INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT HOLY TRINITY?  
Next New Disciples Class Begins February 5

Would you like to learn more about ministry and opportunities at Holy Trinity? Would you like to learn more about serving others? Are you interested in joining Holy Trinity? Would you like to hear more about Holy Trinity’s beliefs and values? The New Disciples Class is a good way to investigate these things and more.

Pastor Brack will be leading the next class on Sundays in February during the Sunday School hour in Room P-24. If you are interested in attending, please speak with Pastor Brack, call the church office, or make a note on the Welcome Pad. Our next group of disciples joining Holy Trinity will be on March 11.
PASTOR’S PEN

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Holy Trinity,

This year, the Church Council will discuss a chapter from David Platt’s book Radical at each of our meetings in 2012. In this book, Pastor Platt talks about discipleship and making disciples in the context of how it was first done in the church: one person at a time leading another person to Christ. … One person mentoring a small group of people over a period of time, taking them deeper in faith. The “radical” part of this book is the recognition that the way we “do church” today is very far removed from the model that Jesus gave us, and he makes the case that we would be more faithful to go back to more Biblical methods. But---that would mean giving up much of what is considered the “American Dream.” The discussion will surely be lively!

I am continuing to encourage you to examine your life as a follower of Jesus Christ. There is great joy and satisfaction in authentically following Christ, and encouraging others to do the same. This is true in my life as I talk with people about Jesus, and as I try to live my life as an example for others to follow. I invite you into the same joy!

Serving Christ together with you,
Pastor Brack

MISSION TRIP TO GUATEMALA: FEBRUARY 14 - 21

Serving at the Casa Bernabe Orphanage

Holy Trinity has a continuing relationship with the children and staff of Casa Bernabe, and this is our fifth trip to the orphanage. We are partnering again with Christ the King Lutheran Church for this trip. This year’s Holy Trinity team members are:

Donna Allen  Maren East
Sydney Allen  Page East
Amy Carpenter  Robbie Oakes
Brooks Cloninger  Pastor Brack
Amy East

We anticipate that we’ll reconnect with the children we know, including Andres and Cristoffer, two boys that our youth group sponsors. We also expect we’ll be doing renovations in the house of Casa Samuel, including ceiling replacement, painting and redecorating from a girl’s house to a boy’s house. Every year, God matches our gifts with their needs, and we believe this year will be the same!

The entire congregation is invited to partner with the mission team by contributing toward a special offering. (The offering was January 29, but donations are still being accepted.) We hope to be able to provide new pillows for all the residents, as well as purchase underwear for the children. These were a couple items on the Casa Bernabe “wish list” this year.
ICE CREAM WITH ABRAHAM & ABSALOM
Sunday, February 12 ~ 2:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

A musical celebration of the anniversary of Rev. Absalom Jones, the first Black priest in the United States (1804), and the birthday of President Abraham Lincoln (1809).

Featuring.....
All Saints’ Episcopal, Gastonia, NC
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Gastonia, NC
St. Mark’s Episcopal, Gastonia, NC
St. Michael and All Angel’s, Charlotte, NC
St. Stephen’s AME Zion, Gastonia, NC

Be ready to sing, and save room for a scoop (or two!)

YOUNG AT HEARTS
Tuesday, February 14

Bring your valentine or special friend to Jackson's Cafeteria at Akers Shopping Center and enjoy lunch ("dutch treat") with the Young at Hearts on Tuesday, February 14 at 11:00 a.m. We will celebrate Valentine's Day and Heart Month by wearing RED! Please call Carla McMahan (704-864-0773) if you need transportation.

ALARM SYSTEM AT HOLY TRINITY

Our facilities at Holy Trinity are equipped with a silent burglar alarm system which is monitored by an alarm company. If the alarm is tripped, the alarm company will call the police to investigate. Many of our disciples have keys to our buildings. Please remember, if you plan to gain access to the buildings on a Saturday or holiday, you will need to know the code to disable the alarm as you enter. We have 2 separate alarm systems, so if you plan on being in more than one building, you may need to turn off 2 alarms. The system is automatically reset each night. If you have any questions, please contact Ellie in the church office.
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, February 26 at 9:45 a.m.

A (brief) congregational meeting will be held in the PLC gym on Sunday, February 26 for the purpose of ratifying two actions taken by the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) at its Convocation in August 2011. In the NALC, when significant actions are taken by the Convocation, individual congregations are asked to ratify those decisions. The two actions we will be voting on are:

1) Constitutional changes needed for the transition from the one-year provisional constitution to a permanent constitution.

2) Entering into a full-communion agreement with the Lutheran Church of Ethiopia (Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus). The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, is one of the largest Lutheran church bodies in the world, with 5.6 million members. It is also among the world’s fastest growing churches — adding 300,000 members last year. The Rev. Dr. Gemechis Desta Buba, NALC Missions Director, is a native of Ethiopia. He is widely respected among Ethiopian Lutherans and was instrumental in building the strong relationship between the EECMY and the NALC. The Ethiopian church and other Lutheran churches in Africa have been supportive of efforts by Lutheran CORE and others to maintain Biblical teaching on sexuality.

Watch for more detailed information prior to the meeting. At the meeting, we will review these two issues, take questions and comments, and hold the vote. We anticipate that Sunday School classes can meet for their classes after that.

“SHARE THE WARMTH” COAT COLLECTION RESULTS

During the months of December & January, Holy Trinity Disciples donated 45 coats which were distributed to The Salvation Army Homeless Shelter. Thank you!!!!

COMING IN 2013!

That’s right! In summer 2013, Holy Trinity will co-sponsor with Group Cares, a workcamp in Gaston County. Group Cares is the company we use for our Youth summer mission trips. We have used Group for years and our disciples have many combined years of experience with this company. Hope4Gaston, a ministry of Bethlehem Church, will be joining us in this HUGE project that will bring 400 youth and their leaders from around the country to work on homes and make disciples for Christ. This life-transforming event will require many hands so stay tuned for more information each month as this project unfolds. Contact Nancy Lemke for more info at 704-864-2284.
SALVATION ARMY BREAKFAST TEAMS FOR FEBRUARY

First Wednesday Teams

Team 2 - Serving Wednesday, February 1
Janet Green, chair
Pam Briant
Jim Green
Lisa Grubbs
Greg Hollifield

Third Saturday Teams

Team 2 - Serving Saturday, February 18
Heather Neumann, chair
Charles and Anna Curry
Amanda & Kim Dixon
Lisa Grubbs
Christy Miranda
Gwen Nenninger

CAN YOU SERVE ON A BREAKFAST TEAM?

ARE YOU A MORNING PERSON? Do you need a blessing? Are you in need of a place to serve? Could this be a place the Lord wants you to disciple?

The Salvation Army of Gastonia administers many programs and services designed to restore broken lives, to build healthy relationships and to develop and encourage people of all ages. One of the many programs they sponsor is a free hot breakfast. Holy Trinity is making a difference in our community by hosting breakfast on the first Wednesday and the third Saturday of each month in addition to our youth's ministry there.

It takes many disciples to keep this ministry functioning properly! We currently have 7 teams and are looking to add more. Each team serves approximately 3 or 4 times a year. We especially need Wednesday volunteers, but we can use Saturday volunteers also.

Breakfast is served at 6:30 a.m. to the residents and 7:00 a.m. to those who are homeless and living on the streets. Each team is responsible for purchasing, preparing and serving the food. (Reimbursement is made by Holy Trinity for all expenses.) The teams arrive at approximately 5:30 a.m. and leave by 7:30 a.m. All clean up is done by the Salvation Army. Getting to work on time on Wednesdays does not pose a problem for most volunteers. Please respond on the following form if you can help with this ministry by placing it in the offering plate or sending it to the church office.

Name (s): ____________________________________________

Home Phone: _____________________________ Cell: ______________________________

E-mail: __________________________________________________________________

____ I would like to serve on a Saturday team
____ I would like to chair a Saturday team
____ I would like to serve on a Wednesday team
____ I would like to chair a Wednesday team
____ I would like to learn more about this ministry
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH COUNCIL - 2012

Cathy Brice
Mike Brunnemer
Amy Carpenter - Vice President
Janet Green
Nancy Lemke - Secretary
Stephen Lineberry

Ana Mathews
Ron Ownbey
Lee Stadther - Treasurer
David Williard
Rich Wyatt - President
Brack East - Pastor

COUNCIL MINISTRY TEAM ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2012

This year, we are reorganizing some of our committees to better fit our ministries. The following is a list of ministry areas, and the Council members who are assigned to them. Most of these teams will have other people who chair and co-chair them. Our next task is to pray about putting all those leaders in place.

Care Ministry Ana Mathews
Communications Amy Carpenter
Congregational Life Janet Green
Constitution Rich Wyatt
Discipleship Stephen Lineberry and Ron Ownbey
Endowment Rich Wyatt
Finance Lee Stadther
Outreach Nancy Lemke
Personnel Ron Ownbey
Planning Cathy Brice
Property David Williard
Worship and Music Mike Brunnemer
Youth and Children Kristie Bogle

The C.A.S.H. Coalition provides free income tax preparation at various sites throughout Gaston and Lincoln Counties for households that earn $49,000 or less. Save $$ on the tax preparation fees charged by other tax preparers. Certain sites will also have the ability for free assisted self-service tax preparation (FAST). For further information please contact Beverly Witt @ 704-879-1325.

You can find a list of the available sites, with dates and times, on a bulletin board outside the church office and one in the PLC near the Lingle Class.
MINISTRY TEAMS REORGANIZE
Some staying the same… Some changing…

Our ministry organization has needed some work in the past year or so, and this year at the Council retreat some changes were made:

**Ministry teams staying mostly the same, with additional people to be added:**
- Congregational Life
- Constitution
- Endowment
- Finance
- Personnel
- Planning
- Worship and Music

**Ministry Teams under construction:**
- Care Ministry: This team will be better organized and filled out to enable our disciples to care for one another during difficult times in life.
- Communication Team: A brand-new team to organize communications within Holy Trinity and also in the wider community.
- Discipleship Team: A brand-new team that includes the ministries of Life Groups, Evangelism, Adult Education, Prayer and more.
- Outreach: A brand-new team combining local social ministries and also world-wide ministries
- Property: A reorganized team with sub-teams in the areas of building maintenance, grounds maintenance, technology and property planning.
- Youth and Children’s Ministries: Adding structure and momentum to our existing ministries.

*Please use this tear-off and drop it in the offering plate or send it to the church office to let us know if you have interest, passion, and gifts for serving in one or more of these areas!*

Name(s): ____________________________________________

Home Phone: _____________________________ Cell: _____________________________

E-mail: ____________________________________________

I would like to serve on the following Ministry team(s):

___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________
COUNCIL PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Holy Trinity Family,

Recently, my Life Group listened to a talk that really spoke to me and I thought I’d share its message with you. Our group facilitator brought in a video of a talk by Andy Stanley. The subject was an account from the Old Testament book of Nehemiah. I had previously had very little exposure to this book and wasn’t sure how Pastor Stanley would tie its message in with the experiences of my life. For those unfamiliar with the story of Nehemiah, he lived more than 400 years before the birth of Christ and was responsible for helping rebuild the wall around Jerusalem. The land there had been ravaged and the people were defeated, but Nehemiah was determined to do everything he could to help by rebuilding the wall around the city. He and his team worked tirelessly. When distractions would come, when others would want to redirect his focus, Nehemiah replied simply: “I am doing a great work and I cannot come down” (Nehemiah 6:3).

It seems like such a simple message but it really resonated with our group. In our lives we have so many distractions, so many comforts and activities that can make it easy to lose focus of our most important work. In 2012, my hope is that we, collectively here at Holy Trinity, can be like Nehemiah. Whatever ministry we’re connected with, let us do it to the best of our ability and give it the highest degree of focus and energy that we can, even through the distractions that will inevitably come. We’re coming off a strong 2011 where we were blessed with strong leadership and I’m excited about what 2012 has in store. My prayer is that the Lord will give us the focus to ignore distractions by adopting the mindset that “We are doing a great work and we cannot come down.”

In His Service,

Rich Wyatt
Congregation Council President

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS FROM JANUARY

At the regular Council meeting in January, the following actions were taken:

2. Ministry Team assignments were made for 2012.
3. Initiatives from the 2012 Planning Retreat were assigned for follow-up and reporting.
4. Approved a non-Council chairperson for the Personnel Committee for 2012 (Heather Neumann).
5. Discussed the financial surplus at the end of 2011 in light of our 2012 priorities, and made a motion to ask the Personnel Committee to begin investigating the possibility of hiring a part time Pastor for Seniors Ministry, and bring a proposal to the Council in February if possible.
6. Set the dates for the regular Council meetings in 2012 as the 4th Monday of the month.
7. Set the Council Person of the Month schedule for 2012.
COUNCIL RETREAT 2012 HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you to everyone who prayed for this event and for those in attendance. God has truly blessed our church so abundantly, and the council had a very successful and productive retreat. During these two days, we examined and redefined our initiatives of 2011 as well as identified new ministry opportunities for 2012.

As we move through 2012, it’s the goal of the council to continue to build a stronger sense of church-wide community. Identifying and utilizing the spiritual gifts and improving the communication on all levels will facilitate the involvement of Holy Trinity Disciples. Comprising a communications team will be integral to these efforts.

Just as Jesus calls on us to pray without ceasing and to always serve others, we want to understand what it means to have a servant’s heart and to become more comfortable in prayer and develop a closer, more intimate relationship with our Heavenly Father.

Mission opportunities will be expanded for disciples of all ages. There will be an increased focus on providing ministries for 18-30 year-olds as well as our Senior Disciples.

As this intimate relationship with Christ develops, we can begin to examine other areas where we can better serve Christ. From working to increase participation in our choirs to mentoring our youth, opportunities to serve Christ are abundant. We also want to look at how our committees are structured to ensure that each committee will be as effective as possible in serving both our church and Christ.

Finally, as we continue our transition to the NALC, we want to find ways to partner with other NALC congregations for worship, training and fellowship. Pastor Brack is serving on the Executive Council for the Carolinas Mission District, and Holy Trinity will be the host of the annual Carolinas Mission District Convention and Lutheran CORE meeting in May 2012.

Engaged disciples will be the key to the success of all of our initiatives for 2012. There will be an opportunity for everyone to become more involved and more connected. As we grow, we’ll continue to monitor our staffing needs to make sure we have the staff to meet the needs of all disciples.

Thank you for the blessing of service to this church family.

Cathy Brice
Planning Team Chair
FINANCIAL REPORT THROUGH DECEMBER 2011

Disciples of Christ reflect his generosity! We are in the process of finalizing the adjustments to the financial report for December and I am pleased to report that our receipts exceeded the disbursements for the year and we will close the year with a surplus.

Due to the continued generosity in meeting commitments in pledges, total receipts in December were $84,452, representing a $39,295 increase over our monthly budget of $45,157. Our church staff and leaders monitored expenses very closely throughout the year and spent less than the amounts we had budgeted. The combination of generous receipts and the close monitoring of our expenses have put our church in a good financial position going into 2012. Let’s take a look at where we finished for the month and year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actual (Preliminary):</th>
<th>Budget:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gifts Received in December 2011:</td>
<td>$84,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses in the Month of December:</td>
<td>$55,098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Cash Surplus:</td>
<td>$29,354*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actual:</th>
<th>Budget:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Gifts Received in 2011:</td>
<td>$547,524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses Incurred in 2011:</td>
<td>$533,814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Cash Surplus:</td>
<td>$13,710*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The 2011 expenses are currently being reviewed and applied to the appropriate designated fund accounts which will result in even a lower expense total incurred for 2011. With these adjustments to the expenses the surplus for 2011 is projected to be between $20,000 and $25,000.

Holy Trinity has reason for Celebration! **GOD is Good!** God continues to work through us, his disciples. It is revealed by our 2011 giving to His church that we have chosen a deeper relationship with God as we all grow in discipleship. Let’s rejoice and celebrate!

What can be expected in 2012? The New Year brings new excitement and challenges as it pertains to the Holy Trinity’s purpose and initiatives in our neighborhood and in Gaston County. The Church’s financial condition is improving. Our budget in 2012 has a small increase over 2011’s but has been reduced by $56,500 over the last two years. The 2012 budget is one that we agreed through congregational vote could be met. It will be of great importance that commitments in pledges and offerings are made in a year that continues to have various economic challenges. As we grow in our relationship with Jesus, we will discover just how generous He is, and we’ll all be amazed at the resources that are released for ministry through us. I plan on making sure that my commitment is met and hope that every Disciple will join me in this effort. We continue to have tremendous work to do and your continued financial support is critical to meeting these objectives and goals. Together, we will exceed these expectations.

We have much to celebrate and much to be thankful for. I invite you to continue your response to God’s grace in your life as you make offerings to Holy Trinity. We have a God of abundance who can meet the needs of His ministries---and God does that through willing disciples who follow Him. Thanks be to God!

**In His Service,**

Lee Stadther, Church Council Treasurer
BENEVOLENCE PLAN FOR 2012

The Council approved the following plan for making gifts beyond our walls, as a part of our 2012 annual budget:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NALC Denominational Support</strong></td>
<td>North American office</td>
<td>$5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carolinas Mission District</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Distant Ministries</strong></td>
<td>Gospel Missionaries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overseas Ministry Fellowship  (Dr. Randy Adams)</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hunger Relief</strong></td>
<td>Lutheran World Relief</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Food for the Poor (Caribbean)</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disaster Relief</strong></td>
<td>Samaritans Purse</td>
<td>4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education/Seminary/Camping</strong></td>
<td>NALC Theological Education Designated Fund</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lenoir Rhyne University</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lutheridge-Lutherock Ministries</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agape / Kure Beach Ministries</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pan African Academy of Christian Surgeons (Dr. Mark Couture)</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local Ministries</strong></td>
<td>Lutheran Services for the Aging</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gospel Missionaries</strong></td>
<td>NALC Mission Congregation—Trinity in Fletcher, NC</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NALC Mission Congregation—Reformation in New Bern, NC</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NALC Mission Congregation—planned for Charlotte in 2012</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hunger Relief</strong></td>
<td>Backpack Weekend Food Program</td>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Housing/Homelessness</strong></td>
<td>Family Promise (Formerly IHN)</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>As One Ministries</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salvation Army</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recovery Ministries</strong></td>
<td>Cornerstone Ministry</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Crisis Ministries</strong></td>
<td>Crisis Assistance Ministry of Gastonia (CAM)</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gastonia</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shelter of Gaston County--Women’s Shelter of NC</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>Undesignated—for future opportunities in 2012</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The North American Lutheran Church is continuing to grow by receiving congregations and also by planting new mission starts. The newest mission start in our area will begin soon in Charlotte. It will be led by Rev. Samuel Pawlos of Colorado. Watch for opportunities for Holy Trinity to help.

Bishop Bradosky has represented the NALC by signing an open letter titled: “Marriage and Religious Freedom: Fundamental Goods That Stand or Fall Together.” The letter encourages all people to support the definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman, and it makes the case that religious liberty could be threatened as laws are changed as a result of redefining marriage.

Bishop Bradosky and President Matthew Harrison of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and others from both churches, met in December to talk about our common mission. A quote after the meeting: “Our time together affirms that there is much that unites us and very little that divides. It was our hope that we would find ways to work together to strengthen our witness to the world and care for the needs of people while clearly proclaiming the Gospel….In fact, we have found more ways than we can deal with in a single meeting. It is apparent that more meetings are both needed and desired by both groups to develop this relationship in ways that will create an enduring bond between us because of the faith we share in Christ Jesus.”

In Local News:
The Carolinas Mission District of the NALC will meet at Holy Trinity on May 4-5, 2012. Friday, May 4 will begin with the local Lutheran CORE convocation, and then at noon on Friday and going through Saturday the NALC Convocation will meet. It is an honor and privilege to be able to host these events at our location. We will be involved in worship leadership, both traditional and contemporary, and Holy Trinity will also be a workshop leader so that we can share some of our discipleship practices with the surrounding NALC churches. This year the date is intentionally separate from the dates of the NC and SC synod assemblies of the ELCA, in case you wish to invite friends from those congregations to attend.

DID YOU KNOW???

Moises Miranda, owner of Miranda Realty, recently became the new president of the Gaston Association of Realtors. On January 13, Lou Baldwin, president of the N.C. Association of Realtors, did the honors in a ceremony at the Gaston Country Club. Moises will head the Gaston Association which has 300 members and 25 affiliates. Congratulations!!!
Ashes to Ashes

It seems way too early to be thinking about Ash Wednesday, but February 22nd will soon be upon us. Ash Wednesday is the Wednesday of the seventh week before Easter and the first day of Lent. The day is named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice which many Lutheran congregations have found to be a very meaningful part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy.

Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence.

Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence: 1) Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). 2) Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used anciently in the absence of soap. On Ash Wednesday ashes are a penitential substitute for water as a reminder of our baptism. 3) Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried: "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust." 4) Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God.

In the liturgy the confession and imposition serve as the gathering rite for the Ash Wednesday service of Holy Communion. This confession marks the beginning of a season of penitence. The Maundy Thursday absolution is the structural response to the Ash Wednesday confession, marking off Lent as a penitential time. At the conclusion of the Ash Wednesday confession and imposition of ashes, a declaration of grace is used, coupled with a plea for mercy. During the Lenten season, we no longer say, “Alleluia”, instead waiting for the return of the joyous Easter season.

During Lent, choir rehearsals will begin immediately following our mid-week Lenten services. Since you are already here, why not join the choir?

Did you know? On the last weekend of February, six members of our Handbell Choir will be making their annual trek to Lutheridge for a handbell workshop. We will be joining with two ringers from Redeemer of Charleston and one from Redeemer in Gastonia in our group. The annual workshop is a great time to join with other bell choirs and make great music together in a beautiful location.

Instrumentalists Needed! – Once a month, we would like to showcase our instrumental musicians (of all skill levels) during worship. Do you play an instrument? Would you like to sing a solo or duet? Contact Dave Brockman for more information.
Youth Mission Statement:  *As a family of youth, in Christ’s love, we celebrate, honor and serve God as we reach out to others and grow in our faith.*

The month begins with Super Bowl **Sunday, February 5**, also known as **Souper Bowl Sunday** when the youth stand at the exits at each service to collect donations in soup pots to help fight the battle against hunger. Please remember to bring some extra change, folding money is good also, to help our youth fight hunger right here in our own community and abroad.

**BYG Weekend** for 3rd-5th grade at Camp Agape’ is **February 17-19**. Those attending this event are Gracie and Julia DiBella, Caroline Doster and Evie Heffner. We will join two other Lutheran churches for a weekend of games, music, skits, crafts and worship. Meet at the PLC at 3:30 p.m. on Friday and we plan to return by 6:00 p.m. on Sunday.

On **Tuesday, February 21**, the pancakes will be flipping and the bacon and sausage will be frying as the youth sponsor the **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**. This year we will also be serving whole-wheat pancakes and sugar-free syrup as an alternative choice to remind us to eat healthy. Sign up in the PLC to help cook, set-up, serve and clean up. This is also a fundraiser for our youth so we need lots of help.

**Looking Ahead:**

**Youthquake for Middle School Youth, 6th – 9th grade is April 13-15** at the Sheridan Hotel in Charlotte. Older high school students can go as Junior Guides. “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught and overflowing with thankfulness.” Colossians 2:6-7 is the theme verse for this year’s event. Rooted in Christ. The youth will enjoy messages from inspiring speakers, sing along with awesome bands and participate in age appropriate workshops. Cost of this event is $85 which includes lodging and program fees. Meals are not included. Sign up in the PLC.

**Looking toward the Summer!!!!!!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>June 10-15</th>
<th>Garden City Youth Beach Retreat – Cost $150 – Sign up in the PLC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 18-22</td>
<td>Camp Agape’ Day Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 29-July 8</td>
<td>Canada Workcamp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 15-21</td>
<td>Confirmation Camp at Lutherock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 16-20</td>
<td>VBS at Holy Trinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 5-10</td>
<td>BYG Week at Camp Agape’ for rising 3rd – rising 6th grade</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**WHERE DID THE CHILDREN’S OFFERINGS GO?**

For a woman in Tanzania or El Salvador, a farm hen and chicks means eggs to eat, eggs to sell and chicks to grow a flock. By the generous offering of our children (and their parents) we have empowered five women and given the gift that keeps on giving...independence, sustainability and success. All of this just by dropping money into the jugs before the children’s sermon and the offering given in the children’s Sunday School classes. This week we purchased 5 flocks of hen and chicks for $200 that was collected since July!!!!!! This was done through Lutheran World Relief.

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**SPECIAL SAINT**

We have 2 special saints who will celebrate birthdays this month!

**Howard Rhyne** will celebrate his 90th birthday on February 2 and

**Beulah Tomkins** will celebrate her 97th birthday on February 7.
Please help us wish them a happy birthday by sending them a card to:

**Howard Rhyne**  
1351 Robinwood Road  
Apt A-209  
Gastonia, NC 28054  

**Beulah Tompkins**  
1410 Midwood Drive  
Gastonia, NC 28054

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**Thank You!**

Thank you for your support during my cousin’s recent passing. Thank you especially for the phone calls, flowers, emails and offers to help with the girls. You guys are amazing. I’m blessed to be part of this ministry.

*Charlie French*

To the Congregation of Holy Trinity,  
Please consider this little note a big word of Thanks for all your love, thoughts, prayers and words of encouragement during our family’s trying time. The flowers on the altar were a beautiful addition to the service. Gail was a wonderful woman, with so much love for everyone and we will never forget that. We take peace in knowing she is in heaven, watching over all of us.

*Thank you again, Hillary Sherrill*
Butch Kerns, at the death of his mother Mary Ann Kerns on 1/25
Joel Henry and family, at the death of his father Joel Henry, Sr. on 1/26
John Witherspoon and family, at the death of his uncle Rick Witherspoon
Joyce Leonard, awaiting test results on her health
Charlotte Sautner, recovering at home after surgery from broken leg
Charlie and Tim French family, at the unexpected death of Charlie’s cousin
Betty Leonhardt, recovering after fall and fractured rib
Pete Saunders and family, at the death of Pete’s sister Gwen Moton
Jerry Campbell, treatments for back problems
Layne Rickle, recovering at home from surgery on 1/6
Betty Sosebee, moved back to Alexandria Place
Sara Carpenter, recovering at home from knee surgery
Carolyn Ivester, moved back home following rehab after surgery
Kaye Beaty, recovering from double knee replacement, in Wilmington
Homebound: George & Caroline Banker, Bill & Anne Beam, Myra Doster, Carl Fulbright, Carolyn Ivester, Betty Leonhardt, Sue Long, Gertrude Nehrenz, Sue Rhyne, Vera Robertson, Geri Rudisill, Laura Screws, Martha Smith, Betty Sosebee, Billie & Terry Thames, Rachel Waggoner, Joyce Wallace
Rhonda Brewer, sister of Jimmy Faulkner, inoperable lung cancer, begins radiation and chemo this week
Alina Brocciale, sister of Ana Barreto Mathews, blood clot
Elsie and Glen Owens at the death of their 27 y-o son, prayers requested by LaRae and Jerry Campbell
Sue Vanica, sister of Pam Briant, undergoing chemotherapy
Alice Craft, sister of Sarah Waldrop, hospitalized for broken hip and a stroke
Tom Marchese, requested by LaRae and Jerry Campbell for an inoperable brain tumor
Gene Simpson, grandfather of Cody Carpenter, having surgery
Family and friends of George Cox, at his death, prayers requested by Nancy Lemke
JP Reep, brother of James, recovering from surgery, at Belaire
Larry Jones, brother of Diana Reep, home ransacked during his cancer surgery 1/19
Robin Simmons, daughter of Iris Work, continuing health concerns
Borrise Paullin, friend of Hilda Teumer’s brother, undergoing rehab, colon cancer
Family & friends serving in the military: Jon Michael Brackett (Cherry Point, NC), Kacey Carr (VA), Russell Garrison (Afghanistan), Preston Guffey (NC), Brett Boyd (SC), Christa Revels (CA), David Revels (CA)
For our 2012 Council as they organize ministry teams
For the Casa Bernabe orphanage in Guatemala

Please remember, if you want your name or someone else’s name added to the Prayer List, all you have to do is fill-out a Prayer Card at church or call the church office.

HOSPITAL VISITATION FOR FEBRUARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 29 - February 11</td>
<td>Tess Gibbons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 12 - 25</td>
<td>Marilyn Kosak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 26 - March 10</td>
<td>Cindy Garrison</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
February & March Birthdays

With special joy, we recognize and celebrate these birthdays in the months of February and March. We are thankful for the life and spirit of those birthdays we celebrate. May the blessings of God flow in the life of each of you.

**FEBRUARY**

1. Lee Allen, Oscar Doster, Bob Frye
2. Alonso Ganan, Janet Green, Joyce Leonard, Howard Rhyne
3. Jake Banker, John Ratz
4. Charlie Rector, Teleena Stadther
5. Morgan Bryant, Taylor Williams
6. Stanhope Clemmer, Nathan Kellar, Debbie Link, Beulah Tompkins
7. Diane George, Charlie Currie
8. Mark Parlier
9. Brian O'Donohue
10. Elizabeth Lethermon
11. Mark Couture, Frances Ford
12. Burgin Lindley
13. Elaine Alexander, Anne Cloninger
14. Minniejan Krenzer, Jean Warren
15. Tyler Brown, Jonathan Leonard, Alexandria Price
16. Harriett Lethermon, Oyebode Orija
17. Wesley Herms, Margaret Miller, Morgan Stamey
18. Betty Sosebee, Gabe Wloch
19. Ryan Wallace
20. Miguel Miranda
21. Honore' Korley, Katie Rucker, Emilia Vischi
22. Ken Kies
23. LaVerne Davis
24. Dale Brittain

**MARCH**

1. Kacey Carr, Kimberly Beam
2. Joe McGaha, Leon Moretz
3. Carla Holmes, Janie Thompson
4. Sara Fender, Tonya Floyd
5. Tim Black, Samantha Fernando, Andrew Massey, Jane Wilson
6. Chad Murr
7. David Fogle, Donnie Yavelak
8. Kristi Clemmer, Dustin Rickle
9. Tim O'Donohue, Jackie Starr
10. Jane Bridges
11. Kelsey Brice, Veronica Bryant, James East, Donna Motsinger, Layne Rickle, Bonnie Saylors
12. Cory Grubbs
13. Lexi McGaha, Megann Motsinger, Amy Carpenter
14. Chad Barnes, Brian Kies, Christa Revels
15. Ryan Waits
16. Evelyn Arrowood, Rita Baumann, Bruce Blalock, Jim Dalpiaz
17. Brenda Falls
18. Gracie Bennett, Michael Sparks
19. Anne Beam
20. Mary Leslie Miller, Kevin Novinc, Alison Novinc
21. Eric Clemmer
22. Rich Wyatt
23. Butch Barnes, Anna Currie, Harry Froneberger, Marty Leonard
24. Billie Barnes, Jake Barnette, Abbie Grubbs, Savannah Grubbs, Matt Oliver
WOMEN OF HOLY TRINITY ARE YOU READY???

RETREAT 2012 IS COMING!!

LEADER: AMY CARPENTER & TEAM

Blowing Rock Conference Center
Friday through Sunday
April 20 - 22

Cost: $140
Deposit of $70 due by February 19
Remainder due by April 15

Late Fee: If all money is not turned in by April 15 the cost is $150.00

Two nights (All linens and towels furnished PLUS 5 meals)

Please complete the form on the next page and send to:

Elizabeth or Harriet Lethermon
606 South Lee St., Gastonia, NC 28052
Phone: 704-865-6567
WOMEN’S RETREAT 2012 INFORMATION SHEET
April 20 - 22

Please fill out the following information and mail it along with your check made out to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Women (or HTLCW) for $70.00 (1/2) or $140.00 (full amount) to: Elizabeth or Harriet Lethermon, 606 S. Lee St., Gastonia, NC 28052

Please Print:

Name:________________________________________________________

Address:_________________________________________________________________

Home Phone:_________________________ Cell Phone:___________________________

E-Mail:___________________________________________________________________

Roommate request:_______________________________________________________
(If you don’t have a roommate request, a person will be assigned to you)

Do you need a handicapped accessible room?_______________________________

Do you need to be on the first floor?_______________________________________

To help with room assignments, are you “early to bed” or “night owl”?___________

Are you planning to drive your car?_________________________________________

If so, are you willing to take others?__________ How many?_____________________

Do you need a ride to the Center?_________________________________________

Are you diabetic?__________ Other needs:_____________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________

Any questions, call Elizabeth or Harriet Lethermon at 704-865-6567.

Total cost is $140.00. Deposit of $70.00 is due by February 19.
All money is due by April 15. If not turned in by April 15, the cost will be $150.00.
HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
805 SOUTH YORK STREET
GASTONIA, NC  28052
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

“Sharing the Good News and Making Disciples for Christ”
Phone:  704-864-0378    Fax:  704-864-4959
Website:  www.holytrinitygastonia.org

**MINISTRY STAFF**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead Pastor</td>
<td>Braxton East</td>
<td><a href="mailto:brack@holytrinitygastonia.org">brack@holytrinitygastonia.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Director of Parish Music</td>
<td>Dave Brockman</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dave@holytrinitygastonia.org">dave@holytrinitygastonia.org</a></td>
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<td>Tim French</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director of Youth/Children’s Ministries</td>
<td>Kay Peak</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kay@holytrinitygastonia.org">kay@holytrinitygastonia.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Laura Kendrick</td>
<td><a href="mailto:laura@holytrinitygastonia.org">laura@holytrinitygastonia.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities Administrator</td>
<td>Ellie Holloway</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ellie@holytrinitygastonia.org">ellie@holytrinitygastonia.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexton</td>
<td>James Dean</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursery Supervisor</td>
<td>Lori Price</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>