

Tidings

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Volume 44 Issue 9

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

October 2023

Special Points of Interest:

- New financial system transition going well
- Parents' Days Out planned for Nov/Dec
- Confirmation program started again in Sept.
- Sunday volunteers needed
- Girl Scouts built outdoor table for preschool
- Classics plan for coming months
- Clocks change Nov 5



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Message from Our Pastor

Pastor Kristin Hoyer

The Congregation Council and Stewardship Committee have begun reading the book, *Ask, Thank, Tell* by Charles R. Lane.

One of the first points Lane makes is the importance of discipleship vs. membership. Discipleship is about our primary relationship being with Jesus. Membership is about our primary relationship with the congregation.

He quotes the marks of discipleship from Michael Foss' book, *Real faith for Real Life*.

- Daily Prayer
- Daily scripture reading
- Weekly Worship
- Growth in giving to the tithe or beyond
- Serving others in Jesus' name
- Sharing the faith story with the unchurched

As a community of faith how are we doing? As individuals how are we doing? Take some time to consider these marks of discipleship in your own life. How are you doing? This is not to condemn, but to challenge ourselves to continue to grow as disciples of Jesus and to keep God's call to love and serve God and our neighbors central to our life together. For when

we do this we continue to grow as followers of Jesus.

I invite us all to take time to pray and reflect on how we are doing as disciples in the world.

Thank you, disciples of Jesus, for the ways you make God's love known near and far.

God's Peace,

Pastor Kristin Hoyer



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church





Wee Worship

Starting ...

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

We have launched a new program called **Wee Worship!** While we LOVE having our children in worship and feel that we want that to continue, we realize that for some preschool children (and their parents) the time of the adult sermon can be stressful.

Parents worry their child will disturb others! Kids not understanding the message and become fidgety! With Wee Worship, we hope to alleviate some of the stress.

After the Children's Sermon, preschool children (Ages 2-5) have the option to go with a leader to the small classroom off of the Commons. The leader will read a short story, lead them in a short craft and maybe even teach them a song. They will then be brought back to the Sanctuary following the collection of the offering to participate in Holy Communion and the remainder of the service!

Nancy Fox

Upcoming Festival Sundays

Sunday, October 29 – Reformation Sunday! Join us as we sing "A Mighty Fortress" and Wear Red (the color of the day!)

Sunday, November 5 – All Saints Sunday! On this Sunday we remember all the saints who have gone on before us and the saints who continue to gather together. We especially remember those saints who have died since the last All Saints Day.

We are creating a list of the saints who have died since last All Saints Day so please contact Andrea Barron in the church office via email, phone or a note by Sunday, October 22, if you have a loved one you would like to include on that list.

Pastor Kristin



Holy Trinity Staff

Kristin Hoyer,
Pastor

Andrea Barron,
Office Administrator

Marcia Merry,
Organist Emeritus

Bruce Buzzell
Treasurer

Nancy Fox,
Director of Music
& Family Ministries

Terry Sisk,
Organist/Choir Director

Debbie Harned, Interim
Preschool Director

Nursery Attendant (Vacant)

Rita Sims,
Congregation President

From Our President

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for stepping up to the plate. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! We successfully managed to catch up on all our overdue bills and still have funds in our bank account.

We transitioned our financial operations to a new firm called Clergy Financial, entrusting them with bill payments and staff payroll generation. Clergy Financial is well-versed in managing financial tasks for over 85 churches, showcasing their expertise in this domain.

During the process of transitioning to a new system, obstacles inevitably arise. Over the past few weeks, we encountered such challenges, and with your valuable assistance, we've made strides in hopefully resolving them. We were dealing with four bills that were 60 days overdue, as well as crucial payments for payroll and the mortgage. However, your support at HTLC significantly eased this burden. Pastor Kristin, myself, Bruce Buzzell our Treasurer, the Executive Committee, and the Council deeply appreciate your help.

Moving forward, we need to maintain this momentum on a weekly, monthly, and yearly basis. By

doing so, we can allocate more resources to other essential needs like AC units and roof repairs. Additionally, we can give greater attention to daily prayer, daily scripture readings, serving others in Jesus' name and sharing a faith story with the unchurched, all of which are a priority for our church and ourselves.



To keep everyone informed, we'll be sharing the giving amount and monthly expenses in the bulletin, Tidings, and On Your Door beginning in October.

As quoted to me by Clergy Financial, our church is blessed with incredible people, and I wholeheartedly agree. HTLC is an amazing family.

Once again, thank you. I urge you to reflect and consider making each week's giving match the generosity of the past week through your prayers and contributions.

Rita Sims, President

A graphic celebrating 10 years. It features two yellow hands with red hearts in the palms, flanking the text "CELEBRATING 10 YEARS". Below this is a yellow banner with the text "God's work. Our hands." Sunday. At the bottom, there are five icons representing different aspects of church work: a blue silhouette of a person, a green icon of a person holding a plant, a yellow wrench, a red envelope, and a purple hammer. To the right of these icons is a yellow box with the date "September 10 2023".

Thanks to ALL who lent a hand to make this day a success!

To the Mowing Teams:

Another successful mowing season, our 14th, has come to an end. Over the years our numbers have decreased (20 to 11) for various reasons but the mowing was completed and the church grounds looked fantastic throughout the Summer. You have saved HTLC a considerable amount of money. Along with the mowing, many other gardening tasks were completed, all due to your continued dedication.

It has been a pleasure to serve as your mowing coordinator!

In March I will be requesting volunteers from the congregation for the 2024 mowing season. Hopefully our numbers will increase.

Thanks again for your support and I look forward to another year.

Jim Truxel



Sunday School

Ages 3-Adult!

Registration Link!

The registration link for children Age 3-Grade 8 can be found below, as well as, on the church website and in the weekly "On Your Door" message!

<https://forms.gle/VcVk95zgMb7cPpat9>

Nancy Fox

Youth Grades 6-12

Sunday, October 29

5:00-6:00 pm YOUTH SINGERS

6:00-6:30 pm Optional DINNER

6:30-7:30 pm YOUTH GROUP: Faith, Fellowship & FUN!



New Year for the Preschool

Eighteen little blessings are blessing the downstairs preschool this year. We serve beautiful young families and enjoy our time with the kids and their parents. We had a hot lunch and we made applesauce. We are having happy Chapel Time with Pastor Kristin and we are having dancing and singing with Mrs. Fox. Our teachers and Ms. Effie are working so creatively and lovingly. God is always good to us. This month we will have fall and class pictures taken and at the end of the month, Trunk or Treat for our Halloween celebration.



The preschool and youth group are going to offer a Parents' Night Out on Saturday, November 4 for preschool, church, and friends. Ask Nancy Fox or me for the details.

Save the date of November 16: that is our Thanksgiving lunch. We hope that all Classics will join us, and we welcome anyone from the church to share this meal with us.

Debbie Harned



JOYFUL NOISE SING AND RING

Grades K-5

Starting

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

5:30-6:00 pm

(optional family dinner - freewill offering)

6:00-6:50 pm

(Rehearsal for singing and ringing!)



Trinity Ringers

Wednesdays

7:00-8:00 pm

Starting Wednesday, November 1



All Middle School Students through Adults are invited to join. Contact Terry Sisk for more information! terrrysisk@aol.com



Concise Wednesday Evening Schedule for Busy People! (Starting November 1st)



- 4:30-5:30 pm Confirmation Class
- 5:30-6:00 pm Dinner (All are Welcome!)
- 6:00-6:50 pm Joyful Noise! (Sing and Ring)
Grades K-5
- 7:00-8:00 pm Trinity Ringers—Intergenerational Handbells
Grade 6-Adult



September 19, 2023 Council Meeting Highlights

MEETING HELD IN THE GATHERING AREA

Ann Keigher, Rita Sims

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Pastor Kristin was engaged in a total of 20 meetings and events this month.
- Upcoming events are:
 - ✓ Reformation Sunday,
 - ✓ All Saints Sunday,
 - ✓ Community Carol Sing,
 - ✓ Sunday School Christmas Pageant,
 - ✓ Christmas Eve Worship,
 - ✓ Firepit gathering with carols and the Christmas story
 - ✓ New Year's Eve events.
- Pastor will be on vacation from October 12-15, 2023.



Council Notes

TEAM REPORTS

- **Finance:** Going to get a meeting scheduled. Goal is to get Finance Committee to have a list of items that are defined and prioritized.
- **Fellowship:** Last food truck night tomorrow night (9/20).

NEW BUSINESS

- Air Conditioner for Staff Offices: Quote for total of \$19,332, then Property was able to get a new quote for \$14,695. Council voted to approve, pending available funding.
- HVAC Maintenance Contract: \$2,060 a year. Contract has been signed, don't want to give it until have the money to pay it. When ready to go can hand it over. Council voted to approve, pending available funding.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Bruce Buzzell: We were expecting to have a report, but not everything has gone smoothly for the process of hand-over to Clergy Financial. It is coming along, though.
- Overall picture, the church is in about the same spot where we were several months ago..
- Rita Sims: Calls with Clergy Financial. Another call scheduled this week; need to decide some items about how to handle paying bills and payroll and how much to leave in the bank.
- Kristin Schultz: Going to have a meeting with Clergy Financial to talk about prequel items. Some confusion about expenses and general ledger set up. Also going to work out the transfer situation. Payroll is going well, some hiccups with direct deposit but are working through.
- Action Item: Copies of all expenses should go to Andrea to be sent to Clergy Financial, for both church and pre-school.

- Financial Plan: Looking at posting weekly giving at the bottom of the bulletin, put something monthly in Tidings and On Your Door, thermometers to mark off for monthly items. Figures will be provided to Andrea to put into the bulletin each week
- Committee Fair: Consider having during Coffee Hour in October.

OLD BUSINESS

- St. Gabriel's Update. Decision made by Council to let St. Gabriel know HTLC is not ready to move forward..
- Spiritual Gifts Survey: . Have received some, Rita will make a reminder announcement at worship.

Executive Committee Meeting: October 11, 2023

Next Council Meeting: October 18, 2023



The Women of the ELCA at Holy Trinity are grateful for all the donations that were received for our Lutheran World Relief school kit drive. At our September meeting we were able to fill 85 backpacks with school supplies which will be distributed to children throughout the world. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this important outreach project. On October 10th, WELCA members will drive to New Windsor, Maryland for lunch and then continue on to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse to drop off the school kits as well as 40 quilts that were completed this Spring.

WELCA meets on the second Tuesday of each month. Looking ahead to November, we will be putting together sack lunches for Shelter House as well as beginning a book study on Aging Faithfully by Alice Frying. We welcome anyone who would like to join us!

Pat Bailey, President

Confirmation is Back

Confirmation Year One for most, Year Two for two, is off to a great start! Week 2 - Creation - mapping out what happened in those seven days and since God created us to be creative — so create something that represents you. Please contact Pastor Kristin, Nancy Fox, or Debbie Harned for more information.



From Our Treasurer

August Income: \$32,144.75

Monthly Expenses \$36,805.57



Our regular incoming revenue for 2023 has been nearly keeping up with our regular expenses.

As has so often been the case at Holy Trinity, we have been blessed by some additional gifts from individuals in our congregation, enabling us to meet our basic commitments when needed.

Our HVAC systems have been greatly improved and much of it has been replaced this year which has been wonderful and amazing to see families step up financially when the need was so great. We currently have one more unit that has reached the end of its service life and needs to be replaced as soon as funds are available.

The transition of Council responsibilities and the Financial Team of Treasurer and Finance Committee is in place and we are now focused on implementing the new processes and procedures working with Clergy Financial Services to implement improved daily management of the church's cash flow and expense management. We've had a few bumps in the road during this transition but we are well on our way to operating with a more efficient and informative finance management process.

Our Finance Team will continue to focus on providing timely and helpful financial updates to the congregation.

Bruce Buzzell, Treasurer

Worship Volunteers - October 2023

	Oct 1	Oct 8	Oct 15	Oct 22	Oct 29
Asst Min / Prayers	Laurie Dieffenbach	Karla McGovern	Laurie Dieffenbach	Tammy Brende	Laurie Dieffenbach
Lectors	Peggy Everhart	Sam Waters	Ann Keigher	Lynnette Mergler	Tammy Brende
Acolytes / Crucifers	Cloe & James Landas	Hope & Joy Mattina	Jane Keigher (A) Cloe Landas (C)	Juliette Richards	TBD
Ushers	Barrett Everhart Fritz Scholz	Adrian & Dan Mattina	Fritz Scholz TBD	TBD	Fritz Scholz TBD
Altar Care	Deb Wenk Debbie Harned	Sharon Williams Effie DeGroot	Peggy Everhart Karen Blodgett	Judy Willeke Tammy Brende	Effie DeGroot TBD
Coffee Host	Barrett & Peggy Everhart	Waters Family	Mattina Family	Graham Family	TBD
Tellers	Laurie Dieffenbach Kristina Landas	Karla McGovern Gretchen Luebbe	Laurie Dieffenbach Karla McGovern	TBD TBD	Laurie Dieffenbach TBD
Lawn	Duellman Family				

Would you like to assist with the worship service as an usher? We encourage children to assist their parents or grandparents when ushering.

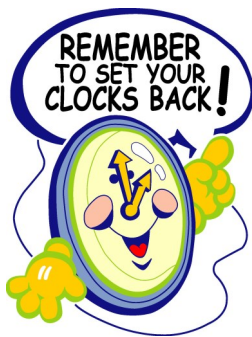
There will be a meeting after the service Sunday, October 8th for all current ushers and for those thinking about becoming an usher. We will cover what the updated duties of an usher entail and answer questions, etc.

If you are uncertain, join us for the meeting to learn more about it. You can be paired with an experienced person until you learn the ropes. Two ushers are needed each Sunday.

Hope to see you October 8th at 11:00.

Peggy and Barrett Everhart

USHERS



REMINDER:

**Standard Time begins at 2:00AM on
Sunday, November 5.
Remember to set your clocks
BACK one hour before
retiring Saturday evening, November 4.**

More Worship Volunteers Needed

Thank you to all who have regularly signed up to be worship volunteers. You'll notice from the table on the previous page that most of our slots are filled for the month of October. THANK YOU!!

The majority of the Volunteer needs for November are still open. The tables can be accessed each week from the "On Your Door" email. Or, call Andrea in the church office to be added for a specific date.

You'll notice from the article on Page 9 that a meeting for ushers, new and returning, is scheduled for this Sunday, October 8. Please join us, even if you or your family just might be interested.

Coffee hosts are also needed for Sunday, October 29 and all of the weeks in November. Are you new or need a refresher course? Let the church office know and we'll help!

For other volunteer roles, please contact the church office as well. More information will be provided to you and you can be paired with another member with experience in the role.

Gretchen Luebbe

Ways you can SERVE

Happy October Birthday to . . .

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|----|-------------------|----|-----------------|----|------------------|
| 1 | Teddy Struckmann | 9 | Amanda Whitney | 16 | Betsy Blackwell | 24 | Katie Fortin |
| 2 | Kristin Shultz | 10 | Liz Adams | 17 | Brenda Hansen | 26 | Ian Miller |
| 5 | Lisa Stewart | 11 | Kayla DeCriscio | 20 | Ginny Burke | | Carol Sapienza |
| 6 | Loretta DeFalco | 12 | Anna DeCriscio | 22 | Lucas Allen | 28 | Nathan Johanneck |
| 8 | Silas Bates | 13 | Curtis Sieber Jr. | 23 | Zoe Ward | | Betty Schafer |
| | Larry Willeke | 15 | Grayson Albers | | Nate Waters | 30 | Roy Dudak |
| | Lynn Shepherd | | Pam Sieber | | | | Sarah Muse |
| | Randy Steeprow | | Sharon Williams | | | | Emma Sieber |



Celebrating

An Anniversary This Month

10/03/2009	Laurie Dieffenbach & John Kohler
10/04/1997	Jack & Jodie Allen
10/07/1969	Louise & Gary Jebsen
10/09/2010	Jon & Danielle Everhart
10/11/2008	Kevin & Sophie Burke
10/14/2006	Chris & Jennifer Ward
10/17/1992	Paul & Martha Albers
10/21/2000	William & Elizabeth Just
10/23/1999	Michael & Mary Marcheschi

Baptism Anniversaries

1	Jennifer Steeprow	15	Dylan Everhart
2	John Harvey	24	Kayla DeCriscio
	Zach Johanneck	25	Garrett Schafer
	Chris Swetz	27	Morgan Begley
5	Keslar Just	28	Kim Mill
6	Diana Larson	30	Anabelle Fish
7	Molly Graham		Emilia Fish
8	Lynn Shepherd		Nathan Fish
14	Teddy Struckman		Adrian Mattina



Please remember to pray for your **Sunday School Team!**

December at Holy Trinity

Saturday, December 2 9 am-2 pm Parents Day Out

Parents are invited to bring their children to the church and enjoy a gift of time during this busy season. Please watch for more information and an opportunity to register your children. A freewill offering will be collected.

Sunday, December 3 ADVENT 1 Sunday School & Worship

Sunday, December 10 ADVENT 2 Sunday School & Worship

4:00 pm Community Carol Sing!

Come bring your family, your neighbors, and your friends to an hour of carols led by our choirs and organist!

Sunday, December 17 ADVENT 3 Sunday School & Worship

Sunday School Christmas Pageant during 10:00 am worship!

Sunday, December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

All worship services will be festive Christmas Eve services with Holy Communion, Carols and Candlelight!

10:00 am

4:00 pm

7:30 pm

Carols around the Fire Pit 10:30 pm



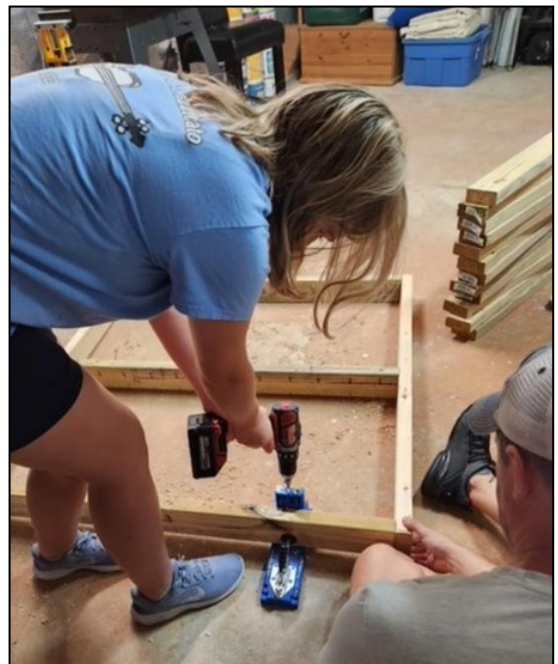
Come and join us outside for Carols around the Fire Pit (weather permitting!)

Sunday, December 31 10:00 am Lessons and Carols

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Thank You Girl Scouts!

The Girl Scout Troop that meets at Holy Trinity cleaned up and remade the Butterfly Garden and built this beautiful table for the preschool to use for outside learning! Thanks also to Matt Shultz and Debbie Harned for their assistance.



more →

The Completed Table:

When you have a chance, check out the completed table in the preschool playground area outside behind the Gathering Area. Thanks again to all involved!



SKY IS FALLING



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.

**HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
(ELCA)**

605 West Market Street
Leesburg, VA 20176-2506

Sunday School: 8:45 AM
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 9

Classics' Fall Events

Fifteen members of the Classics toured the Surreybrook Garden and Nursery in Middletown, Maryland. This garden was started by the owner in 1977 and covers 20 acres of beautiful plants and trees in unique settings. Everyone enjoyed meandering about. We are thinking of returning in the spring to see all the spring flowers.

We had a scrumptious lunch at Schroyer's Tavern at the Maryland National Golf Club before returning to Leesburg.

Mark your calendar for October 20th's trip to the covered bridges in Maryland. Watch for details in the coming weeks.



Kim Mill, Judy Willeke, Peggy Everhart

Parents' Night Out



The Youth and Preschool will be hosting a Parents' Night Out on Saturday, November 4, 4:30-8:30.

This is open to children up to age 10 and we will welcome friends of friends, too. A freewill offering will be collected, and proceeds will be split between the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, and Little Blessings Preschool.

* We will play games, have dinner, make a craft, watch a movie, and be ready for bed at pickup (Please bring PJ's.)

Please contact Debbie Harned or Nancy Fox for more details.