

Tidings

Gretchen Luebbe, Newsletter Coordinator
gmluebbe@verizon.net



Volume 44 Issue 7

We care as friends, we love as family, and we serve as Christ

July/Aug 2023

Special Points of Interest:

- New Council Members/ Officers Elected
- Two High School Graduates Recognized
- Youth Collecting for Loudoun Hunger Relief
- Church Picnic planned for August 20
- God's Work Our Plans set for September 10
- Additional Worship Volunteers needed for the Summer



Inside This Issue:

VBS Sunday	3
Council Meeting Highlights	4
Summer Fellowship Events	6
Blessing of the Backpacks	6
Property Update	8
Campaign for New Roof Underway	10

Message from Our Pastor

Pastor Kristin Hoyer

Confirmation Sunday – Aug. 6, 2023!

Please join us for worship on Sunday, August 6 at 10:00am as we celebrate the confirmation of **Naomi Bates, Derek DeMark, Ryleigh Dooley, Alli Murgia, Elena Ward, and Laila Willeke!**

It will be a festive worship service celebrating God's faithfulness in the lives of these young people and their faith followed by a reception!

Lutheran Basics 101: Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation)

In August, 6 of our young people will affirm their faith at our confirmation service. At their baptism, their parents, committed to raising them in the faith. Their parents said they would,

"As you bring your children to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

- to live with them among God's faithful people,
- bring them to the word of God and the Holy Supper,

- teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
- place in their hands the holy scriptures, and
- nurture them in faith and prayer,
- so that your children may learn to trust God,
- proclaim Christ through word and deed,
- care for others and the world God made,
- and work for justice and peace.



Do you promise to help your children grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do."

Parents are not alone in helping their children grow in faith. It is our hope that

(Continued on page 2)

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church



Pastor's Message, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

they are an active part of our faith community. Through worship and Sunday School and other events the congregation assists the parents with this commitment, until the children can say for themselves that they believe and have faith and plan to continue in the life of faith.

In the Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) service these young people say for themselves that they plan to continue in a community of faith growing in their faith. They will be asked.

"You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

- to live among God's faithful people,
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person responds:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me."

This is not a one and done commitment. This is our calling and work in life. All of us, as people of faith, hopefully continue to "live to live among God's faithful people,

- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?"

Let us give thanks to God for Naomi, Derek, Ryleigh, Alli, Elena, and Laila, for the faith they have been given and the gift of faith that we pray will continue to grow within them. Let us give thanks to God for the gift of faith we have received and let us pray we all continue to grow in faith and in our call to "Love and Serve God and our neighbors."

God's Peace,

Pastor Kristin Hoyer

Our 2023 High School Graduates



Alex Seymour

Loudoun County High School
Northern Virginia Community College
& George Mason University
Cybersecurity/Computer Science

Owen Szebalskie

Tuscarora High School
James Madison University

Holy Trinity Staff

Kristin Hoyer,
Pastor

Andrea Barron,
Office Administrator

Debbie Harned, Interim
Preschool Director

Vacant
Nursery Attendant

Nancy Fox,
Director of Music
& Family Ministries

Terry Sisk,
Organist/Choir Director

Julianne Geysler,
Bookkeeper

Rita Sims,
Congregation President

Marcia Merry,
Organist Emeritus

Bruce Buzzell,
Treasurer

From Our **NEW** President

A special thank you to Kristin Shultz, Kerry Benton and Lynnette Mergler for their years of service on the council. Each of these individuals have not only dedicated their time and shared their knowledge but have served this congregation well.

The new Executive Team is as follows:

Rita Sims - President

Sandy Phillips - Vice President

Ann Keigher - Secretary

Bruce Buzzell - Treasurer

We would also like to welcome Adrian Mattina, Susie Tinney and Sandy Yancy to the council as well as Sandy Phillips. Thank you to each of you for volunteering your time and talent to serve on the council.

The new council is looking forward to the year ahead for new and exciting opportunities and are willing to work tirelessly to resolve any issues that may arise. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Rita Sims, President



VBS
SUNDAY
July 16
10:00 AM



Please plan to join us for worship on Sunday, July 16, as we celebrate our week of Vacation Bible School! You will hear the music and catch a glimpse of the excitement and energy that we experienced during the week. After the service, everyone is invited to join us for some ice cream celebrating God's amazing love for us!

AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND!

June 14, 2023 Council Meeting Highlights

Meeting held in HTLC Gathering Area

Alison Waters, Secretary

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Pastor Kristin met with Father Daniel from St. Gabriel, and is excited about moving forward.
- We welcomed new members
- We will have a baptism on June 25.
- We will welcome a visiting Pastor and his family in August as they ride their bikes across the country.
- Confirmation will be August 6.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Kristin Shultz reported that our financial condition has improved due to generous contributions

TEAM REPORTS

• PROPERTY:

- * We received a tree donation from Leigh Johanneck
- * Gas stove modification will go forward, was previously approved pending funding
- * We thank Matt Shultz for his work on the property, and he is always in need of volunteers

- **FELLOWSHIP:** Food trucks will be here the third Wednesdays of July, August, September. We will advertise locally

NEW BUSINESS

- **Bookkeeping and Payroll Vendor Approval:** : We discussed outsourcing bookkeeping and payroll to Clergy Financial Resources. Pastor Kristin and Andrea Barron spoke with them about their services in May. Cost is \$152 per month, after \$150 set up for payroll, Bookkeeping is a \$500 set up fee, then \$500 per month for bookkeeping.

We would like to be able to transition while Juli Geysler is still here. After time for discussion, a motion was made to proceed with Clergy Financial for our payroll and bookkeeping services. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

• Property Proposals:

- * **Knox Box** – We would use a Knox Box to keep a Firefighter key and other emergency supplies outside. Total cost is \$522. A motion was made to approve. Motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
- * **Landscaping** – We recommend improving our landscaping, including planting beds around the front sign and new trees. Total cost for Meadow Farm Nursery to perform services would be \$2,022 pending fund-

ing. Motion to approve pending funding was made and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- * **Refrigerant** – Due to declining refrigerant supply, we are looking to buy now for \$1300 (30 lb.). Contractor would store and maintain pending a need for it. After discussion, a motion was made to approve the expenditure. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

- * **Revised Building Use Agreement/Policy** – We have revised to incorporate suggestions and changes. After discussion a motion was made to approve the form document. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.



OLD BUSINESS

- Congregational Meeting follow-up – Rita Sims commented that it was good to see so many members at the meeting.
- Worship Volunteers – We will continue to seek more tellers, coffee hosts, and ushers.

Council Meeting Adjourned and Meeting of 2023-2024 Council called to order

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

- President: Rita Sims
- Vice President: Sandy Phillips
- Secretary: Ann Keigher
- Treasurer: Bruce Buzzell

NEW BUSINESS

- Council Installation scheduled for June 25th.
- Committee Showcase – We are looking to do another event to highlight all of our activities and committees. July 16 was proposed as a date to coincide with VBS. August 20 is another possible date to coincide with Blessing of the Backpacks. Jana Murgia and Ann Keigher volunteered to help coordinate with the Spiritual Gift Survey.
- Spiritual Gifts Survey – Last time we used it in 2022 we received tremendous feedback, which we would like to use as part of the committee showcase.

(Continued on page 5)

Council Notes, cont.

(Continued from page 4)

- Strategic Planning – Council should look into doing another planning session. New Executive Committee will discuss a date and content.
- Truist – We will update Truist that Bruce Buzzell is now Treasurer.
- WELCA – Pat Bailey is now President and Margaret Seymour is now Treasurer of the WELCA group. We will ask Truist to change the access to the account to reflect that
- A motion was made to approve a council resolution that Pat Bailey and Margaret Seymour will be granted access to the WELCA account at Truist, in their roles as President and Treasurer, respectively.

Meeting of New Council adjourned

Next Executive Committee Meeting: July 12, 2023

Next Council Meeting: July 18, 2023.



CLASSICS GROUP: Nine members of The Classics and two out-of-town guests enjoyed lunch at The Flamingo restaurant in Fayetteville, PA prior to seeing The Honky Tonk Angels at the Totem Pole Theatre. Three talented ladies entertained us with great music. After the performance, we headed out for ice cream before returning to Leesburg.

The group also gathered at the Bungalow Lakehouse Restaurant in Sterling in June. The Classics will resume our monthly gatherings in September. Watch for updates.

Peggy Everhart

Loudoun Hunger Relief... Let's fill those bins!

Although it may be hard to believe, there are about 16,000 people in LOUDOUN COUNTY, the richest county in the nation, who struggle with food insecurity! Let's be the change. We will be collecting food throughout the summer. In June we focused on canned fruits and vegetables. Here is the plan for the rest of the summer:

JULY: PROTEIN—Protein bars, Peanut Butter, Canned Fish and Meats

AUGUST: Pasta and Grains

SEPTEMBER: Lunch Snacks



Our Middle and High School Youth are excited to be helping with this!

Monetary donations are always welcome!

Save the Dates for a Fun Time of Fellowship



Please join the Fellowship Committee for the coming summer activities. We are very excited about these new opportunities to not only include the congregation but the community as well. Please bring your neighbors, family and friends. We will also be publishing this in the newspapers so that we can include as many people in the community as possible.

- * July 19, 2023 - Wednesday Night Food Truck and Live Music
- * August 16, 2023 - Wednesday Night Food Truck and Live Music

* September 20, 2023 - Wednesday Night Food Truck and Live Music

We are bringing back the church picnic/ice cream social for the congregation. This will be held on August 20, 2023 - more information to follow.

We hope to see each of you there, we promise a great time, great food and amazing music.

If you have any questions, please reach out to one of us: *Kerry Benton, Rita Sims and Sharon Williams*



Blessing of the Backpacks

**Sunday, August 20
10:00 AM**

Students of all ages are invited to bring their backpacks to worship on Sunday, August 20, for a blessing. Backpacks hold an important role in the life of almost every student: they carry work to and from school, they carry lunches and snacks, and sometimes they even carry food home for the weekend! On this day the congregation will affirm their support for these students and we will bless the backpacks and the students as they begin another year of learning.

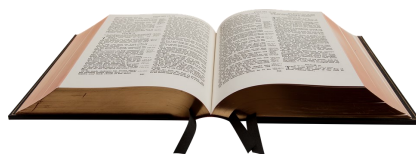
All backpacks are welcome!

Church Picnic and Ice Cream after the service for all!

Our Sunday School year ended with a rousing game of Bible Baseball! All of the players were impressive and, due to time, the game ended in a tie! We are so grateful for all of their coaches (*aka the Sunday School teachers*) who prepared them for this all year long:

Petra Buzzell, Emilia Fish, Gretchen Fish, Lauren Green, Jana Murgia, Cheryl Williams and Shadi Willeke. And, we shouldn't forget our nutrition coach Ann Kiegher and our bench coaches Kay Dahlquist, Adrian Mattina and Cathy Root! Thanks for a great year!!

Training Camp Starts Sunday, September 24!
(our first day of Sunday School)



**God's work.
Our hands.**

**Sunday,
September 10**

We invite you to join us in the churchwide (The Whole ELCA/all ages, all places!) day of service!
(More details coming later this summer)

Property Summary

Over the last several weeks, the Property Committee worked on the following:

- Checked out the Lawn Boy mower. Will need a new case-hardened bolt and washer. Blade appears still in balance. Have mower in my shop at the moment to repair.
- Took 4 8' bulbs to be recycled locally. Removed the 4' bulbs and have packed in a recycle box. Need a few more to completely fill and ship.
- Picked up batteries for Fire Exit Lighting. Placed in box on file cabinets in admin office.
- Repaired fire exit light in stairwell - replaced 2 batteries.
- Repaired kneeler on pulpit side. All 3 screws were gone. If they work out again may need to move from #10 to #12 screw.
- Picked up the remaining caster and continued work on new chair storage rack.
- Mounted groundbreaking shovel. Need to get a plaque made as the details become more clear.
- Discussion with Pastor Kristin and Andrea on issues arising from space rental. Have a plan going forward.
- Fellowship Hall discussion. Paint and professional sound deadening. Pastor Kristin has paint color selection item. Will need to investigate sound deadening solution.



Looking ahead, it appears that the two trees on the left of the exit are both dying. The pine has many dead branches and small patches of needles, and the other tree is mostly dead limbs as well. Will keep an eye out but will likely need to be removed in next 2 years.

Respectfully,

Matt Schultz

Sunday Volunteers



Thanks to all of our new and returning volunteers for filling our various Sunday morning responsibilities! Recently, several new volunteers have stepped up at the last minute to help out with Acolyte/Crucifer, Coffee Hour and Teller responsibilities (counting offering following worship).

Special thanks to our Altar Care and Lawn Care teams who are able to determine their schedules quite far in advance! Weekly volunteers are going to be a continual need, especially during the summer months. You'll notice the tables on the next page still have many slots that need to be filled for the next few months. Fortunately, we are able to fill them more rapidly than just a few

months ago. Also, we realize that many members have not yet finalized their summer plans.

If you and/or your family can fill one or more of these spaces, please use the link that comes out with the On Your Door email. Or, call the church office to have your name(s) added to the tables. Coffee hosts, tellers, and acolytes/crucifers are most in need right now. We will provide training if you've never done it before or need a refresher. Thanks again for everyone's help!

Worship Volunteers - July / August 2023

	Jul 2	Jul 9	Jul 16	Jul 23	Jul 30
Asst Min / Prayers	Mike Geysler	Tammy Brende	Laurie Dieffenbach	Laurie Dieffenbach	TBD
Lectors	Tammy Brende	Peggy Everhart	Lynnette Mergler	TBD	TBD
Acolytes / Crucifers	TBD	TBD	Hope & Joy Mattina	TBD	TBD
Ushers	Sandon & Cathy Root	Jerry Harned Fritz Scholz	Adrian & Dan Mattina	Fritz Scholz TBD	TBD TBD
Altar Care	Debbie Wenk Debbie Harned	Sharon Williams Effie DeGroot	Peggy Everhart Karen Blodgett	Judy Willeke Tammy Brende	Effie DeGroot TBD
Coffee Host	TBD	Mattina Family	Ann Keigher	TBD	TBD
Tellers	TBD TBD	TBD TBD	TBD TBD	Laurie Dieffenbach TBD	Laurie Dieffenbach TBD
Lawn	Bland / Scott / Willeke		Geysler / Johanneck / Verhalen / Smiley		Duellman Family

	Aug 6	Aug 13	Aug 20	Aug 27
Asst Min / Prayers	Mike Geysler	TBD	Tammy Brende	TBD
Lector	Tammy Brende	Peggy Everhart	Lynnette Mergler	Tammy Brende
Acolyte / Crucifer	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Ushers	TBD TBD	Fritz Scholz TBD	TBD TBD	TBD TBD
Altar Care	Deb Wenk Debbie Harned	Sharon Williams Effie DeGroot	Peggy Everhart Karen Blodgett	Judy Willeke Tammy Brende
Coffee Host	TBD	TBD	Church Picnic	TBD
Tellers	TBD TBD	TBD TBD	TBD TBD	TBD TBD
Lawn	Duellman Family	Buzzell - Harvey - VanEpps		Bland / Scott / Willeke



<i>January - May 2023</i>		
	Actual	Budget
Income	\$225,387.19	\$177,895.00
Expenses	\$223,385.59	\$178,406.17
Net	\$2,001.60	-\$511.17

Both our actual income and expense figures for the first five months of 2023 were over budget, with our income exceeding the expenses. We have had an influx of designated income for the air conditioners and the sound system, and the expenses include most of these items. We are current on all our bills and our mortgage balance is \$1,007,093.45.

Julianne Geyser, Bookkeeper

Remember Your Pledge This Summer!



A new campaign, the *Sky is Falling* campaign,

is seeking to raise \$150,000 for the replacement of the church's flat (rubber) roof.

There has been significant damage over time, and well, time and sun has contributed to the deterioration.

This campaign will seek full funding in 24 months (May 2025). Without a sound roof on the building, there is nothing under it that can be protected.



Happy Summer Birthday to . . .

JULY

- 2 Will Nau
Audrey
Szebalskie
- 5 Mike Brende
- 6 Trudy Kearney
- 7 Molly Graham
John Harvey
Karen Paul
- 9 Chris Ward
- 10 Paul Serice
Jim Truxel
- 11 Liz Miller
Jeff Nau
Spencer Verhalen
Kimberly Williams
- 12 Gloria Borgrink
- 16 Kirsten Nau
- 17 Chaye DeMark

- Debbie Wenk
- 18 Sophie Burke
Linda Knepp
- 19 Jennifer Steeprow
- 21 Elizabeth
Marcheschi
- 24 Erik Prinz
- 25 Haley Dunn
Brian Lo
- 27 Jake Feeney
Caleb Graham
- 28 Kira Schneider
- 29 Kyle Struckmann
- 30 Jane Keigher
Leigh Muse
Randy VanEpps

AUGUST

- 2 Mackenzie Kapsiak

- 4 Joe Dooley
- 5 Blake Critz
- 6 Brandi Krytusa
- 9 Todd Sims
- 10 Olivia Biggs
Mike Geyser
- 12 Peter Feeney
- 13 Jill Marney
- 14 Taylor Morrell
- 15 Pam Landis
Kira Whitacre
- 16 Jessica Taylor
- 18 Zoe Benton
Jim Covell
Kristi Sieber
- 19 Mark Bland
Chloe Lane
Evelyn Lane

- 
- Steven Nelson
 - 23 Ava Bates
Geoff DeMark
Lynnette Mergler
Scarlett Petterson
 - 24 Marsha Little
 - 29 Ken Bland
Rachel Dooley
Elayne Mergler
Luke Willeke
 - 30 Jordan Davis
 - 31 Matt Davis

Celebrating An Anniversary This Month

- 7/10 Carl & Audrey Gerber
- 7/11/2009 Debbie & John Wenk
- 7/21/2012 Mark & Liz Adams
- 7/21/1999 Doug & Kori Lord
- 7/31/2004 Stacey & Daniel Byrne

- 8/02/1986 Pete & Amy Miller
- 8/04/1963 Clara & Clyde Brill
- 8/05/2000 Magdalene & Sandy Yancy
- 8/06/2004 Debra & Andy Hare
- 8/08/1998 Alison & Jason Waters
- 8/10/2005 Katie & Mark Kapsiak
- 8/16/1969 Carol & Dennis Boehler
- 8/17/1963 John & Pat Gibbs

BAPTISM

JULY

- 1 Paul Albers
Elizabeth Bland
Colin Byrne
Gretchen Luebbe
- 2 Amy Fox
Chloe Lane
Evelyn Lane
- 4 Nancy Fox

- 7 Ryan Dudak
- 13 Evan Bollinger
Derek DeMark
Russ Seymour
- 21 Hope Mattina
- 25 Zain Green
- 28 Carol Boehler
- 29 Declan Bailey
- 30 Jerry Harned

- Debbie Harned
- AUGUST**
- 1 Jim Truxel
Elana Ward
- 7 Owen Szebalskie
- 8 Olivia Biggs
- 13 Chris Gall
- 14 Matthew Willeke
- 15 Campbell Feeney

- 17 Jim Covell
- 19 Johannes Stracener
- 24 Alexis Young
- 26 Cindy Johanneck
- 27 Alec Miller
- 29 Brandon Hare
- 31 Becky Seymour
Todd Sims
Christopher Kerr

**HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
(ELCA)**

605 West Market Street
Leesburg, VA 20176-2506

Sunday School: Resumes in September

Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM

Coffee Hour: Following worship

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Phone: (703) 777-4912

Email: office@HolyTrinityLeesburg.org



www.HolyTrinityLeesburg.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Volume 44 Issue 7

Metro DC Synod Assembly, June 3, 2023

POST ASSEMBLY PRAYER

God of Inspiration,

We give thanks for the opportunity we have had for our congregations and partners in faith to once again gather together for worship, reflection, and the work we are called and guided into by the Holy Spirit. Be with us now as we move forward with our beloved siblings and combine our prayerful efforts to grow in mission together as a Synod.

May our varied expressions of faith lead us to an even more intentional focus on the welfare of all of our beloved siblings in life's journey. Open our hearts to understand and embrace the movement of your Spirit, and allow us to not only see each other, but listen more deeply to the stories we each possess. We are ever thankful for this opportunity to combine our talents to be made new again and again for the sake of others and all of creation. It is our humble desire that this Synod Assembly will continue to inspire us to engage in the difficult yet fruitful work that heals the nations and glorifies you.

In all this we pray.

Amen



Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America