



The Monthly Newsletter  
Of  
Holy Trinity  
Lutheran Church



## Unity Brunch

**Sunday, September 10 ~ 9:45 a.m.**

It's that wonderful time again . . . time to prepare for the next Unity Brunch! It's such a special time when we have the opportunity to come together, fellowship, share a meal, and hear about all the wonderful things happening at Holy Trinity! At the next brunch, we will:

- Welcome New Disciples
- Kick off Fall Sunday School
- Share events/updates from our ministry teams

So, please plan to attend our next Unity Brunch on **Sunday, September 10 at 9:45 a.m.** If you have not already signed up to bring something (fruit, bread/sweet, casserole or juice/milk), receive food, or clean up, please call or email Teddi ([teddi@holytrinitygastonia.org](mailto:teddi@holytrinitygastonia.org)) to do so. As the saying goes, many hands make for light work!



### *A Gaston-Area Celebration!*

2017 is the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther's nailing of the 95 Theses to the door at Wittenburg Castle on October 31, 1517. This action is considered to be the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century Reformation, an event which changed the Church and the world. Holy Trinity will host a pan-Lutheran celebration on **Sunday, October 29 at 6:30 p.m.**, followed by a time of refreshments and fellowship. We'll share more information in October, but for now, you can put the date on your calendar. We anticipate having a mass choir from all the churches to help lead worship. Chris Murphy is already making plans for a brass quintet.

Our guest preacher will be **Pastor John Bollinger**, famous in Gaston County for all his years of service in Dallas, and especially famous among Holy Trinity folks as our interim pastor in 2003-2005. Plan to join us, and bring a Lutheran friend!!

## COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### *Consideration for Calling an Associate Pastor*



At the July church council meeting, we had a candid discussion to consider calling an Associate Pastor to Holy Trinity. When our discussion ended, we agreed to continue to be in prayer and to discern the direction that God was moving us in. On Wednesday, August 2, a congregational forum was held to continue this discussion. Over forty disciples attended the meeting and their questions and concerns were addressed by members of church council and Lee Stadther, Church Treasurer. Here are some of the highlights from the meeting:

**Why call an Associate Pastor?** – In 2015, an ad hoc staffing committee recommended to the church council to move toward three fulltime positions what would encompass all ministry leadership roles: a Lead Pastor, an Associate Pastor and a Director of Music and Christian Education. In addition to the pastoral duties of leading worship, preaching, visitation, the Associate Pastor would also be the lead staff member of children and youth ministries. We recognized that over the past 3-years, the instability in leadership of our children's and youth programs have resulted in numerous families leaving Holy Trinity. A called pastor in this position would provide not only the parents, but the children and youth the commitment to their long term spiritual growth.

**Can we afford an Associate Pastor?** – This question in many forms, was the leading concern from those present at the forum. The addition to the annual budget of calling an Associate Pastor, depending on their years of experience, would be approximately \$25,000. To meet these budgetary needs in 2018 would require the congregation to increase their current giving by 6%, by individuals increasing their giving and by new disciples joining our congregation. This increase to the 2018 budget does not affect our construction loan payment to the *More Than Bricks Campaign*. Through our current giving towards this campaign, the loan payments are being met without the help of our operating budget.

It was also brought up that in 2010, we had to rescind the call of an Associate Pastor because we could no longer afford two pastors. We recognize that the events of 2010 are no longer present within our congregation. As our congregation continues to grow, we need to be prepared to meet the growing needs of all family's pastoral and spiritual needs.

**What is the next step in calling an Associate Pastor?** – As in all things, our first response is to be in prayer, not only for our congregation and our finances, but also the person God is preparing to answer our call if it is His will. At our August council meeting, the council discussed the conversations over the past month and have decided to ask the Personnel Committee to form a Call Committee and revise the job description to meet our congregational needs. Our desire is not to rush this process as we recognize that all things are in God's timing and not our own.

We have been blessed as a congregation through the internship of Vicar Jason. However, we must remember that his internship is over in January. He anticipates entering the call process in October

*(Continued on page 3)*

for his first call. The congregation is not discussing with him a potential call to Holy Trinity until he is approved to enter the call process and we ask that the congregation respectfully allow him to dedicate his time to his internship and ministering our disciples. If he is approved to enter the call process and wishes to talk to our call committee, he would be considered as any other candidate based upon the needs of our congregation.

As we continue in this process, if you have any questions or concerns, we ask that you reach out to the church council.

## **Blessings in Christ,**

---

### **PASTOR'S PEN**



Dear Brothers and Sisters of Holy Trinity,

As we are approaching Reformation Sunday, the familiar scripture texts for that day are already running through my mind: Jesus said, *“If you continue in my Word you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”* I believe these truly are the words of the current reformation that Holy Trinity is experiencing. We are undergoing a change from a church of “members” to a church of “disciples.” Jesus qualifies “disciples” as people who continue in his Word. To be “in his Word” means that his Word is “in” you. Daily reading/listening of God’s Word is a necessity for followers or disciples of Jesus.

One morning recently, I stopped by the shop of a friend of mine who showed some interest in the things of God a while ago. The Holy Spirit was at work, and my friend developed an appetite for God. That morning I noticed his Bible on his workbench. We talked about it, and he told me that he gets up at 4:00 a.m. every morning to read scripture and pray. Imagine my joy for him when he told me that!! A person who was once far from God is now Jesus’ disciple!!

Each Monday afternoon, we have a staff meeting at the church office. I begin the meeting the same way each week: “How has God spoken to you today?” And we go around the circle sharing how God has spoken. Now, do we really hear God speak? YES!! Maybe not with an audible voice, but he speaks through his written Word and through prayer with him. As you can see, my expectation for our church staff is that they be in God’s Word daily.

That’s my same hope for you too. Since Holy Trinity is going through a reformation of becoming a church of “disciples,” that means we must become a church of people who are in God’s Word daily so we can hear our Lord and Master speak to us. How about you?

**Knowing, Loving and Sharing Christ,**  
*Pastor Brack*

## MIDWEEK MANNA

### *Returns on Wednesdays Beginning September 13!!!*

During the school year, when schedules are little more regular, we have weekly ministry opportunities on Wednesday evenings. Beginning September 13 at 6:30 p.m., we'll have these opportunities:

- **Children's Ministry (BYG= "Building Youth Groups")** Jaimie Cline and friends will be helping our children grow in Christ and have fun doing it. A nursery is also provided for ages 0 - 3.
- Existing **Wednesday Life Groups** will resume.
- **New Opportunities!!!**

--**A Study of Luther's Small Catechism** (Led by Vicar Jason) The Small Catechism contains the basic theology of the Lutheran Church. Actually all Christians should know what's in this document. Come and see if you'd like to learn or be refreshed.

--**A Bible Study on the book of Mark** (Led by Chris Murphy) Beginning in Advent of 2017, we will begin reading systematically through the Gospel of Mark in worship. This study will be good preparation to hear and learn God's Word now, and have it reinforced in worship later.

--**Financial Peace University** This world-famous video-based course by Dave Ramsey will be facilitated by Pastor Brack. Imagine the freedom to live for God and be generous to all if you had no financial debt! This course provided a systematic way to rid yourself of financial debt for the purposes of God's Kingdom, and it provides encouragement and accountability along the way. Advance registration is required; Watch for additional information...



### SONSHINERS TO MEET TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

The first annual gathering of the Holy Trinity SONshiners will be a "dutch" luncheon meeting on Tuesday, September 12 at Milano's from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Come prepared to give your input into this year's programs. **All Holy Trinity disciples are invited to the luncheon and to join this Christian Service ministry of the church.**

---

### HOLY TRINITY FALL YARD WORK DAY!

**Saturday, September 16**

**8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**



We have several yard work items that need attention! Can you help?

Please consider helping for just 1 hour!

Bring your gloves, rakes, wheel barrows, trimmers, blower-vacs, etc..

Questions: Contact Jim Green



## WELCOME TO ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL!

*“So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:41-42)*

As the book of Acts records, the early followers of Christ did not view being a Christian as a “one and done” event. It is a journey in which we devote ourselves to God and to each other. There are many ways to grow as disciples, but one of the easiest to do it here at Holy Trinity is to plug into Sunday School.

Now, I know that the last thing most people want to do is go to school on a Sunday. However, our time together is so much more than that. This time allows us to take a small fraction out of our day in order to pray together, study God’s word together, and pour into each other as we learn to be better followers of Christ. Some of the classes going on right now include:

- Do Drop In Class – Old Testament Characters
- Back to Basics – Catechism
- Young Adults – First Corinthians
- Upper Room- Patriarchs

So, for those of you who are new or have yet to plug into a Sunday School class for various reasons, welcome! We want to encourage you to join. If you would like help plugging in somewhere, please feel free to contact me at [Chris@holytrinitygastonia.org](mailto:Chris@holytrinitygastonia.org) or 980-613-0444.

**Peace,  
Chris Murphy**

---

## CHRISMON MINISTRY INVITES PARTICIPANTS

*Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Sundays*



In order to meet its quota of making enough Chrismons for the three Chrismon trees for this year's Advent season, ministry participants voted to meet from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. the first and third Sundays of September through November. The sessions this month will be in the PLC gym on Sundays, September 3 and 17. Please plan to join us! Newcomers are always welcome.

Don't forget to help support the ministry with your donations by dedicating Chrismons in memory or in honor of your family members or past saints of Holy Trinity. The envelopes are on the tree in the PLC or in the pews in the sanctuary.

**CHANGING LIVES WITH LOVE**  
*Supporting York Chester Middle School*

*“Thank you again for all that everyone has done, it has been a HUGE blessing.  
 I am so thankful for all you have done and continue to do for the students of Y.C.”*

The message above is from the social worker from York Chester Middle School. Thank you for your show of love, your prayers and your gifts for these children.

Another school year has begun and the opportunity to bless the children in our Holy Trinity neighborhood continues. Holy Trinity will continue to partner with the social worker to find out what basic hygiene items and school supplies may be needed by the children. We will announce and target two to three most pressing needs each month but of course you are welcome to contribute any of the items that are ongoing needs at any time. There is a general item list posted in the PLC hallway by the York Chester School box and it will be updated as we are made aware of a new or different need.

For September age appropriate backpacks, new and gently used, are requested for the ages 11- 14.

Thank you again for your compassion and generous hearts !

---

**LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

Lutheran Family Services is in need of **art supplies (no crayons, please), craft supplies, puzzles, games, etc.** for use by the residents of the Mountain Ridge home in Gastonia when they visit the Faith Farm home in Dallas. Your donations may be given to Dennis or Cynthia Mercer, personally or placed in the Lingle Sunday Class PLC 25.

---

**MENTORS NEEDED**

Can you spare one hour during the week to have lunch with a student at Lingerfeldt (or another school in our community?) We have so many students in our county who need someone to come alongside them to be a listening ear, play a game, and just take an interest in them.

Mentors come in all shapes and sizes; from high school seniors to retirees! The one requirement is a serving, loving heart and the desire to help a child during their formative years. The time commitment is small, but the results are life changing for both mentor and mentee. I've been mentoring for five years, and have been tremendously shaped by these experiences.

Are you willing to make a difference? Please prayerfully consider partnering with us for the good of a child! If so, please contact Cody at 704-648-5841.

**Thank you,  
 Cody Carpenter**

## 2018 ENDOWMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE SEPTEMBER 15!

The 2018 Endowment Grant Application process is currently underway with submission of applications **due Friday, September 15**. The funding categories are: 1) Capital, 2) Scholarships, 3) Outreach and 4) Missions. For questions or applications, contact the Church office or any member of the Endowment Committee: Margaret Falls Hayes, Janet Green, Bob Ferguson, Gwen Nenninger, Craig Kluttz.

---

### RISE AGAINST HUNGER UPDATE

Thank you all that participated in the Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event. It was a huge success! **We had over 70 volunteers and we packed well over 10,000 meals.** In fact, we had so many volunteers that we were able to pack a few more for another local church that was not able to finish packing their meals for another event. Also, if you have not seen it yet, our event made the local newspaper! I encourage you all to take a look at it and see the witness we were able to be to our community as well. Thanks be to God!

---

### GUATEMALA 2018

#### *Trip to the Casa Bernabe Orphanage next February*

Are you interested in going to Guatemala on our next mission trip? We have been serving at the Casa Bernabe Orphanage for the past ten years, and have established a good relationship with the staff and children there. We love visiting them, and serving them in whatever way is needed! There is always a very wide variety of tasks to be done: painting, light construction, child-care, gardening, playing... God always seems to assemble the right skills on the team for each year's work.

Spanish language speaking is a plus, but is not necessary. Enough people speak English at the orphanage to help us communicate. (But the kids pretend like they can't, just to have fun with us!)

Would you like to learn more? Then please speak with Pastor Brack and plan to attend the information meeting on **Tuesday, September 12 at 7:00 p.m.**

---

### ELVIS RETURNS TO HOLY TRINITY

#### *Our Next Blood Drive Will Be Monday, October 23*

We raced to Holy Trinity for our June blood drive, but Elvis Pressley says he's "Stuck on Holy Trinity's blood drive". So he's returning for a visit. He says to tell Holy Trinity to have the October 23<sup>rd</sup> blood drive "Always on Their Mind" and put it on your calendar.



## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FOR AUGUST



*At the August 21 meeting of the Church Council, the following actions were taken:*

1. Discussed chapter nine in the book “Spiritual Leadership,” a book the Council is reading through in 2017
2. Received financial reports on offerings and expenditures to date
3. Received Anita Stiles as a new member of the Council, replacing Brian O’Donohue
4. Approved the reception of New Disciples at the September 10, Unity Brunch
5. Approved hosting a Gaston-area Reformation worship service and reception at Holy Trinity on October 29. It is being planned by NALC churches, but an invitation will be extended to all Lutheran churches in the area
6. Discussed comments received from the congregation at the August 2 forum, where the possibility of calling an associate was presented
7. Made the decision to enter into the call process to call an Associate Pastor. The Call Committee and Job Description are to be finalized by the time of the September Council meeting
8. Received an update on the Organist search process
9. Heard reports on progress toward SMART goals from the following ministry teams: Care Team, Worship and Music Committee, Global Outreach Committee
10. Received reports from staff members

---

### **THANK YOU TO OUR INTERIM ORGANIST, JOSH HERMAN!**

#### *Josh’s Last Sunday: September 10*

Josh Herman has done a great job helping us worship in the past ten months! He has served as our organist since last November. When he came, we knew and he knew it would be a temporary situation. We are glad he has been able to play for us as long as he has. Now he is taking a full-time job which requires Sunday work, so he’s not able to play any longer. His last Sunday with us will be September 10. Please reach out and tell Josh how his playing has helped you worship God.

Going forward: The Personnel Committee has posted our job opening for a permanent organist in various places, and is now receiving applications. Networking and word of mouth may be the way we connect with our next organist. If you know of a faithful, skilled organist, please let them know we are hiring!

## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JULY

*And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. (2 Cor. 9:8 NRSV)*

Disciples of Christ reflect his generosity. As we grow in our relationship with Jesus, we are discovering just how generous He is, and we are amazed at the resources that are released for ministry through us. In the Herald, we'll continue to show our monthly offerings, compared with our monthly budgeted ministry plan, as a reason for celebration of the work that God is doing through us. Ask yourself, "What amount of my income or wealth is God calling me to give?" If you feel God calling you to give generously to the ministries at Holy Trinity, please answer God's call!

Noted below we show our year-to-date offerings through July compared with our year-to-date 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-to-date:</b>	<b>\$297,199</b>
<b>Budget-to-date for Ministries:</b>	<b>\$341,020</b>
<b>Difference:</b>	<b>(\$43,821) or behind 12.85%</b>
<b>Gifts Received for January - July 2016:</b>	<b>\$291,090.</b>



*Please note that our giving-to-date is slightly greater than it was through the first seven months of last year.*

As you can see, our giving levels have improved for 2017. We are still behind on our target giving but have made much improvement towards this goal. A statement of giving through June 30<sup>th</sup> was sent to each home last month. I hope each household has taken the time to review it and see how you're doing for the year versus how you planned or pledged to give. **Help improve our financial position by making "catch-up" gifts for the missed Sundays and keeping current on your offerings.**

We have tremendous work to be done in 2017 and our ministry plan is one way God works through Holy Trinity to serve the community and the world! I would encourage each member of our congregation to continue to make your commitments earlier as we have much work that needs to be done this year. **So now, we are lifting up our financial need to you, prayerfully trusting that you will see the need and respond as God gives you the ability and desire.** We have a God of abundance who can meet the needs of his ministries---and God does that through willing disciples who follow him.

**Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of Holy Trinity,  
Lee Stadther  
Church Treasurer 2017**



## NALC: 2017 CONVOCATION HIGHLIGHTS

This year's NALC Convocation was held in Nashville, Tennessee in August and Holy Trinity had seven people attending! Our voting delegates were Donna Allen, Dick Jansak and Pastor Brack. Vicar Jason attended the full week as our intern. Also, Dick's wife, Linda Albright, attended as a guest, as did John and Linda Renick. John is also an NALC seminarian. Main events of the week were: Two days on Youth Ministry, sessions on Women's Ministry, theological lectures, a Mission Festival with guest speakers from around the world and the Convocation which is the annual business meeting of the NALC. The main items of business were:

- Made a decision to keep the Bishop election procedure the same
- Approved a budget for 2018
- Elected leaders to the Executive Council and Court of Adjudication.
- Along the way there were many interesting and dynamic speakers.

For more detailed information see the August Newsletter of the NALC at: <https://www.thenalc.org/wp-content/uploads/News/2017/NALC-August-2017.pdf>

---

### NALC CONVOCATION FROM A DELEGATE'S PERSPECTIVE

On August 9 – 11, I had the privilege of representing Holy Trinity as a delegate at the 2017 NALC Convocation in Nashville, TN. The theme of this year's convocation was *"Holding Fast, Being (Re)formed."* Over 656 clergy, delegates, lay leaders and visitors were in attendance and you could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit presence throughout the three days.

We were reminded of Martin Luther's bold proclamation of faith as he nailed his 95 Theses to the doors of Wittenberg Castle. Martin Luther's two central beliefs, that the Bible is the central religious authority and that salvation is reached by faith, not by deeds, is as relevant today as it was 500 years ago. In a culture that does not believe or share our faith or values, we must be bold in our faith and hold fast to our convictions to uphold the written word of God.

One of the things I enjoyed most was listening to leaders from within the Lutheran Church, the Roman Catholic Church and the Presbyterian Church of America provide insight on how the reformation forever changed how we worship and believe. The NALC's focus on discipleship making was a central theme throughout the Convocation and was reinforced through Bible studies and workshops.

I would like to thank the congregation for allowing me the opportunity to represent Holy Trinity at this year's Convocation. I am very excited in the leadership of the NALC and the direction we are moving in. As we mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, we are again reminded how the pounding of a nail, can give us hope for a future and the assurance of salvation.

**Blessings in Christ,  
Donna Allen**

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

### September Circle Meetings



<b>Circle of Patience:</b>	Tuesday, September 5	6:30 p.m.	Room 25
	Program: LaVerne Davis		
	Hostesses: Dinner - All members/Bring school supply donations		
<b>Circle of Goodness:</b>	Thursday, September 14	10:00 a.m.	Room 25
	Program: Marie Ferguson		
	Hostess: Tess Gibbons		

---

### Day Trip to Crossnore School & Children's Home

**Please join us on Friday, September 22** for a day trip to Crossnore, in the beautiful North Carolina Mountains! We will depart from Holy Trinity at 9:00 a.m. and travel to Crossnore school and Children's Home for a tour of their campus. We will also:

- View Ben Long's fresco "Suffer the little children" in the historic Sloop Chapel
- Shop at Blair Fraley sales store and the Fine Arts gallery
- Observe Weavers at work in the weaving Museum
- Experience quiet time (if you choose) and walk the Labyrinth beside the museum
- Enjoy a delicious lunch from Miracle Grounds Coffee shop and Café (all purchased benefit the school and children's home)

Reservations are required by September 17. Please contact Barbara Kies: [Kiesb@ahoo.com](mailto:Kiesb@ahoo.com) or call/text 704-477-0672. The church vans have been reserved and upon your reservation, a menu choice will be offered. Additional info about the school is available in the narthex and Welcome Center.

---

### Carolinas Lutheran Women Annual Convocation

The Carolinas Lutheran Women Annual Convocation will be held on Saturday, September 30 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Lexington, SC. The theme for this year's event is "Living as 'SON' Flowers." All women of Holy Trinity are invited to attend. If you are interested in attending, please fill out the registration form on page 19 and give it to LaVerne Davis no later than Sun., 9/17.

---

### Prayer Shawl Ministry



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will resume meeting on Sunday, September 10. Meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 4:00 p.m. in Room 22 of the PLC. (For September, that will be the 10th and 24th.) If you don't know how to knit or crochet, we will teach you.

**Join us for some Sunday afternoon fun!**

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



**It's going to be a great school year!** Families and children are establishing new routines and we are doing the same with children's ministries. Our calendar for fall is full of fellowship, fun and faith this year. In September, children transition into their new Sunday school classes and start working on our community enrichment projects. Our first big event of September is the Faith On Fire full youth bonfire and camp-in. Elementary school, middle school & high school students are all encouraged to come out and enjoy fellowship, s'mores, and a campfire as we celebrate, talk about and pray over the new school year. We would love to have as many prayer partners join us as possible for the campfire as well. We are kicking off B.Y.G. and continuing our children's choir in early September and have some great fun planned for families and kids throughout the month.

As always, I ask that you continue to pray for the children in our church and those in the community. We had the wonderful opportunity to share some fellowship and lessons about Christ to the Faith Hope & Love summer feeding program participants. A group of 30 kids ranging in age from 4-18 joined us on our field trip to the Billy Graham Library and many were touched by the experience. Having the chance to teach children in the community about God's love and the wonderful salvation we are offered through Jesus was empowering and humbling at the same time. Many of these children come from broken, impoverished homes and have very little knowledge of grace, forgiveness or faith. As we continue to build relationships with those in our immediate community, I ask that you pray that we will be a vessel to pour out God's love and share all that we know of God's grace and that we will be received with open hearts, spirits and minds by the children and families we encounter.

I am so grateful to all of the disciples here for your willingness to help impact our children in a positive way. So many people are responsible for helping shape this ministry and your passion for doing so is heartwarming and always encouraging. I can't wait to share more of the children's ministries with all the disciples at Holy Trinity. Have a Happy Fall Y'all!

**In Christ's Love,  
Jaimie Cline**

## September Events:

- September 8: "Faith On Fire" ~ Bonfire & Camp-In (prayer partners needed)
- September 10: Rally Day! Sunday School Kick-Off
- September 23: Carowinds Christian Music Day (Ordering tickets Sept 3 - payment due Sept 3)
- September 27: "See You At The Pole" (Kids gather at the flag pole to pray before school)



**October ~ Sneak Peek!**

October 1:	Cleveland County Fair Afternoon Trip
October 4:	Taco Dinner
October 14:	Cotton Ginning Days Family Fun Day
October 21:	Trip to the Pumpkin Patch
October 27:	Autumn Fest @ HTLC (Disciple assistants needed)

---



**YOUTH**

**Ministry**



**Youth and Parent Meeting:** Our SNL schedule is creeping up on us, and we want to all start off on the same page! **We would like for ALL YOUTH and THEIR PARENTS to meet on Sunday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m.** We will discuss a range of topics, and we will provide plenty of time to listen to any thoughts, ideas, or concerns you might have. We look forward to seeing and hearing from you there!

**SNL (Sunday Night Live) Resumes on September 17!**

6:00	Confirmation and High School Bible Study
6:45	Supper
7:15	Fun and Fellowship
8:00	Dismiss

***Invite a friend (or two) to join you - we are going to have an awesome time!***

---

**CONFIRMATION MINISTRY**  
*Middle School and 9<sup>th</sup> Grade*



Confirmation Ministry is an important part of the spiritual formation of our youth. At Holy Trinity, we have a 2+ year process to help our young people become prepared to publicly affirm their faith in Jesus. Key parts of this preparation are: Study of the Small Catechism, Scripture memory verses, overview of the Bible's main narrative, Reformation History and bible study methods. A week at Confirmation Camp helps teach key topics such as sin and forgiveness, worship, Holy Spirit and telling others about Jesus. This year's ministry will be:

Middle School:	Sunday evenings during SNL at 6pm with Vicar Jason (Parents do not attend this year; that's our every-other year plan)
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Sunday mornings during Sunday School with Pastor Brack

***Parents: Watch for a mailing to come soon...***

## LIFE GROUPS

### *Re-boot Coming in January*



Life Groups are small ministry groups within Holy Trinity which have the following goals: 1) Study of God's Word, 2) Fellowship and 3) Outreach. In 2010, we began twelve Life Groups, and they had a tremendous impact on the spiritual growth of Holy Trinity. But it's important to know that all small groups have a "lifetime." The average life span of a group is about 18 months. So it's amazing that we still have four of our original twelve groups going!

We will be working to create a number of new Life Groups in early 2018. It's important to note that the "Life" part of the name doesn't mean "*they last your whole life,*" but rather "Life" means "*where people 'do life' together.*" During the Fall, we'll be training people as Life Group leaders, and then later in the fall we'll begin organizing the groups. Because there is so much benefit for individuals to be in a Life Group, and so much benefit for Holy Trinity as a whole, we will be encouraging each person to consider joining a Life Group. Watch for more to come....

## HOME COMMUNION VISITATION MINISTRY

### *September Visitors*



Each month, we send out two teams of visitors, and either Vicar Jason or Pastor Brack, to visit all our homebound disciples, and to bring them the bread and wine of Holy Communion. This is an important Gospel ministry and an important fellowship ministry we share. This month's visitors are: Tess Gibbons & Marian Clemmer, and Dale Christman & Cody Carpenter.

## *Hospital* *Visitation*

August 20 - September 2	Tess Gibbons
September 3 - 16	John & Sarah Waldrop
September 17 - 30	Kay Peak

## SPECIAL SAINTS OF HOLY TRINITY

*Please help us wish these disciples a happy birthday by sending them a card!*

- **Mason Carpenter** will celebrate his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on October 17!  
1503 Spencer Mountain Road, Gastonia NC 28054
- **Christine Smith** will celebrate her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on October 25!  
1351 Robinwood Rd Apt B-306, Gastonia NC 28054



## MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

The Men's Ministry will be holding a Meal & Movie night Saturday, November 11. We plan to watch the movie "The Shack" after enjoying a meal and fellowship together! We will also discuss plans on how to enhance our Men's ministry for the rest of this year and 2018. Please mark this date on your calendar and be thinking of any ministry opportunities, outreach to the community, or fun events. We need your input and ideas!! Questions? Contact Bob Barnhill or John Long.

- 
- **Dave Henderson**, hospitalized due to heart issues
  - **Ana Mathews**, following surgery on 8/22 for colon cancer
  - **Doyle Janssen**, continued struggles with pulmonary fibrosis
  - **Karen McGill**, recovering from heart procedures on 8/23
  - **Tia Hinds**, for healing of brain lesions so that surgery will not be needed
  - **Ray Sparks**, recovering after knee replacement surgery on 8/14
  - **Jo Carole Carson**, recovering at Stanley TLC after ankle surgery
  - **Darriel Link**, recovering at Peak Resources after surgery
  - **Rick Jones**, for continued heart health
  - **Pastor Kitty Tompkins**, at the death of her husband Dave on 8/19
  - **Craig Kluttz and family**, at the death of his mother, Ruth, on 8/17
  - **Richard Teumer and family**, at the recent death of his cousin, Lorraine Miller
  - **For Holy Trinity**, for the right organist and custodian to be led to our ministry
  - **Homebound**: Caroline Banker, Anne Beam, Mason Carpenter, Ann Keyser, Dave Lemke, Betty Leonhardt, Tom Novinc, Martha Smith, Richard Teumer, Joyce Wallace, Mary Wood
  - **Francis Essic**, Martha Williard's father, healing for broken elbow
  - **Derek Stadther and Sarah Ware**, praise & prayers for blessings at their marriage on 9/2
  - **For the unsaved, and for the Holy Spirit to work in the spirit of all HT Disciples**, giving us a passion to share Christ
  - **Susan**, friend of Tess Gibbons, diagnosed with cirrhosis of the liver
  - **Lena**, 4 year old diagnosed with aggressive sarcoma; requested by Pepie Jones
  - **Maddox**, 6 year old scheduled for surgery on 9/21 for a brain tumor; requested by Joan Rickle
  - **Michael Reid and his father Terry**, while they are apart and Terry recovers at Bryan Center
  - **Pastor Andrew Brunson**, for assurance of God's love and for release from prison in Turkey
  - **Marsha Osborn**, co-worker of Ana Mathews, cancer surgery on 9/18
  - **Katie Darnell**, after surgery 8/17 to have both kidneys removed and begin dialysis. Prayers requested by Katrina Hinds
  - **Robin Simmons**, daughter of Iris Work, for overall health
  - **Family & friends serving in the military**: Christa Beam (New Jersey), Wayne Letts (Ft. Hood, TX), Luke Saylor (unknown location), Brett Boyd (Ft. Hood, TX), Roger Hamm (Saudi Arabia), Stephanie Newton Vogel (Cuba), Bessie Evans (Japan)





Jessica and I would like to thank you all for the outpouring of love and support you have given us with my grandmother's passing. These moments are always hard, but the love shown to us by all of you was a strong reminder and reflection of God's love for us. We are very grateful to be a part of the Holy Trinity family and thank you all.

***Christ's blessings, Vicar Jason***

Dear Holy Trinity Family,

Thank for your prayers and words of encouragement during my mother's recent health issues. She is recovering well and sends you her love and appreciation. I am feeling especially blessed because God not only heard your prayers but he also reminded me what a loving, praying church family I have.

***Love to you, Amy Carpenter***

To my Holy Trinity Family,

I would like to thank each and every one of you for all your kindness, words of comfort, cards, phone calls, visits, and especially your prayers prior to, during and after my neck surgery. I am so blessed to have such a loving and caring church family who knows, loves and shares Christ. I am very grateful to be able to return to worship.

***Love and blessings to all, David Fogle***

## **SERVING THE KINGDOM BY SERVING THE CHURCH**

***WE are a loving and giving congregation!***

***August ~ Thank You!***



**To everyone** who participated in our *Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing Event* on Sunday, 8/6! 75 participants packed 10,000 meals. These meals will be used to feed children in schools in developing countries. What a great witness!!!

**To everyone** who participated in our *Family Promise Week*, July 31 - August 7!

Set up & Break down = 8 disciples

Overnight Hosts = 14 disciples

Breakfast = 7 families

Dinner = 4 families, (2) Life Groups, Children's Ministry

Laundry = 5 disciples

Hosts for Dinner = 6 families, Children's Ministry

**To all our "Merry Maids"** who met twice to clean the PLC kitchen. It looks awesome!

**To Bob Barnhill and John Long**, for organizing the *Family Fun Day* in Blowing Rock on 8/12!

**To everyone** who attended our *Prayer Gathering* on 8/17!

**To Amy Carpenter**, for overseeing our Welcome Center Team and Welcome Center Design Team! Watch for changes in the PLC Lobby in the near future...

## HOLY TRINITY “MERRY MAIDS”



- What does 2 hours, 1 hard scrubbing “Merry Maid”, and 1 can of *Eazy Off* take to clean? That would be the big stove in the our PLC kitchen. The hard scrubbing “Merry Maid” would be our own [Annemarie Couture!](#)
- What is it like to clean and organize the large church pantry? Ask [Sarah Waldrop](#) the answer to that question!
- When was the last time all the dishes in our kitchen were washed at one time? [Carla McMahan and Elizabeth Leatherman](#) know the answer to that question!
- Has all the silverware in our kitchen been washed all at one time? Ask [Amy East and Janet Green](#) for that answer!
- What is it like to wash the walls and all the windows in our kitchen? You can find that answer by asking [Betty Blalock!](#)
- How sharp are all the knives in our kitchen? Well now, [Joel Henry](#) can answer that question!
- If you don’t like cleaning out your own refrigerator/freezer, who would volunteer to clean out the church’s? The answer to that question is [Anita Stiles and Amy East!](#)
- Did you know we had copper pots? Well, we do, and [John Walker](#) made sure we knew!
- Have you ever put together shelving? Well, [Anita Stiles and Sarah Waldrop](#) can now answer “yes” to that question, because they put together the new shelves that hold our pots and pans!
- In a kitchen, when you clean, do you leave out cleaning the drawers? Well, [LaVerne Davis](#) thought the answer to that was “no,” so she cleaned out all the drawers!
- What about the convection oven? Well, [Alex Johnson](#) will take care of that....

Why am I asking all these questions? Well, on the second Thursday of July and the second Thursday in August, our own “Holy Trinity Merry Maids” - [Betty Blalock](#), [Annemarie Couture](#), [LaVerne Davis](#), [Amy East](#), [Janet Green](#), [Elizabeth Leatherman](#), [Carla McMahan](#), [Anita Stiles](#) and [Sarah Waldrop](#) – put our kitchen on their radar. They saw a need and stepped up to the task. And, what a job they did!!!! By the way, don’t bother asking, they don’t hire out!!!! But, OUR KITCHEN is the cleanest it’s been in years.

Please take time to go by the kitchen and see the changes, and be sure to thank these ladies and men for their hard work.

But, you can thank them in another way. Please take care of our kitchen by cleaning up anything you use and putting it back in its place.

But, most of all, **THANK YOU “HOLY TRINITY MERRY MAIDS.”**



# Upcoming Birthdays

*With special joy, we recognize and celebrate these birthdays in the months of September & October. 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.*



- 3 Demetrius Green, Heather Green
- 4 Taylor Barnes
- 6 Molly Heffner, Brylyn Norton, Daniel Rickle
- 7 Butch Kerns
- 8 Margaret Hayes, Heidi Kelt
- 9 Jim Guffey, Justin Henry
- 11 Erin Barnhill, Ryan Currie, Jody Kinley, Jill Scot-Cochran, Cameron Strang
- 12 Stephen Lineberry, Debbie Long, Kathy Wallace
- 13 Phylliss Froneberger, Donna Kerns, Boyce Kinley
- 14 Shirley Anderson, Kenric Barnes
- 15 Debbie Brackett, Alison Henry, Tyann Johnson
- 18 Nancy Sparks
- 19 Kaye Adams, Steve Allen, Morayo Orija
- 20 Ben Bogle
- 23 Bryson Rupp
- 25 Austen Kellar
- 27 Amy East, Michelle Lanier
- 28 LaRae Campbell
- 29 Susan Black, Richard Waits
- 30 Betty Janssen

- 1 Edie Lindley, John Sautner
- 2 Franklin Bogle, Wesley Franklin, Greg Hollifield, Ashlyn Oakes
- 4 Jon Michael Brackett, Chase Messick
- 7 Lily Medlin, John Walker
- 8 Chad Silverstrim
- 9 Pamm Nolen, Ray Sparks
- 12 Carla McMahan, Zachary Silverstrim
- 14 Steve Lanier, Mick McMahan, Jennifer Sutley
- 15 Sara Carpenter, Brooke Weatherford
- 16 Cheryl Foley, Carol Pope
- 17 Mason Carpenter, Danny Godwin, Lisa Kellar, Kay Peak
- 18 Josh Smith
- 19 Margo Frye
- 20 Rhett Hudson, Dick Jansak, Ken Weatherford
- 25 Steve Cochran, Bobby Frye, Christine Smith
- 27 Darrell Wyatt
- 29 Corrie Cloninger, Dave Lemke
- 30 John Pope
- 31 Susanne Ratz

*Did we miss your birthday? If your birthday is incorrect, or you have a birthday in September/October and your name was not on this list, please call the church office (704-864-0378). Thank You!*



**CAROLINAS LUTHERAN WOMEN'S (CLW) REGISTRATION FORM**

Saturday, September 30, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
1130 St. Peter's Road, Lexington, SC 29072

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please choose **TWO** Breakout Sessions that you would like to attend.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Share Sheet – Project/Meeting Ideas from other Congregations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bible Study Resources Available to your Congregations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Rejuvenate, Inspire and Refresh your Circle Meetings
- \_\_\_\_\_ Youth Evangelism and Witnessing

**All Women of Holy Trinity are invited to attend this Convocation! If you are interested, please fill out this registration form and get it to LaVerne Davis by Sunday, September 17.**

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE PAID  
GASTONIA, NC  
PERMIT NO 146

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



---

## Knowing, Loving and Sharing Christ

Phone: 704-864-0378 Fax: 704-864-4959

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

### MINISTRY STAFF

Lead Pastor  
Vicar  
Pastor to Seniors  
Director of Music Ministries  
Interim Organist  
Children's Ministry Director  
Church Office Administrator  
Facility & Ministry Administrator  
Custodian  
Nursery Supervisor

Braxton East  
Jason Dampier  
Kitty Rankin  
Chris Murphy  
Josh Herman  
Jaimie Cline  
Teddi Daniels  
Ellie Holloway  
Richard McDonald  
Chelsea Gainer, Kathy Sisk

[brack@holytrinitygastonia.org](mailto:brack@holytrinitygastonia.org)  
[jason@holytrinitygastonia.org](mailto:jason@holytrinitygastonia.org)  
[kitty@holytrinitygastonia.org](mailto:kitty@holytrinitygastonia.org)  
[chris@holytrinitygastonia.org](mailto:chris@holytrinitygastonia.org)  
[joshuaherman116@gmail.com](mailto:joshuaherman116@gmail.com)  
[jaimie@holytrinitygastonia.org](mailto:jaimie@holytrinitygastonia.org)  
[teddi@holytrinitygastonia.org](mailto:teddi@holytrinitygastonia.org)  
[ellie@holytrinitygastonia.org](mailto:ellie@holytrinitygastonia.org)