



Trinity Today

Vol. 21, No. 11

November 1, 2019

November 3rd: All Saints' Sunday Observed!

On November 3rd, we will observe All Saints' Sunday in Trinity's Sanctuary services. We will be celebrating and remembering the life and faith of all of our members who have gone on to the LORD in heaven since All Saints' Sunday in 2018.

This year, we will be remembering eleven members who lived and loved in the faith and strength of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



James G. Curtin
December 19, 1938 -
December 8, 2018



Sidney Allen Cox
October 10, 1937 -
December 26, 2018



Viola Bernice Schulz
October 14, 1927 -
January 23, 2019



Barbara Raye Ellis
November 21, 1946 -
January 23, 2019



Linda Kay Andricks
June 1, 1948 -
March 19, 2019



Betty M. Horneber
April 20, 1923 -
April 10, 2019



Bert Allen Martens
November 13, 1944 -
April 21, 2019



Calvin Morris Henrichs
March 18, 1949 -
May 30, 2019



Rhonda Kay Blanton
April 2, 1968 -
June 10, 2019



Steve M. Worchesik, Jr.
April 4, 1943 -
June 20, 2019



Marjorie E. Montavon
January 12, 1951 -
September 20, 2019



Fall Food Drive - November 10

Hello fellow Christians. Wow, how humbling that is to be called a Christian. This begs the question, what is it exactly to be a Christian? For me simply, it is to follow and act like Jesus. What better way to accomplish this than to give ourselves? Please take the time this November the 10th to set aside a portion to help those who are in need, some desperate need, in our neighborhood. May God bless us all in this effort. Please refer to the list for needed items or call Steve, Tana or Zach Bell any time.

Suggested Contents for Thanksgiving Meal

Instant Mashed Potatoes	large box
Green Beans2 cans
Kernel Corn2 cans
Sweet Potatoes	1 large or 2 small cans
Gravy	canned or dry mix
Cranberry Sauce	1 can
"Stove Top" Stuffing	1 box



Donations to be used to purchase turkeys and other necessities are also needed. Gift certificates to Fiesta or Kroger are also helpful! **No TURKEYS please because St. Joseph's does not have a freezer!**

Additional Items Needed

As the need exists for more than just food for Thanksgiving Dinner, perhaps the Spirit will move you to add one or more of the following items to your grocery bag.

- Paper towels, toilet paper (these items cannot be purchased with food stamps)
- Vegetable oil for cooking (plastic bottles preferred)
- Sugar, rice, dry pinto beans (small and large bags)
- Breakfast cereal (unsugared, such as toasted oats or wheat flakes preferred)
- Disposable diapers (from newborn through size 3)
- Canned chicken, turkey, beef, tuna
- Canned chili and stew
- Canned fruits, juices, and vegetables (any variety)
- Canned tomato products, jars or cans of spaghetti sauce
- Liquid dishwashing soap

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..." Matthew 25:35



Finance Corner - November 1, 2019

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.
2 Corinthians 9:10 ESV

Dear Supporter of Trinity's Ministry:

Through September of this year, Trinity's offerings and other income were 8% higher than our budget and 20% higher than the same period in 2018. Our scheduled operational debt payments continue apace and we're thankful for a designated gift in late September that reduced our outstanding operational debt to ~\$500k. We continue to build our Asset Replacement Fund that is designated for planned replacement of operational assets such as computers and audio/visual equipment, and the replacement for our aging cooling tower should be installed in November. Our operational expenses through September were 2% more than our budget anticipated and 2% more than in 2018.



Please keep in mind our annual Commitment worship services on November 23rd and 24th. Prayerfully consider setting aside a portion of what you anticipate receiving from God in 2020 as a gift back to Him, taking into account the Biblical example of offering to God 10% of what He provides.

For your convenience, please remember that you can track your contributions and/or print contribution letters online by logging into your Trinity Community Builder ("TCB") account. Just go to the "\$" on the left-most panel on the screen. Select it, and you will see your contributions listed in detail. If you then select the "Giving Statements" options on the top right portion of the screen, you can print your contribution statement.

Your faithful contributions continue to make a real difference in Trinity's ability to share the Good News of Jesus' love to all people, now. Thank you for faithful giving as we can count on God to increase the harvest of righteousness in all of our lives!

He is, indeed, working in our midst.

Joyfully joining Jesus alongside you,
Ron Lacy, CFO

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

How to increase your giving to Trinity without spending any money.

Please remember that you can expand your stewardship by using a program that Trinity has qualified for at Amazon. Amazon will give Trinity a 0.5% rebate for all purchases made by our supporters when making their normal purchases at Amazon. It's very easy—whenever you are shopping on Amazon, go to this web address (instead of www.amazon.com):

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-1238451>

Using this service from Amazon won't change the costs of the products you buy, and all of your account settings and preferences will be retained. The only thing that will change is that Trinity will receive a rebate!

Trinity Lutheran Church Celebrates 140 Years

Trinity Lutheran Church's 140th anniversary of its founding is on November 9, 2019. **We will celebrate the anniversary on Sunday, November 10th.** Pastor Michael Newman, President of the Texas District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, will be our guest speaker at both the 8:15 and 10:50 a.m. worship services. Light refreshments will be served following each service.



The history of God's blessings on the ministry of Trinity in downtown Houston is recalled through these "historical happenings" taken from numerous sources, especially from Ruth Stoerkel and the Trinity Archives.

The Early Years - Houston 1870-1880

At the end of this decade, Houston was a growing city with 16,513 residents. Houston and Harris County were showing a higher population growth than any other part of the state. It was the rail center of Southeast Texas and various communications systems, particularly the telegraph and telephone, promoted the city's growth. The first telephone exchange was installed in 1880 when there were 50 telephones in Houston. A milestone of progress was the first arc streetlight installed in the downtown area at the intersection of Main Street and Preston Avenue in December 1882. Education took a leap forward when free public schools were established in Houston in 1876.

Many people living in Houston and others moving into this city were beginning a new life in a new land. The locals and the newly arrived immigrants sought refuge in the few familiar things that reminded them of home. One place they could hear the language of home and enjoy the fellowship of familiar people with similar beliefs was in the church.

Germans were among Houston's first settlers. There have been estimates that German immigrants made up twenty to forty-five percent of the city's population during this period and the German language was spoken on Houston's Main Street as commonly as English.

Many times early congregations were established by groups of immigrants who wanted churches like the ones they had left back home. Often, groups met in homes or public buildings until the congregations grew and could raise enough funds to build their own houses of worship.

FOUNDERS OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - HOUSTON, TEXAS

Carl Appelt	W. Kersten	F. Schnaucke
Louis Bathe	F. Leverkuhn	Julius Schoeverling
G. Blohm	H. Nehrling	Adolph Stoppel
J. A. Blohm	Otto Nauert	Heinrich Stoppel
Fritz Borsum	A. Oppermann	Wilhelm Stoppel
Louis Geyer	A. Paulig	C. Voss, Jr.
Johann Hoop	Heinr. Sauber	C. Voss, Sr.
F. Janson	Herm. Schiebler	Ernst Zeitler

On November 9, 1879, a group of twenty-four men met in the home of Mr. F. Schnaucke to found the congregation which they named Deutsche Evangelisch - Lutherische Dreieinigkeits Gemeinde of Houston (German Evangelical - Lutheran Trinity Church of Houston). These men had been leaders of an independent Lutheran congregation located at Milam and Texas Avenues in downtown Houston. They had accused that church and its pastor of un-Lutheran practices and had voted to withdraw and organize what they felt would be a true Lutheran congregation. Trinity Lutheran Church was the first congregation of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Houston.

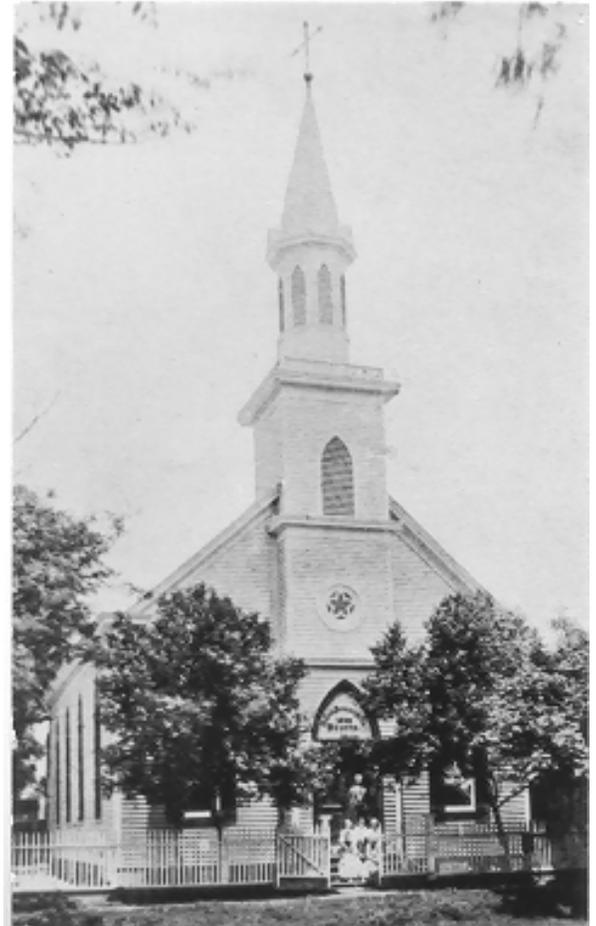
These same forefathers also saw the need to nurture the spiritual, educational and social needs of their children, so they established a school at the same time the congregation was organized. That school was known as Deutsch-Englische Lutherische Schule (German-English Lutheran School) for a number of years.

With the assistance of the Reverend P. Roesener of Rose Hill, Texas, and the Reverend J. M. Maisch of Klein, Texas, the seceders extended a call to the Reverend Timotheus Stiemke of Warda, Texas, to be their first pastor. It was not until the call was extended a second time that Pastor Stiemke accepted the challenge of the new congregation, Trinity Lutheran Church.

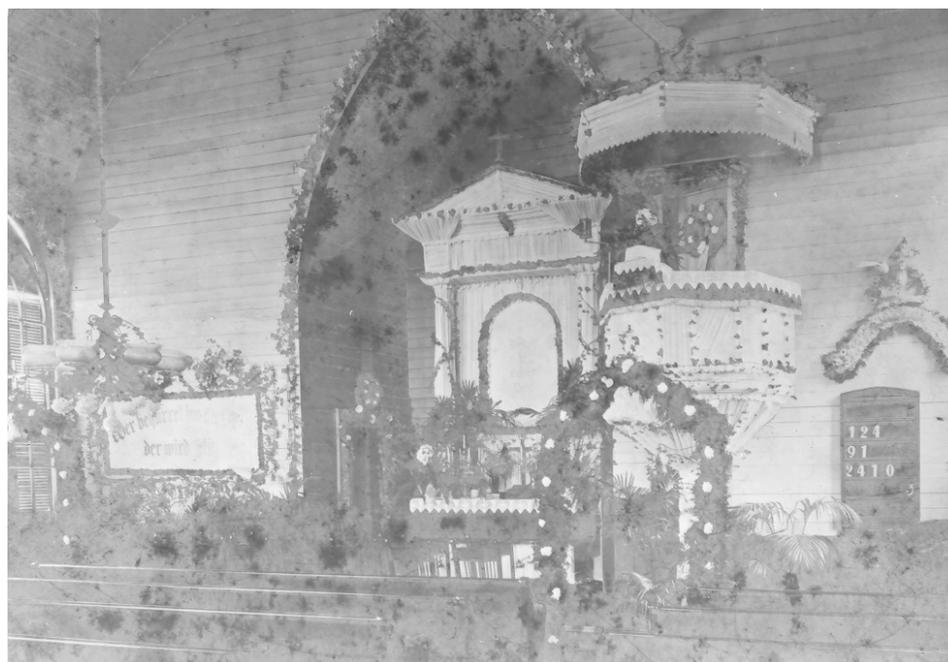
Initially, worship services were conducted in a rented room of a residence on Texas Avenue. Classes for the first school were held in that same room. Mr. Henry Nehrling was the first teacher and school was held even during the summer months "under extreme hardships."

During its first year of existence, the congregation purchased a piece of property in the 400 block of Louisiana Street between Preston and Prairie (present site of the Lyric Center).

The church was built at a cost of approximately \$1,900 with an additional \$300 for fixtures. The congregation could not afford the expenses necessary for the construction of a house of worship and, consequently, in an unprecedented move, an urgent request for financial help went out to the readers of *Der Lutheraner*, a publication of the Missouri Synod. The contributions from Lutherans all over the country and from local citizens enabled plans for a church building to become a reality. The cornerstone of Trinity's first building was put in place on August 1, 1880, and the building was dedicated to God's service on November 28, 1880.



Original Church, built 1880



Interior of Original Church

The first school building was erected behind the church on Louisiana Street and dedicated on January 1, 1881. The purpose of this school was "to give such children of the congregation who are of scholastic age and others who attend the school a thorough Christian training; to instruct them diligently in Bible History and Dr. Martin Luther's Small Catechism; and also give them a thorough course of instruction of the necessary secular branches."

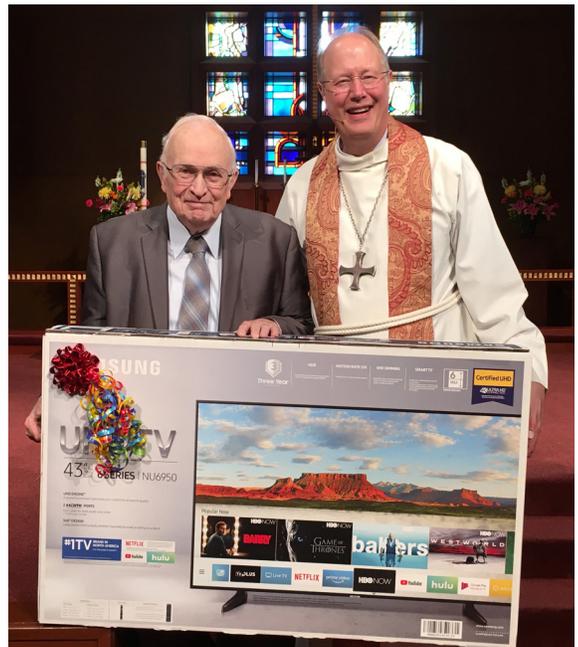
Rollin Cattau Retirement

After almost twenty years of service to Trinity Downtown, Rollin Cattau has retired in order to take care of his wife, Eldeen. On October 27th, Pastor Dorn recognized Rollin's service to Trinity Downtown in the morning worship services. Rollin was surprised with the gift of a new Samsung television from the congregation to replace his old tube television. Pastor Dorn said that Rollin and Eldeen are huge Astros fans and now they can watch the World Series in style.

We praise God for Rollin's ministry among us and wish God's continued blessings on Rollin and Eldeen.

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Text: Public domain: LSB 805



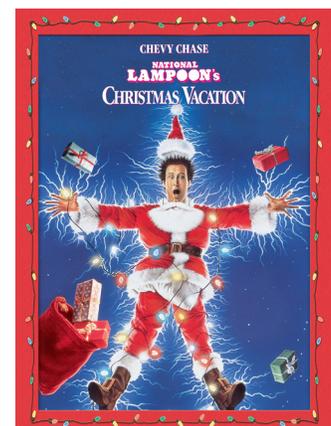
Countdown to Christmas Begins Soon

Christmas is just around the corner. Perhaps you're already counting down the days until the Holiday and making preparations — buying gifts, making travel plans, and getting out decorations. The church counts down too. The four weeks before Christmas provides an opportunity for each of us to make the important spiritual preparations for the Celebration.

This year the whole congregation will be invited to "Countdown to Christmas" together using an Advent Calendar. Each household will be given a calendar for use in the home as a part of your devotions. In the Sanctuary, a very large calendar will be used during the month of December. At each worship service, behind each door of the calendar a picture or object will be revealed that will guide the sermon topic and a look at God's Word. As the doors of the large calendar are opened a big Christmas image will begin to take shape like a puzzle coming together that will finally be completed on Christmas Eve.



Pastor Dorn's Christmas Movie Bible Study



Join Pastor Dorn beginning Sunday, December 1, for his annual Christmas Movie Bible Study. This year's movie will be "Christmas Vacation" starring Chevy Chase. In this four-week Advent Bible study the class will watch this modern parable which points us back to God's Word and what He says to many situations we face in life. Popcorn will be served!

Got Prayer?

Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. Matthew 18:19 ESV

Do you have an issue that you need to bring to the feet of Our Lord? There are times when every one of us experiences difficulties, and God never intended for us to go through these challenges alone.

Perhaps you or a loved one are struggling with an illness or loneliness, and you want to ask for God's comfort and healing. Or maybe you're facing a difficult and potentially life-altering decision, and you need God's direction. Or, you've received a real blessing from the Lord for which you want to offer sincere thanks.

Praying for each other is one of the reasons God brought us together as a congregation—and why our church has a Stephen Ministry. If you are ready to pray, trained Stephen Ministers are available during Communion at each worship service to pray alongside you. And you can be confident that whatever you share with them will be held in strictest confidence.

Stephen Ministers are commissioned members of our congregation who have received 50 hours of specialized training to equip them to provide Christ-focused, highly confidential care and prayer support to people experiencing a crisis, facing a challenge or simply going through a tough time.

If you'd like to learn more about how our Stephen Ministry could provide a listening ear and caring heart for yourself, a loved one, friend, neighbor or co-worker (inside or outside our congregation) please speak with one of our pastors, or reach out to Ron Lacy at rlacy@trinitydt.org or 713.229.2970.



Ladies Circle Christmas Bazaar

The Trinity Ladies Circle is having their annual Christmas Bazaar on Sunday, November 10, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the gym.

There will be seasonal decorations, White Elephant items, kids table, food baskets and baked goods! Come do your Christmas shopping early for great bargains!

Proceeds go to mission projects the Ladies Circle supports.



Christmas Bazaar

Decorate for Christmas



Plan now to spend a little time on Sunday, December 1, decorating our Lord's house for the Advent and Christmas Season. This is a great time of fellowship, fun, and service in His name. We will decorate after the 10:50 a.m. service. We need all ages to help.

Lunch will be served before we start—please RSVP to Lynn Bedner at 713.668.3977.

Congregational Assembly Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Assembly Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 17, 2019, at 12:15 p.m. in the gym. Lunch will be served.

Bios for the Nominees for the 2020 Governing Board.

2020 Governing Board Nominee: Cindy Deere

Age: 60

Years Trinity Member: 3

Occupation: Finance Professional, Shell Oil Company, Currently GM US Pension Plans

Summarize your prior or present involvement in the church:

Participate in worship and Sunday School, play handbells and sing in the choir.

What skills and experience do you bring to serving this Board?

Finance, Administration, Leadership, Empathy, Non-profit Governance.

I've served on the Church Board of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Kingwood several years ago and have participated in a few non-profit boards since then including the Gutierrez Energy Management Institute Advisory Board (part of Uof H Bauer College of Business) and the Houston Symphony Board. I am currently a member of The Barnabas Group and serve as chair of the Houston Area Women's Center Board.

Any other information you would like to share with the congregation:

I am a finance professional with 35+ years of experience in the financial services and energy sectors. I love working with people, helping them to find their passion and purpose and putting both to good use.



2020 Governing Board Nominee: Thomas DeVries

Age: 41

Years Trinity Member: 3

Occupation: Decision Quality Management Consultant

Summarize your prior or present involvement in the church:

My family and I transferred to Trinity in 2016 after visiting for a year. We are blessed to call this church our home. We have made great friends and mentors that have walked with us over the last few years. Since joining I have helped in different ways at Trinity Downtown and in our mission as Christians. One such way was the creation of the "Hermeneutics" Sunday School class tailored to millennials. After that class was established and successfully handed off to Pastor Hofmann, I was then approached to start another class. This led to the "Christian Rubric for Life" class for those who are interested in exploring the impact of their faith on their life's decisions. In the music ministry I have sung with the Sanctuary Choir and then started and directed the Trinity Summer Choir which has been a great joy to me and our fellow singers.

What skills and experience do you bring to serving this Board?

I served as an Elder at our previous congregation for ten years. I was asked to organize, train and chair two building committees. I have also served as the chair of a strategic initiative committee that



was the genesis of turning around a failing parochial school. Professionally, I advise for-profit and not-for-profit organizations through the strategic decision-making process. I test the business soundness of a team's options and will regularly be asked to stay on and manage a project through completion.

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2020 Governing Board Nominee: Anthony Flaviani

Age: 43

Years Trinity Member: 13 Years

Occupation: Senior Manager, Systems Engineers Symantec

Summarize your prior or present involvement in the church:

Attends late service on Sundays. Member of the IT MAT, assists with communion, assists usher, assists with teaching Sunday School, and assists with recording services.



What skills and experience do you bring to serving this Board?

I have been a Christian all of my life and was baptized Lutheran as an infant. I have worked in Information Technology for over 25 years. Throughout my career I have managed large global teams, managed sales, managed large projects, and developed Education Content and learning systems. With my work experience combined with Christian values, I bring strong Project Management, Team Management, Content Development/Instructional Design, and Organizational Skills to the board.

Any other information you would like to share with the congregation:

I am married to Kim Flaviani and we have four daughters, Arianna, Alyssa, Anna-Sophia, and Abigail. Kim is employed at Linc where she assists Linc in connecting with unreached communities extending the church's traditional scope of ministry.

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2020 Governing Board Nominee: Dan Krueger

Age: 66

Years Trinity Member: 8

Occupation: Retired

Summarize your prior or present involvement in the church:

My wife and I feel very fortunate to have joined Trinity Downtown as our church home and family since moving to Houston in 2010. I am currently serving as an elder and Governing Board member, concluding my three-year term at the end of this year. I additionally serve on the Finance MAT, and have for more than 3 years. We have served on the communion setup team and have supported many event and project efforts since joining Trinity.



What skills and experience do you bring to serving this Board?

I've had extensive organizational leadership experience with careers in the military, public service, and private business, and have just recently retired. My experience includes strategic planning, organizational effectiveness, performance improvement, human relations, contract administration, and finance. As a civil engineer by education and profession, I have experience in infrastructure and facilities management, design and construction, and real estate. The past three years have given me further experience on how I can draw on these to contribute to our church, working with the other board members, the Senior Pastor and other ministerial staff, and our Trinity congregants.

Any other information you would like to share with the congregation:

Trinity has been greatly blessed for 140 years—great is His faithfulness. What next good works has God prepared in advance for us to do in downtown Houston and beyond? I look forward to working and worshipping with you as the body of Christ, without division and caring for each other, as we seek His will and serve Him.



2020 Governing Board Nominee: Lisa Meier

Age: 57

Years Trinity Member: 5

Occupation: RN



Summarize your prior or present involvement in the church:

- I have attended a women's Bible Study for 4 yrs.
- Hurricane Harvey volunteer
- I volunteer to serve at The University of Houston Campus Ministry luncheons
- Support Homeless Ministries-Christmas lunch and gift boxes
- Supporter and active member of Saturday Satellite Service

What skills and experience do you bring to serving this Board?

I have held many types of nursing jobs in my career, from support to managerial.

I am able to see problems in terms of how they affect people and to see solutions that benefit the most. I am task oriented and organized. I believe that flexibility is essential if our church is to move forward.

Any other information you would like to share with the congregation:

I have been married to my husband Philip for 30+ years. We have 2 adult children who live in Texas. His job has taken us to Australia and now to the Heights. We enjoy the outdoors, National parks and general traveling. Trinity Downtown has really been a blessing in our lives and I look forward to serving in the future.

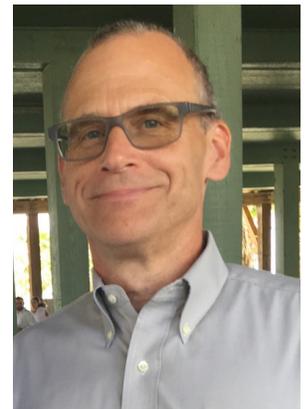


2020 Governing Board Nominee: Philip Meier

Age: 60

Years Trinity Member: 5

Occupation: Construction Consultant for Equity Investor



Summarize your prior or present involvement in the church:

- Supporter and active member of Saturday Modern Worship Service
- Member of Trinity School Assessment Task Force
- Hurricane Harvey volunteer
- Support Homeless Ministries
- Prior to this was a member of local church in Perth Western Australia and before that Christ the King Lutheran Church in Kingwood

What skills and experience do you bring to serving this Board?

- Currently member of board and Executive Committee for Cheniere (CQP)
- Skill set to allow working between Owner, Contractor and Investors to get tasks accomplished and ensuring all parties are satisfied.

- Bringing together multinational and diverse teams to deliver singular outcome on time and under budget
- Analytical and Managerial skills have been developed over the years as project manager over numerous multi-billion dollar projects.

Any other information you would like to share with the congregation:

My wife Lisa and I are coming up on our 31st anniversary and we have two adult children. They have been very supportive thru the years and working thru the issues of my position as Project Manager that took me away for extended periods of time. Although not easy, I think it has made us stronger as a family unit and in our beliefs. Now Lisa and I enjoy traveling around for fun to see this great world that God has provided us.

2020 Governing Board Nominee: Mary Jane Rogers

Age: 75

Years Trinity Member: 30

Occupation: Retired



Summarize your prior or present involvement in the church:

I was not born into Trinity.

I went a different route. Coming from a Baptist background, with my husband to be, Allen Rogers, a Catholic, we found the Lutheran faith after we married in 1961.

When we joined Trinity 30 years ago, we chose the "Best."

Shortly after we joined Trinity, Pastor Wagner asked me to get involved in service to Trinity. With my love of baking, I chose to provide fresh home-baked goodies for the Discovery class and have continued this ministry to this day.

When Allen passed away in 2013 I founded the "Peace Filled Quilters" to honor his memory. Our little group of 12-15 dedicated ladies has gifted 175 beautiful handcrafted quilts to date to Trinity's seriously ill members and family members.

I am also a member of the Facilities Maintenance MAT. I'm proud to serve alongside a group of business professionals committed to the upkeep of our buildings and Trinity property.

What skills and experience do you bring to serving this Board?

In my business and professional career, I was blessed to work for a prominent Houston family-owned oil and gas exploration company. Early on I worked in accounting for many years, land/lease and finally spent my last 16 years as office manager for one of the owner's companies. I was in charge of maintaining beautiful offices with fine antiques and artwork, personnel offices, furniture, and equipment, as well as phone systems and day to day operations of running a busy downtown office.

I was in charge of renovations of office space and moves within our offices, as well as the restoration of offices after hurricanes. Yes, high rise offices are affected by water damage to floors and drywall from high wind and water seeping in from window sills.

I retired after 46 years. Wheee.....

Any other information you would like to share with the congregation:

This is all about one member's sincere commitment to Trinity service.

I think I can be a positive influence on the Governing Board with my life experiences, my positive attitude, and outlook for the future of Trinity.

To me, Trinity will always be the "Best."

Upbring News!

- Upbring students hosted a First Responder Chapel during October. We sang songs with those who attended, prayed for them, and learned about how God gives us life and we can share that life with others just as first responders share their life to make our community a better place to live. The Lieutenant of the Central Division who was present actually attended Trinity years ago and the Captain for Station 6 HFD has children who attended Trinity as well. It is awesome to be a part of a close knit community! The children made cards for those who attended and enjoyed seeing the police cars and fire truck following...of course, the lights and sirens were a big hit!



- School spirit and Astros spirit is alive and well at Upbring. Children enjoy wearing their school t-shirts on Fridays with some Astros attire thrown in as well, of course!
- The children enjoyed a Farmer's Market theme this month. They washed vegetables, "sold" vegetables, enjoyed some Stone Soup, created healthy plates, weighed pumpkins, counted seeds, experienced the ooey, gooey-ness of pumpkins, and carved pumpkins. We are looking forward to a Harvest Festival and Scarecrow Day as we finish out the month.



Looking Ahead...

November Theme – Count Your Blessings

November 4-5 – School Photos

November 11-15 – Food Drive

November 15 – Family Connection Event @ Upbring

November 16 – Neighborhood Playground Meet Up @ Donovan Park

November 26 – Thanksgiving Feast

November 27-29 – Thanksgiving Break – Upbring Closed

STEAM Lab Update-

Thank you for your many donations for our STEAM Lab called the Innovation Station. We received some wonderful supplies that the children can use to be creative. If you would still like to donate some items, the list from last month continues to be ongoing with a few new items listed below.

- Loose keys
- Old towels for protecting furniture during messy projects and toy sanitizing
- ½ gallon milk or juice cartons

If you would like to see more of what is happening at Upbring, follow us on Facebook or Instagram @USDHouston.

Thank you for supporting Upbring School of Discovery and Leadership as together we seek to raise up creative, kind, intelligent and strong, faith-filled leaders.

Kingdom Quest and Foundations 56

Kingdom Quest is Trinity Downtown's interactive Sunday School program that allows our children to learn what it means to be a follower of Jesus as they explore His Word. Kingdom Quest involves creative games, crafts, drama and puppets, that provide an exciting and fresh way of understanding God's love for us. Beginning at 2 years of age and continuing through 4th grade, Kingdom Quest is open to all Trinity and community children.



Our 5th and 6th grade students on Sunday dig deeply as they take part in our Foundations 56 program. This program allows students to study God's Word as they prepare their spiritual foundation for confirming their faith. This year's class is looking at an overview of the Bible and the stories that show a need for a Savior and just who that Savior is; Jesus.

If you would like your children to be part of either of these programs or if you would like to serve in Children's Ministry, please contact Matt Meier at mmeier@trinitydt.org or 832.301.3105.

'Call His Name Jesus' - Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

In *Call His Name Jesus*, Lutheran Hour Ministries' Advent devotions for 2019, we encounter an oft-told story in fresh, new ways. During the Christmas season, we focus our thoughts on that moment in time when God became one of us. This miracle of miracles—this most unlikely story—begins with the Christ Child—God in the flesh—who was born poorly, humbly, vulnerably into this world of sin and darkness.

"Christmas marks the point in human history where God's long-declared promise of redemption was fulfilled in the birth of Christ. This is the start of God's final act to save us," said Dr. Kari Vo, theological writer for LHM and the author of this year's devotions. The conclusion of this drama has our Savior again poor, humble, and vulnerable, as He bears the awful weight of our sins on the cross at Golgotha.



Printed devotions will be available November 24th. Devotions may also be viewed online at <https://www.lhm.org/advent/>.

Holy Cross Lutheran Celebrates 80 Years

Holy Cross Lutheran Church is celebrating 80 years of service for the Lord. You are cordially invited to their church anniversary celebration on Sunday, November 17, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. Texas District President, Rev. Michael Newman will bring the message. Come and help Holy Cross celebrate and rejoice in thanking God for His love, guidance, support and Holy Cross's resilience these past 80 years. Holy Cross is located at 2702 Rosalie, Houston, TX.

**Daylight Saving Time
Ends November 3rd**



**Remember to
set your clocks
back one hour.**

Greetings from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis!

Someone commented at the beginning of October that it had already been two whole months since I started at Resurrection. That thought hadn't occurred to me by that time and it really astounded me. I feel like I'm just barely getting familiar with the congregation and I'm almost a quarter of the way through the year! I know I say it a lot, but the time just goes by so quickly. I suppose that feeling of amazement is so prominent because I so often want to be in control of my own life. Being a creature dependent on our Creator can be pretty frustrating at times. I imagine you can relate.

By the time you read this, you'll have already celebrated Reformation Day. You'll have celebrated the great victory of the Gospel in the Church as Luther pointed back to the sufficiency of Christ for all people of all times and places, as the scripture proclaims. Reformation Sunday often brings great feelings of pride and joy through great hymns and other traditions of the Church to celebrate what God has done for His people – saving us from sin, death, and the devil. Our Triune God is most certainly an ever-present help in our times of trouble.

But, by the time you read this, All Saints' Sunday will be just ahead of you, if not already behind you. Just one week after the "high" of Reformation Sunday, we face the ever-present reality of death among us. Sickness, chronic diseases, addictions, and mental and physical disabilities – these are just the precursors. We take a Sunday to recognize those who have felt the sting of death over the past year. We do so to acknowledge that we still live in a broken world, full of pain and sadness. We don't try to sweep death under the rug, because people have really lost loved ones and we do them a disservice to tell them their pain is not justified.

At the same time, we also celebrate All Saints' Sunday because of the hope we have in Christ. In spite of the ever-present reality of death around us, our Redeemer remains our ever-present help in the face of death. We mourn, but we do so with the hope of the resurrection to come, knowing that we will see our Redeemer with our own eyes. We are comforted by God's promises that our loved ones are at rest in His presence until Jesus returns to judge the living and the dead. And thanks be to God that we can look forward to that judgment with joy rather than fear because of the good news of His Son, which we so fervently celebrated the week before!

It can be difficult to accept, but I think we are better off when we remember that we are ultimately not the one in control of this life. As we approach the end of another Church year, it is fitting to remember that we wait patiently for our Lord to return as we repeat the whole cycle over again. But it doesn't hurt to keep praying, "Come quickly, Lord Jesus!"

In terms of things happening, I got to participate in the "Trunk or Treats" events at both Child of God Lutheran Church and School (where Stephanie teaches) and here at Resurrection. I had seen this kind of event at other congregations many times, but this was my first time to actually set up a trunk and hand out candy. I had become so removed from trick-or-treating over the years, so it was nice to see so many families together to have fun with their kids. I also got to participate in the Missouri District's Pastor's Conference. The conference offered a chance for continuing education and time to catch up with friends from around the district. My supervisor and I also used some of the time away from the office to plan out a course for our sermons through the end of the year.

There have been a few other events which I have written about before – events that are somewhat of a privilege to be able to participate in since I have a "local" vicarage (local to the St. Louis area, that is). These are activities like "Brew in the Lou" and the fundraiser auction dinner for Lutheran High School St. Charles, where my father-in-law teaches and where many of Stephanie's former students now attend. It's nice to be able to keep a little more consistency for this year, especially since Stephanie and I are hoping to spend next year in the exchange program which would have



Chuck Ridley
Seminary Student

me studying in Cambridge, UK. The only downside to the arrangement is that I probably have the longest commute of all of my fellow vicars. Whereas most guys live 5-10 minutes (max) away from their congregation, my commute is typically at least 30 minutes. Don't worry, though – Houston traffic has prepared me well for this!

One more thing I'd like to share this month is the exciting news that the project to put in stained-glass throughout the chapel is finally underway! My classmates and I had heard about this our first year in seminary and we heard rumors about the project throughout our first two years. The project was going on without much notice, but the contractor is now working on removing the existing stained-glass panels behind the altar in preparation for the installation of an entire chapel-full of windows, themed around the Te Deum Laudamus. It sounds like the installation of the new windows will depend on various factors, including the weather, so we haven't heard a definite date by which the project will be complete. I love stained glass and I'm really looking forward to seeing the new windows and how they will look in the chapel.



"We praise You O God, we acknowledge You to be the Lord.

All the earth now worships You, the Father Everlasting.

To You all angels cry aloud, the heavens and all the powers therein;

To You cherubim and seraphim continually do cry;

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;

Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Your glory.

The glorious company of the Apostles praise You

The goodly fellowship of the prophets praise You;

The noble army of martyrs praise You;

The holy Church though all the world does acknowledge You;

The Father of an infinite majesty; Your adorable, true, and only Son,

Also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter." (Te Deum (vs 1-3), Matins, LSB 223)

Workers take out the old stained-glass panels and replace them with clear glass in preparation for the new panels yet to come.

Photo courtesy of Concordia Seminary Facebook

In Christ,
Chuck Ridley

BOARD OF ELDERS - CONTACT INFORMATION

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Joshua Rodriguez	joshrodriguez@hotmail.com	832.527.1957

Be in the Word



Adult Bible Classes - Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

"Choose Joy - The Book of Philippians" - Led by Bill Fischer - Room 201

This "Prison Epistle" of Paul carries all of the doctrine and theology of the rest of his writings. But the underlying theme of the book is joy and how it can be a part of all Christians' lives. The joy of being in Christ is there for the taking. Through this study we hope to learn how to "Choose Joy."

"Christian Rubric for Life" - Led by Tom DeVries - Room 206

On a routine basis we face questions that do not have simple answers. We can see the logic in competing arguments, but we cannot be sure we see God in our responses. This class appreciates that the answers are not simple, but that God has given us the knowledge through His Word, the tools provided by history's greatest theologians and the aptitude that God bestowed in each one of us to develop our own personal Christian Rubric for Life.

"Encountering Jesus" - Led by Jim Cleary - Room 205

In this study, we'll examine the stories of how seven people—among them a scholar, a failure, a blind man and an adulteress—found their lives changed forever when they met Jesus Christ. Looking at their lives can give you hope when you find yourself dealing with failure or with an emptiness nothing in life seems to fill. Discussion-oriented.

"The Lutheran Mind - The Theology of the Cross" - Led by Pastor Michael Hofmann - Room 233

Why do bad things happen? How does God work His will in the midst of our sufferings? Why is there pain? Why is there suffering? Why did God let Adam and Eve eat from the tree? How do we reconcile what God has revealed with what remains hidden? These are some hard questions with which most of us have struggled. Even people we know who are "unchurched" probably have struggled with these questions. They might have even approached us with them. And regardless of the amount of our theological training, we all wrestle with these complex, yet fundamental questions about God, Jesus, sin, man, life and death. Join us as we explore the depths of our Lutheran Minds.

Kingdom Quest Sunday School - Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Pre-K (ages 2 & 3) - Room 212

Pre-K4/K - Room 211

1st - 4th Grade - Basement

Foundations 56 - Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

5th/6th Grade - Room 207

Confirmation - Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

7th - 8th Grade - Room 124

Youth - Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

9th - 12th Grade - USC (Underground Student Center in the basement)

Adult Midweek Bible Studies

Tuesday Women's Bible Study - "Sacred Guidance. How a Relationship with Jesus Leads Us to Mentor Others"

Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. - Room 205 - Women's Bible Study led by Michael Winckler

The Ladies of Trinity Downtown and the community are welcome to join the Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible Study each week from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. A new study begins on Tuesday, November 12, led

by Director of Youth Ministries, Michael Winckler entitled *Sacred Guidance. How a Relationship with Jesus Leads Us to Mentor Others*. This engaging study will feature open discussion, while examining what God's Word says about the need for mentoring within a Christian faith community such as Trinity Downtown. Please plan to join us for this valuable time of growth and fellowship.

Wednesday Women's Bible Study - "Family Trees and Olive Branches"

Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. - Room 124 - Women's Bible Study led by Jan Case

Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study - "1st Corinthians"

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. - Room 207 - Women's Bible Study led by Mary Oliver

Sonrise Bible Study

Thursdays at 6:30 a.m. - Room 124 - Led by Pastor Black

Class discusses the Scripture readings assigned for the following Sunday. The class is open to men and women. Coffee is available. For more information, contact Pastor Black at 713.229.2917 or dblack@trinitydt.org.

InT Young Adults Bible Study

Current Study: "Book of Isaiah" - Meets 1st Friday at 7:00 p.m. and 3rd Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Contact Pastor Michael Hofmann for details at 913.500.2993 or mhofmann@trinitydt.org.

"Re-Think Your Drink"

If you daily drink sodas, sports drinks or other sugary beverages, you could be shortening your life and your ministry to others.

Researchers have analyzed data from two (2) previous studies that involved a total of 120,000 Americans. I found this "shocking" even though much attention has been given to this subject for a period of time. Women who drank two (2) or more sugary drinks each day were 25% more likely to die prematurely than women who drank fewer than one sugary drink per month. I must admit that I find myself in a group that drinks 2 sugary drinks over a period of 2 – 4 weeks. **UGH!** It is obvious that I am not setting a good example! I have some changes to make **NOW!** I desire to have a "long" healthy life and set a good example to others. Men increased their risk to die prematurely by 12 percent. That makes me frightened and sad. Researchers were uncertain why there was a difference between men and women.

Overall, the more sugary drinks people consumed, the higher their risk of premature death. The main causes of death were cardiovascular disease, followed by colon and breast cancer. I pray this information will be of great importance to our families and friends.



SOURCE: "BETTER HEALTH" (LCMS, Concordia Plan Services)

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands." Psalm 19:1

"Dear Lord, You alone are worthy of all our praise. Thank You for the beauty of Your creation and help us to be good stewards of all that You have entrusted to us. Thank You especially for the gift of salvation in Your Son Jesus. Help us to tell others what a marvelous God we have in You, our Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

SOURCE: "Best Loved passages of the Bible" (Jim Wiemers)

Julie Bertrand, Retired R.N.

CHURCH REPORT

September 23 - October 20

TRANSFER IN

- Elizabeth Bertrand from Pilgrim LCMS - Houston, TX
- Jacob Gilmore from Grace LCMS - Midland, TX

SUNDAY SCHOOL TOTALS

	<u>PK-8</u>	<u>H.S.</u>	<u>Adult</u>	<u>Total</u>
09/29	53	0	100	153
10/06	41	0	105	146
10/13	49	0	102	151
10/20	43	0	75	118

REVENUE UPDATE

Year To Date through 10/20/19
 Actual Receipts . . . \$1,436,978
 Budgeted Receipts . \$1,392,620

ORGAN FUND UPDATE

Year To Date through 10/20/19
 Total Contributions . . . \$550,446
 Remaining Balance . . . \$41,436



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	<u>5:00</u>	<u>8:15</u>	<u>10:50</u>	<u>Total</u>
09/28	38			
09/29		172	137	347
10/05	54			
10/06		168	137	359
10/12	36			
10/13		168	125	329
10/19	39			
10/20		142	143	324

STAFF DIRECTORY

713.224.0684

- Senior Pastor
Pastor Michael P. Dorn . . 713.229.2940
- Pastor of Missions and Outreach
Pastor Michael Hofmann . .713.229.2905
- Visitation Pastor
Pastor Donald G. Black. . 713.229.2917
- Chief Financial Officer
Ron Lacy 713.229.2970
- Dir. of Administration and Human Resources
Trinity Garrett. 713.229.2937
- Director of Music and Worship
Mary Voigt 713.229.2922
- Director of Discipleship
Matthew Meier 832.301.3105
- Director of Youth Ministries
Michael Winckler 713.229.2910
- Director of Accounting
Roseann Gamez. 713.229.2962
- Communications Coordinator
Pam Schroeder. 713.229.2944
- Contributions Manager
Angela Avant 713.229.2963
- Hostess
Stefanie Bowman 713.229.2950

Houston Lutheran Chorale Christmas Concerts

You are invited to share in the joy of the Advent and Christmas seasons with the Houston Lutheran Chorale's Christmas concert "Wachet auf" (Wake, a wake).

We will perform Bach's "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme" (Wake, a wake and hear the voices) in the first half, while the second half of the concert will focus on the Nativity with many well-known carols and new songs of joy.

Once again our concerts will be spread out across the Houston area to bring them closer to you.

The concerts will be at three locations:

- Memorial - Katy on Friday, December 6, 7:30 p.m.
- Lord of Life in the Woodlands on Saturday, December 7, 7:30 p.m.
- Trinity Downtown on Sunday, December 8, 4:00 p.m.

No tickets are required but contributions are appreciated.



Joyfully Sharing Christ's Saving Love With All People Now!

2019 GOVERNING BOARD

- Jim Baccus (Elder)
- Kim Davis (Vice-Chair)
- Delvin Dennis (Chair/Elder)
- Pastor Michael Dorn
- Bo Hopmann
- Dan Krueger (Elder)
- Steve Maynard (Elder)
- Jean Minsch
- Janet Mueller
- Joshua Rodriguez (Elder)
- Cynthia Roney (Secretary)

Minutes of the Governing Board are available to our members at the Welcome Center.

November 2019

Trinity Lutheran Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30 31</p>					1	2 5:00 PM Satellite Service
<p>3</p> <p>8:15 AM Traditional Worship (C)</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study Hour</p> <p>10:50 AM Traditional Worship (C)</p> <p>12:00 PM 39 Club</p> <p>2:00 PM HLC Rehearsal</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>7:00 PM Houston Camerata Rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:00 AM Staff Leadership Team Meeting</p> <p>10:00 AM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 PM Stephen Ministry</p> <p>7:00 PM Houston Bronze Ensemble Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM Houston Symphony Chorus Rehearsal</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 AM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>10:00 AM HPCC Devotions</p> <p>6:15 PM Trinity Bells</p> <p>6:30 PM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:30 AM Sonrise Bible Study</p> <p>10:00 AM Ladies Circle Meeting</p> <p>1:00 PM Peace-Filled Quilters</p>	8	<p>9</p> <p>5:00 PM Satellite Service (C)</p> <p>6:30 PM HS Youth - Bubble Soccer</p>
<p>10</p> <p>8:00 AM Ladies Circle Bazaar</p> <p>8:15 AM Traditional Worship</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study Hour</p> <p>10:50 AM Traditional Worship</p> <p>12:30 PM MS Youth Group</p> <p>12:30 PM Mission MAT</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>7:00 PM Houston Camerata Rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:00 AM Staff Leadership Team Meeting</p> <p>10:00 AM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Houston Bronze Ensemble Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM Houston Symphony Chorus Rehearsal</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 AM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:15 PM Trinity Bells</p> <p>6:30 PM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30 AM Sonrise Bible Study</p>	15	<p>16</p> <p>5:00 PM Satellite Service</p> <p>6:30 PM HS Youth Group</p>
<p>17</p> <p>8:15 AM Traditional Worship (C)</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study Hour</p> <p>10:50 AM Traditional Worship (C)</p> <p>12:00 PM Congregational Assembly Meeting</p> <p>2:00 PM HLC Rehearsal</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:00 PM Houston Camerata Rehearsal</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00 AM Staff Leadership Team Meeting</p> <p>10:00 AM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>11:45 AM Finance MAT Teleconference</p> <p>6:00 PM Stephen Ministry</p> <p>7:00 PM Houston Bronze Ensemble Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM Houston Symphony Chorus Rehearsal</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30 AM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>10:00 AM Ladies Circle HPCC</p> <p>6:15 PM Trinity Bells</p> <p>6:30 PM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30 AM Sonrise Bible Study</p>	22	<p>23</p> <p>5:00 PM Satellite Service (C)</p>
<p>24</p> <p>8:15 AM Traditional Worship</p> <p>9:30 AM Bible Study Hour</p> <p>10:50 AM Traditional Worship</p> <p>12:30 PM MS Youth - Fellowship/Service Event</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:00 PM Elders Meeting</p> <p>6:30 PM Governing Board Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM Houston Camerata Rehearsal</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:00 AM Staff Leadership Team Meeting</p> <p>6:30 PM Sunday School MAT</p> <p>7:00 PM Houston Bronze Ensemble Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 PM Houston Symphony Chorus Rehearsal</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30 AM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>6:15 PM Trinity Bells</p> <p>6:30 PM Women's Bible Study</p> <p>7:15 PM Sanctuary Choir</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:30 AM Thanksgiving Worship Service (C)</p> 	29	<p>30</p> <p>5:00 PM Satellite Service</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>

Ladies Circle Ministries - November 7

The Ladies Circle will meet at 10 a.m. on Thursday, November 7, in Room 205. Members and guests are invited to come early at 9:30 a.m. and enjoy refreshments and a time for fellowship.

Our speaker for the day will be Melissa Hayes from the Clayton Genealogy Library. Her presentation is entitled, "Trinity Lutheran Church Beginning Genealogy." This should be a timely topic just a few days before our observance of Trinity's 140th anniversary. She will talk about using church records and other sources to begin your family history. Make plans to attend and bring along a friend. All are welcome.



For additional information about the Ladies Circle and its various ministries, please call Debbie Leonard, president, at 319.431.6804.

Additional dates to remember:

- November 10 - 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Bazaar and Bake Sale in the Gym.
- November 20 - 10 a.m. - Devotions at Highland Park Care Center, 8861 Fulton St.

The 39 Club



The 39 Club is invited to meet in the foyer following the 10:50 a.m. service on November 3rd (the first Sunday) and plan to have lunch together at La Madeleine French Bakery & Cafe, 2423 Katy Fwy, Suite E, near Sawyer St.

In October the group enjoyed food and fellowship at Southwell's Hamburger Grill.

Those who are single, 39 and over, are invited to join us. For more information, contact Jean Minsch at 281.550.4752.

Life Thoughts in the Church Year – November 3 - All Saints' Day

Blessed are the meek? Blessed are the poor and productive? Blessed are the self-sufficient? No! Blessed rather are the poor, the meek, those who cannot feed (Matthew 5:6) or defend themselves (Matthew 5:7, 9), for they exhibit just how much God gives and does for humankind. If He calls sinners His children (1 John 3:1) and makes saints of such as us (Revelation 7:9-10), how can mere age, appearances, or inability disqualify anyone else?

From the Fall 2019 issue of *LifeDate*, a quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For life - www.lutheransforlife.org



See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God.

1 John 3:1, NRSV



www.trinitydt.org

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Article submission deadline **November 11** for articles to be published December 1, 2019.
Submit articles to pschroeder@trinitydt.org.
Contact Pam Schroeder at 713.229.2944 with any questions about this publication.