenter encouraged the listeners to be eagles and focus on the big picture, the things that really matter and make a difference. Of course, he later pointed out that details are also important when getting a task done.

So, what’s it to be. Should we be mice or eagles? Let’s look at it with a spiritual focus. Spiritually, the mice could correspond to temporal concerns and the eagles correspond to eternal concerns. I’ve been thinking a lot about this. Details are important. If we don’t take care of the details, many good things will never happen. However, if the details become the focus or the priority then we’ve lost sight of what’s important.

My challenge to us, as a congregation, is to first step back in every situation and look at it from the eagle’s perspective, from God’s perspective. What is the eternal focus or priority of our programs, events, ministries? From there, what must happen (details) to bring that eternal priority to fruition. Those details should be at the top of the list. Let’s consider the remaining details “bonuses” but not anything to worry about or cause contention between us. And, during the process, it would be good to soar up high periodically to take another look at the big picture to make sure we are not veering off course from what matters most.

My prayer for myself and for all of us is that we “seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, [trusting] that all [the other] things will be given to [us] as well.”

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





HOW DO YOUR FINANCIAL GIFTS GLORIFY GOD?

¹⁶ *Three times a year all your men must appear before the LORD your God at the place he will choose: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks and the Festival of Tabernacles. No one should appear before the LORD empty-handed:* ¹⁷ ***Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.*** (Deuteronomy 16: 16-17 NIV)

We see in this verse, three times a year every male was to make a journey to the sanctuary in the city, that would be designated as Israel's religious capital. At these festivals, each participant was **encouraged to give what he could in proportion to what God had given him.** God does not expect us to give more than we can, but we will be blessed when we give cheerfully. For some, 10 percent may be a burden. For most of us, that would be far too little. **Look at what you have and then give in proportion to what you have been given. What is your response to those blessings God has bestowed on you?**

For those that like numbers...

Noted below we show our May 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 May 2024	YTD through May 2024
Gifts Received:	\$29,715	\$186,730
Budget for Ministries:	\$48,533	\$254,799
Difference:	(\$18,818)	(\$68,069)
Previous Year (2023) Comparison:	\$40,997	\$203,698
Difference between 2024 and 2023:	(\$11,282)	(\$16,968)

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

Lee Stadther
Church Council Treasurer 2024

PASTOR RYAN'S INSTALLATION





*Special thanks to Carolyn Niemeyer and Marsha McLamb
for coordinating the reception.*

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAISES

- **The family of Bill Rountree**, the brother-in-law of Carolyn and Charlie Niemeyer, at the death of Bill on Wednesday, June 26 in the early morning. He was Carolyn's sister Jane's husband.
- **Amy East**, recovering from knee replacement surgery on June 28.
- **George Williard**, brother of David Williard, who was admitted to the ICU at Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem
- **Earl Ruffin**, friend of Darlene Harper, for healing from broken leg
- **Jonina Tongate**, friend of Darlene Harper, for healing from thyroid problems and possible cancer
- **Kim Johnson**, paralyzed from a spinal stroke
- **Brenda Jenkins**, at Courtland Terrace for rehabilitation after knee surgery
- **Vivian Stewart Bolyard**, a former member of Holy Trinity, at the death of her husband, Jim.
- **The family of Lisa Singletary-James**, friend of Cody Carpenter, following her death on 6/19
- **Beau**, infant grandson of Brooke Weatherford Smithers, recovering from sepsis pneumonia
- **Cissy Belton**, awaiting surgery rescheduling and dealing with an infection
- **Katrina Hinds**, still in pain from knee replacement on 5/29
- **Murphy Clark**, in thanksgiving for his return home following heart surgery.
- **For friends and family dealing with cancer:** Rebecca Cloninger, Alex Melvin, Ed Bridges, Dean Lawson, Melanie Henry, Beth Rudin, Julie Hill, Jim Higgins, Marilyn Lateulade, Lee Allen, Jackie Lybrand, Jim Siedel, Teresa Hartman, Kelly Powell, Octavia Glenn, Margo Schopper, Le-aAnn 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 July & August. 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 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



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



Did we miss your birthday?

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



Knowing, Loving and Sharing Christ

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Seminary Ministry Assistant
Organist
Office Administrator
Nursery Supervisor
Custodian

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