

HIGHLIGHTS

THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE *of* HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2023

Mardi Gras Celebration

Featuring internationally-acclaimed Bengisu Gokce Quartet

See related article and photos on pages 16-17

ARTS @ HOLY TRINITY



**FREE
Concert!**
*This is our gift to
the community.*

Alice McAllister Tillman, soprano

with Maurice Draughn, pianist/harpist

Sunday, March 12, 4 p.m.

Alice McAllister Tillman is known for her ability to perform a diverse range of literature spanning many genres. Her solo recitals include art songs, operatic arias, spirituals, musical theater and jazz. She is frequently engaged in oratorio and symphonic presentations. A long-standing member and now Artistic Director of the award-winning Brazeal Dennard Chorale, Tillman loves teaching K-post-graduate students. Maurice Draughn is an arranger and composer of music for the harp, voice and choir. He performs regularly in solo and chamber recitals.

This concert will be given in honor of Joan and Ted Lettvin, co-founders of PAA (Performing Artist Associates) of New England and PAA of the Great Lakes.

WATCH THE LIVE STREAM
artsholytrinity.org

ATTEND IN-PERSON
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Doors open 30 minutes prior. For details, visit artsholytrinity.org.

Funding for the 2022-2023 Arts @ Holy Trinity provided by



**HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

artsholytrinity.org





Pastor Becki Verbridge

The Season of Lent has begun: our annual forty day journey toward Easter. We spend those days praying that God will remake us from the inside out. We gather at the start of that journey – on Ash Wednesday – marking our foreheads with a smudge of ash to remind ourselves that we are nothing more than creatures of the earth who will someday die and return to the earth. More than that, we consider how we might better live the lives we have been given, while we still have time.

Frederick Buechner, one of my favorite authors and theologians, writes this about Lent in his book, *Beyond Words*:

“In many cultures there is an ancient custom of giving a tenth of each year’s income to some holy use. For Christians, to observe the forty days of Lent is to do the same thing with roughly a tenth of each year’s days. After being baptized by John in the river Jordan, Jesus went off alone into the wilderness, where he spent forty days asking himself the question what it meant to be Jesus. During Lent, Christians are supposed to ask one way or another what it means to be themselves.

“If you had to bet everything you have on whether there is a God or whether there isn’t, which side would get your money and why? When you look at your face in the mirror, what do you see in it that you most like and what do you see in it that you most deplore? If you had only one last message to leave to the handful of people who are most important to you, what would it be in twenty-five words or less? Of all the things you have done in your life, which is the one you would most like to undo? Which is the one that makes you happiest to remember? Is there any person in the world or any cause that, if circumstances called for it, you would be willing to die for? If this were the last day of your life, what would you do with it?

“To hear yourself try to answer questions like these is to begin to hear something not only of who you are, but of both what you are becoming and what you are failing to become. It can be a pretty depressing business all in all, but if sackcloth and ashes are at the start of it, something like Easter may be at the end.”

Consider joining us for this year’s journey to Easter! The following pages will detail some of the paths you might want to try! †

Blessings!
Pastor Becki



Lenten Devotions & Lunch

Etched: beloved Children of God

Join us each Wednesday during Lent for a devotion, reflection, and continued conversation around a light meal at 11:30 a.m. in Room 202. Please sign-up at the Welcome Center so meal arrangements can be made. A free-will offering will be taken to cover costs.

Our devotion series will remind us that we are beloved creations of God. Though unfinished works – somewhat rough drafts of who we are becoming, with all of our flaws and in all of our shortcomings – we are etched on the walls of God’s own heart.

If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Núñez, Director of Faith Formation, rnunez@holyltrintyakron.org, call/text (330) 634-6597. †



Women’s Lenten Retreat

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, March 25, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Cost: \$10 – includes continental breakfast, light lunch, and materials
If you have any questions, please contact
Rachel Núñez, Director of Faith Formation
rnunez@holyltrintyakron.org, call/text (330) 634-6597

Anxiety doesn’t have to be a roadblock to your faith.

You are created for so much more than an anxious life full of fear and worry – you are called to an abundant life of peace and joy as you are transformed by Christ and your mind is renewed day by day.

Find hope amid anxiety through the spiritual practice of breath prayer in this beautifully illustrated and practical guide.

Breath as Prayer will lead you through the practice and the proven health benefits of Christian breath prayer: purposeful prayers centered around Scripture that focus your mind on Christ as you calm your body through intentional breathing. †



Women’s Lenten Retreat 2022



What is Lent?

Lent is the Christian season of holy preparation before Easter. It is the forty-six days from Ash Wednesday until Easter. Traditionally, Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, and giving. There are great variations in the ways Christians celebrate Lent, and many Christians emphasize their own traditions and values. (Traci Smith, *Faithful Families*)

There are devotional materials available to use in personal study or conversation as a family to make this season more meaningful. Please call the church office at (330) 376-5154.

God, as we begin the season of Lent, Easter, and Resurrection, help us look for your presence...

*In prayer, In nature, In one another,
In quiet time alone and time together
with friends & family.*

*Bless our days, that we may grow in faith,
hope, and love. Amen. †*



Monday Evenings during Lent @ 7 p.m. via Zoom

Living Our Baptism – Water & Spirit

Washed in water, sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross, the baptized children of God are united with Christ and through him, with other believers who together form a living community of faith.

During this study, we will take a look at our core identity as children of God through the eyes of baptism, claim the gifts we have been given by Christ at baptism, and discern together the particular gifts for ministry each of us have to participate in response to God's grace.

- February 27 – *The Covenant God Made with You in Holy Baptism*
- March 6 – *To Live among God's Faithful People, Hearing the Word of God & Sharing in the Lord's Supper*
- March 13 – *To Proclaim the Good News of God in Christ through Word and Deed*
- March 20 – *To Serve All People, Following the Example of Jesus and to Striving for Justice and Peace in All the Earth*
- March 27 – *Our response: "I Do, and I Ask God to Help and Guide Me" †*



Sunday, April 2 – **Palm Sunday** – Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 6 – **Maundy Thursday** – Worship @ 7 p.m. A Service of Hand Washing & Holy Communion

Friday, April 7 – **Good Friday** – Tenebrae Worship @ 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 9 – **Easter Sunday** – "Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!"

Easter Breakfast @ 8:30 a.m. in Chapel Lounge | Worship @ 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary †



Faith Formation



Weekly Check-In & Prayer

Fridays @ 9 a.m. via Zoom

We gather via Zoom for a time of sharing, scripture reading, talking, prayer, and blessing. Contact Rachel Núñez, Director of Faith Formation for meeting instructions, rnunez@holyytrintyakron.org, call/text (330) 634-6597. †



Saturday, March 11 @ 9 a.m.

Summit Lake Trailhead - 380 W. Crosier Street, Akron 44311

We will gather at the entrance to the trail for a brief devotion and then hike this accessible trail together or at you may go at your own pace. After 30 minutes, we rejoin each other for a prayer & blessing. Please wear appropriate clothing and shoes for the weather. If you have any questions, please call/text Rachel Núñez, Director of Faith Formation at (330) 634-6597. †



Women's Bible Study

Saturday, March 18 @ 9 a.m.

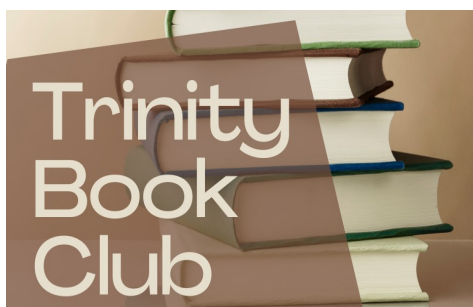
at the home of Linda Vowles, 6089 S. Oval Road, Clinton

Breakfast will be served followed by our study. If you have any questions or need a copy of the study, call/text Rachel Núñez at (330) 634-6597.

The Ten Commandments by the Rev. Christa von Zychlin

Session three: Sanctity of life and love (Commandments 5 & 6)

In our third session, we will review some of the major murders of the Bible. We'll also delve into the scriptural witness to the spirituality of sex and the covenant of marriage. †



Sunday, March 19, following worship, Room 202

We are discussing *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck. Bring a brown bag lunch ... all are invited to join us for the discussion. Please contact Diane Chambers or Amy Indorf with any questions. †



Easter Lilies

Easter is coming soon so time to reserve your Easter Lily!!

Lilies are \$20 each.

To order you can fill in the information below and mail to:

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
50 North Prospect Street
Akron Ohio 44304

Name _____

Number of Lilies _____

Dedication _____

Dedications will be published in the bulletin. You can place your check in one of the envelopes under the flower chart in the lobby and mark Easter Lily. Be sure to provide your name, number of Lilies and dedication on the envelope.

Deadline is April 2nd.

If any questions, contact Deb Ickes at 678-353-7444.

Thank you for your generosity!!



Hello, Holy Trinity Family and Friends!

My name is Kitrael Chin. I'm a Board-Certified Music Therapist and the President and founder of Hearts For Music, Inc, the world's first Special Needs Orchestra. Our special needs orchestra members utilize a combination of digital iPads, acoustic instruments and keyboards to learn and perform simplified orchestral and symphonic works such as Beethoven's Ode to Joy. Our primary mission is to grant individuals with special needs such as Down Syndrome or Autism the unique opportunity and joy to be part of a large ensemble performing music as a single cohesive unit.

Currently, many recreational programs are designed to be appropriate for a particular/specific disability. A program might be tailored for Down Syndrome participants but unsuitable for those with Autism, for instance. Hearts For Music attempts to unite many individuals with a variety of special needs under one single roof, speaking one common language of love and all travelling in the same vehicle of music. After all, we are all children of God, One and Triune!

Hearts For Music's motto is "Transforming disabilities into abilities." Experiencing genuine acceptance and love, kindness, patience with one's peers and staff, the joy of being included in a group activity regardless of one's disability, elevation of self-esteem -- these are just a few of the principles that guide Hearts For Music, Inc. We welcome ALL ages and ALL disabilities.

Hearts For Music has groups in Brecksville, Aurora, Solon and Mentor. We are thrilled to have the opportunity to serve Summit special needs individuals with the kind help of local Akron churches like Holy Trinity. **HFM will hold an informational session and demonstration on Sunday, March 5, 2023 following the 9:30 a.m. service in the Chapel Lounge, during coffee hour.** We look forward to meeting each and every one of you.

Peace of Christ be with you all! †

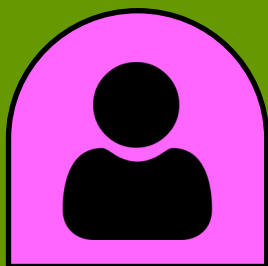
DLM by the Numbers

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, DLM Food & Resources has continued to operate and provide food boxes, personal care items along with cleaning supplies, and laundry items to those families involved with Project RISE and others who are in need. Clothing is given to those who inquire.

During the month of February, DLM served the following ...



169 Families



456 Individuals



186 Children



DLM

FOOD AND RESOURCES



Thank You Hudson High School Students!

Many hands really do make light work ... or actually they make lots of work get done quicker! For the past couple of years, students from the Service Learning Program at Hudson High School have volunteered at DLM Food & Resources each week throughout the school year. And what a blessing they have been! They have assisted with sorting clothing donations, unpacking food, preparing food boxes for delivery, and much more!

"We are beyond grateful for our partnership with Hudson High School," comments DLM Director Darlene Katz. "The students are always eager to learn about the Program and serve wherever they are needed." †

Let's Meet the DLM Interns ...

Ashley Watts (l) and Autumn Bodenstadt, both Child & Family Development majors from The University of Akron.





**Purple and Green
and Gold ... Oh My!**

The Fellowship Hall was transformed for Mardi Gras! Thank you to the students from Hudson High School for helping with the decorations and table place settings. †

***Pictured left (from left):** Deacon Ruth Anderson with Alexa Borovicka, Megan Katitus and Annabel Fauver from Hudson High School.*

***Pictured below middle and bottom right:** Alexa, Megan and Annabel help put napkins at each place setting.*



Hudson High School students help collapse boxes.



Organ Repairs Update



James Leek holds the old rubber cloth from the Schwimmer bellows



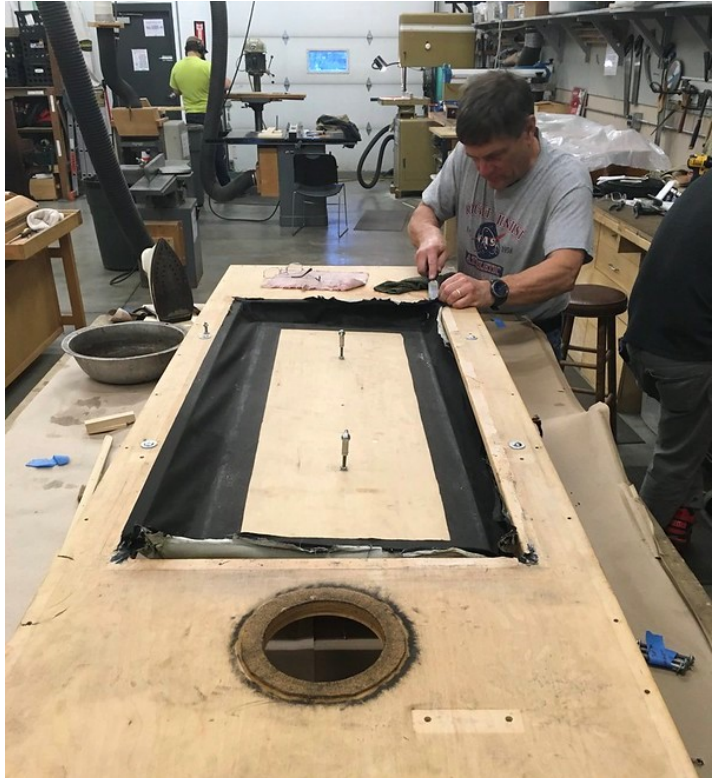
The old rubber cloth is removed from the Schwimmer bellows.



New leather has been glued onto bellows.



Pictured above, right and below: Technicians reinstall the refurbished bellows in the Great division.



Schwimmer is re-leathered and reassembled. Just a few more reinforcements to add before bringing back to the church.



New Art Exhibit in Chapel Lounge

Yes, there is a new exhibit in the Chapel Lounge, and the featured artist is our very own Dick Willett! The exhibit is titled "Pictures of Words" and includes several pastel and watercolor paintings each displayed with an accompanying poem. All pieces of art are for sale; prices are noted. If you are interested in purchasing any, please contact Dick Willett. †



Welcome Alex & Caroline!

Holy Trinity welcomed Alex Kauntz and Caroline Griswold into membership on February 5. Both are engineers with Thorson Baker & Associates in Richfield. In fact, that is where they met!! Now, they are planning their wedding set for October 28.



What brought them to Holy Trinity was initially proximity. Alex attended Royal Redeemer in North Royalton and Caroline attended Lord of Life in Canfield. Since they live in Tallmadge, they wanted to find a church that was a bit more centrally located. Plus, they really enjoy the atmosphere and the traditional liturgy experience during worship.

For hobbies, Alex shared he is a 'car nut!' He enjoys working on them whenever he can. Caroline loves doing art projects and is skilled in calligraphy.

Whenever you see Alex and Caroline, but sure to introduce yourself and extend a warm welcome! †

Pastor Becki leads the Presentation of New Members, Alex Kauntz and Caroline Griswold.





Before & During Worship

Holy Trinity is a busy place on Sunday morning both before and during worship. On Sunday, February 12, it was 'on the job training' for Darcel Zuller (pictured below) who learned how to set up communion from Deb Ickes. And guess who was 'in the house' on this Sunday? Pastor Landis Coffman returned to the pulpit, actually in front of the pulpit, to deliver the sermon ... "God is in all of us!" was his message. And no Sunday worship would be complete without the choir singing (pictured above)! †



Pastor Landis Coffman was the guest preacher on February 12.



Hikers Unite!

It was a perfect chilly morning for the monthly gathering of Hike & Seek. On February 11, they hiked the Tallmadge Meadows Area in the Munroe Falls Metro Park, Tallmadge Meadows Area. †

Pictured from left: Jacinto Núñez, Rich Williams, Amy Indorf, Don Parsisson, Diane Chambers, and Rachel Núñez in the foreground.



Thank You Faith Formation Ministry Team!

Using a Thrivent grant, the Faith Formation Ministry Team put together feminine care kits for the Robinson Family Resource Center. Pictured are Principal Anthony Lane and FRC Coordinator Rica Keith. †



Seeing Eye to Eye ... Dave Vowles is nearly as tall while seated as Diane Chambers is while standing.



It was 31 on the 31st!

Holy Trinity nearly took over the entire back room at the Akron Family Restaurant on January 31 when 31 members and friends went to breakfast. †

Pictured left from left: Rachel and Jacinto Núñez, Joan Derrig, Sylvia Leddon, Marcy Nagy, Joanne and Duane Aller, Fletcher and Donna Carroll, Tom Bouton, Gloria Woodford, Darcel Zuller, Judy and Landis Coffman, Pat McRowe, Tom Baumgardner and Sophia Morton.



Pictured right from left: Tom Bouton, Gloria Woodford, Darcel Zuller, Judy and Landis Coffman, Pat McRowe, Tom Baumgardner, Sophia Morton, Raymond Mason, Deb Ickes, Jacinto Núñez, Joan Derrig, Sylvia Leddon, Marcy Nagy, Joanne and Duane Aller and Fletcher and Donna Carroll.



Pictured above from left: Hannah Miller, Hayley Phillips, Marshall Thomas, Deacon Ruth Anderson, LJ Kimble, Velma Pomrenke, Diane Chambers, Diann Jenkins, Frederica Cohen, Deborah Marks and Dottie Wise. Pictured right clockwise: Donna Carroll, Tom Bouton, Gloria Woodford, Darcel Zuller, Joanne and Duane Aller and Fletcher Carroll.





Guests (standing) at the Meet-the-Artists meal are pictured with musical artists (seated from left): Bengisu Gokce, George Lernis, Anastassiya Ana Petrova and Nacho Gonzalez Nappa.



Arts @ Holy Trinity welcomed Bengisu Gokce Quartet for its annual Mardi Gras concert where more than 100 people attended. Four internationally-acclaimed musicians from around the world presented a new take on jazz that blended classic ragtime with a fresh, acoustic touch. Following the concert was a special artist reception. The evening concluded with a ticketed Meet-the-Artist meal with an authentic Cajun menu and an intimate Q&A session with the musicians. †



George Lernis



Bengisu Gokce



Anastassiya Ana Petrova



Nacho Gonzalez Nappa



Pictured left and above: Bengisu Gokce Quartet.

Pictured right: Bengisu Gokce on violin.



Pictured left and below: Guests mingle and meet members of Bengisu Gokce Quartet at the artists reception.





March Birthdays

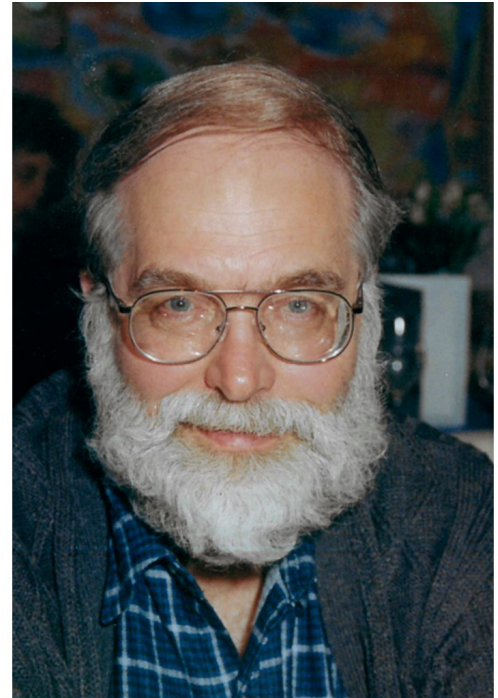
'Happy Birthday' to the following members who are celebrating birthdays this month!!

- March 1- Anthony Lupo
- March 2 – Lorin Sickafoose
- March 7 – Arden Cheeseborough
- March 8 – William Woodford
- March 10 – Lynn Kane
- March 10 – Jen Seltzer
- March 11 – Marsha Asente
- March 14 – Wesley Andrews
- March 15 – Connie Archbold
- March 15 – Sandra Hamilton
- March 15 – Olivia Sharp
- March 17 – Carolyn McCahan
- March 17 – James Simpson
- March 18 – Parker Andrews
- March 18 – Taylor Harris (Minton)
- March 19 – Zachary Spannbauer
- March 21 – Elijah Forbes
- March 21 – Marilyn Niskanen
- March 22 – Benjamin Mormino
- March 25 – Nan Riemenschneider
- March 26 – Meleah Woodford
- March 27 – Beth Pfahl
- March 27 – Charlotte Stefanik
- March 29 – Jennifer Dillard
- March 29 – Rebecca Seroke
- March 31 – John Stefanik

*If you want to include your birthday in a future issue of the Highlights, please contact Annmarie Demko at (330) 376-5154.
NOTE: This list only includes known birthdays.*

Ernie Liska Memorial Scholarship

Outreach and service to our community is an integral part of Holy Trinity. As part of its efforts to serve Akron youth, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has established The Ernie Liska Memorial Scholarship in order to provide financial assistance to students who plan to earn a college degree, university degree, or become certified in a vocational/building trade, and aspire to utilize their education to serve their community.



Help us to continue Ernie's legacy of service to others through the education of Akron's youth by **donating** to this very important scholarship program which supports deserving students as they launch their careers. Contributions may be made to the Ernie Liska Memorial Scholarship fund at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

Scholarship information, including the application form, is located on Holy Trinity's website, <https://www.holytrinityakron.org/>, under the 'Serve' tab. For more details, contact John Stefanik at 330-666-3579 or jrstef@roadrunner.com. †

Worship Stewards

| Date | Readers | Assisting Ministers |
|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Sunday, March 5 9:30 a.m. | Linda Vowles | Linda Vowles |
| Sunday, March 12 9:30 a.m. | Rachel Núñez | Rachel Núñez |
| Sunday, March 19 9:30 a.m. | Chris Hinman | Mike Ameling |
| Sunday, March 26 9:30 a.m. | Dick Willett | Frederica Cohen |



COMING SOON

Dear Holy Trinity,

As part of the strategic planning process that we are involved in, we wish to invite you all to participate in an online congregational survey. It's essential to this process for each of our voices to be heard!

The online survey will be made available for congregational response beginning Sunday morning, March 12 through Friday afternoon, March 24 - the survey link will be emailed to you. To help those of you participate in this survey who don't have the means to respond at home, stations will be set up at the church in Room 202 on Sunday, March 12 and Sunday, March 19 as well as before Lenten Midweek Devotions & Lunch on Wednesday, March 15 and Wednesday, March 22. Assistance will be available for anyone who may need it.

Thank you ahead of time for making participation in the survey a priority!

- Your Strategic Planning Team

Volume #82, Issue #3

(USPS 640880)

Trinity Highlights

50 N. Prospect Street
Akron, OH 44304-1273
330-376-5154

Periodical Postage Paid

Akron, Ohio 44309

Trinity Highlights is published monthly, January through December. Periodical Postage Paid at Akron, Ohio.

Postmaster: Send address change to
Trinity Highlights
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Praising. Loving. Serving in Jesus' name.

Mission Statement:

The mission of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is to bring Jesus to people through love and the word of God.

Vision Statement:

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is a faith community grounded in God's word, called to worship and committed to serve as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Address & Phone:

50 N. Prospect Street
Akron, Ohio 44304-1273
(330) 376-5154 holytrinityakron.org

Groups & Activities

Acolyte Coordinator - VACANT
Altar Guild - Deborah Ickes
Archives - Ricki Ethington
Book Club - Diane Chambers & Amy Indorf
Communion Assistants - Deborah Ickes & Marcy Nagy
Family Promise & OPEN M - Gregg Loesch
Memorial Garden - Sonya Nagle
Men's Bible Study - VACANT
Parish Nurse Ministry - Sally Richenbacher
Prayer Chain - Sally Richenbacher/Wanda Clark
Renaissance Team - Bob Keener
Readers - Nan Riemenschneider
Robinson CLC - Sandy DeLuca
Stream Team - Sandy DeLuca
Ushers - Gregg Loesch
Women's Bible Study - Velma Pomrenke

2023 Cabinet

Care & Fellowship - Rachel Núñez
Faith Formation - Amanda Archbold
Finance - Lesli Eisenhart
Outreach & Social Concerns - Gregg Loesch
Personnel - John Stefanik
Property - Kevin Heckel
Welcome—Sandy DeLuca
Worship & Music—Frederica Cohen & Ron Nockengost
Council Liaison—Linda Vowles

2023 Church Council

President, John Guran
Vice President, Linda Vowles
Secretary, Valerie Clark
Treasurer, Lesli Eisenhart
Frederica Cohen
Jack Harig
Bob Hoskins
Gary Radanof
Pastor Becki Verbridge

Holy Trinity Staff

Interim Senior Pastor, Becki Verbridge
Director of Faith Formation, Rachel Núñez
Director of Music Ministries,
Deacon Ruth Anderson
Parish Secretary, Annmarie Demko
Financial Secretary, Jim Minisall
Communications Coordinator,
Sandy DeLuca
DLM Director, Darlene Katz
DLM Operations Manager & Technology
Production Coordinator, Stefan Katz
Maintenance Coordinator, Bruce Mansour
Sexton, Vince Simmons

Highlights is a publication of:

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
E-mail: highlights@holytrinityakron.org
Editors: Annmarie Demko and Sandy DeLuca.
Mailing: TTT's & Annmarie Demko