



Trinity Today

Vol. 22, No. 9

September 1, 2020

Haley Davisson Accepts Call to Trinity Downtown

As has been previously announced, Haley Davisson, Director of Christian Education at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Dallas, has joyfully accepted God's Call to serve at Trinity Downtown as the new Director of Youth and Children's Ministries. She will begin her ministry at Trinity on September 21 and will be installed at the 8:15 a.m. service on Sunday, September 27.

With so much of ministry being impacted by COVID 19, we will not be able to hold an in-person reception on September 27. The Trinity Downtown community is encouraged to warmly welcome Haley to our church by contributing to a gift basket that will be presented to her upon her arrival (see article below).



Haley Davisson

PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW!

Help Welcome Haley to Houston



Haley Davisson, DCE, is moving to Houston and making Trinity Lutheran Downtown her new home!!! Let's make her feel welcome in a Trinity Downtown-sized way! We are putting together a Gift Card basket for her to help with making her apartment a home and getting to know the Houston area. Gift Cards to local restaurants, grocery stores, home goods stores (Bed Bath and Beyond, Ikea etc.) or checks made out to Haley Davisson will be given to her to welcome her to Trinity and show her that she has our full support. Please give any items to the volunteer at the Welcome Desk or mail to 800 Houston Ave., Houston, TX 77007 by September 24, 2020 to be included in the basket.

Reggie Smith Jr. Records at Trinity

Baritone Reggie Smith Jr. selected the Trinity Downtown Sanctuary as the location to record a video of favorite spirituals and arias for a program that will be presented by the San Francisco organization, Taste of Talent.

No stranger to Trinity, Reggie has sung for worship here and for several months he used our chapel as a rehearsal space. An impressive artist, Reggie was the 2015 winner of the Metropolitan Opera Council Auditions and is a graduate of the Houston Grand Opera Studio. He has been lauded a "passionate performer" (*New York Times*) with a "thrillingly dramatic voice" that is "one of the most exciting baritone sounds to come along in years." (*Opera News*).

We will have the opportunity to hear some spirituals from his recent recording at an upcoming worship service (to be announced). Reggie was accompanied by pianist and collaborator, Kevin Miller.



Blessing of the Back Packs

Our traditional Blessing of the Back Packs will occur on Sunday, September 13, during the children's message portion of our 9:00 a.m. worship service. We will be back to offering in person worship, but all of our students, whether virtually or in person, are encouraged to have their back pack blessed during a special prayer, as we send you off to join Jesus on His mission at your school this year. In order to keep everyone safe, we will not be handing out traditional back pack tags this year.



2020 GOVERNING BOARD

Jim Baccus (Elder)
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Pastor Michael Dorn
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Joshua Rodriguez (Elder)
Cynthia Roney (Secretary)

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

BOARD OF ELDERS - CONTACT INFORMATION

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Delvin Dennis	ddennis@entouch.net	281.415.8787
Dan Krueger	dwkrueger5@yahoo.com	901.258.4029
Steve Maynard	smaynard@durwoodgreene.com	281.799.9600
Joshua Rodriguez	joshrodriguez@hotmail.com	832.527.1957

In-Person Worship Returns to Trinity Downtown

We are excited that in-person worship is returning to Trinity Downtown beginning September 12th and 13th!

Satellite Service • Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. • Education Center (50 max)
Traditional Service • Sundays at 9:00 a.m. • Sanctuary (125 max)

Reservations are required to maintain social distancing.

To RSVP, go to www.trinitydt.org and select which service you would like to attend. You may also call the church office at 713.224.0684 (8:30 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., M-F) and talk to Stefanie to reserve your ticket.

Please note that each attendee will be screened for symptoms of COVID-19 and their temperature will be taken before entering the building.

Face masks will be mandatory for elementary children and older. Show your love for your neighbor by joyfully wearing a mask.

We are happy to offer in-person worship services, but please do not feel obligated to attend, especially if you are in an "at risk" group (over 65 and/or have underlying health conditions). We will continue livestream worship opportunities for the foreseeable future.

Ladies Circle Meetings 'On Hold' For Now

Because of the uncertainty of knowing when "group meetings" will again be safe for all of our ladies to attend, the Executive Board of Trinity Lutheran Ladies Circle has unanimously agreed to cancel our regular monthly meetings for September, October, and November 2020. A decision regarding the December meeting and luncheon will be made at a later time.

In the meantime, be an encourager by,

- PRAYING for one another - for our church community - for all health care workers - for all who serve us in our city, county and state - and for our nation;
- REMEMBERING our Mite Box Offerings. Our Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) National and Texas District Mission Grants (see selected grants at https://www.lwmltxdist.org/sites/default/files/Mission_Grants_2020-2022_Final.pdf) still need to be funded. Make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Ladies Circle - earmarked for "Mites" - and mail to Thelma Deterling, 7122 Flamingo, Houston, TX 77087; and,
- KEEPING IN TOUCH with others with phone calls, emails, and/or cards - and if you have questions, contact Debbie Leonard at 319.431.6804 or debbie.leonard.TX@gmail.com.

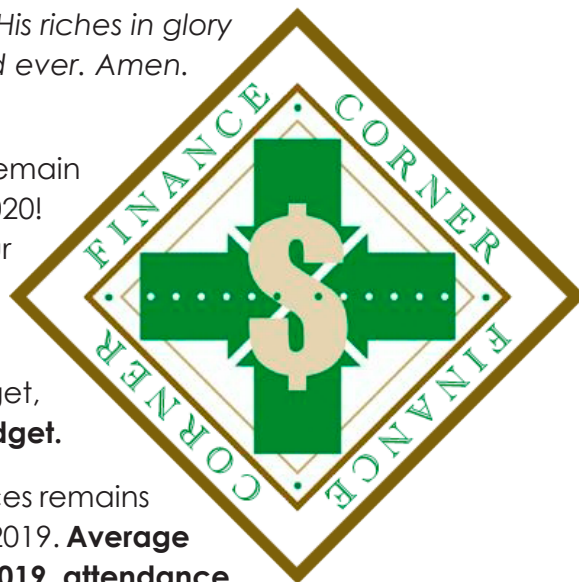


MAY GOD BLESS US ALL!!!

Finance Corner - September 1, 2020

And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.
Philippians 4:19-20 (ESV)

I am grateful to report that Trinity Downtown's finances remain strong, even in the midst of all that is happening in 2020! Although July's tithes and offerings were 6% lower than our monthly budget, so far in 2020 total **tithes and offerings remain 4% above budget.**



Total expenses in July were 15% lower than the monthly budget, and **and year-to-date our expenses are 7% lower than budget.**

Total attendance for both the Satellite and traditional services remains substantially higher when compared to the same period in 2019. **Average attendance in July was 438. When compared with July of 2019, attendance in the traditional service was 38 higher in 2020 and 65 higher in the Satellite worship service.**

Thanks to the generosity of many in our church community, we completed the installation of the new video equipment in late July and used it for the first time to broadcast the July 26th worship service.

If you'd like to track your contributions and/or print contribution statements online, you can do so 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.

God is doing great and new things here at Trinity Downtown, and your faithful contributions continue to make a real difference to enable your church to "raise the bar" on our outreach to our community. Thank you for giving as God has called us to give—generously and with a joyful heart!

Joining Jesus alongside you,
Ron Lacy

amazon smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

How to increase your giving to Trinity without spending any additional 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 cost 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!

Online Bible Study Opportunities

Bible Study classes are meeting via video teleconference. To join a class, go to our website, www.trinitydt.org, and click on Bible Study under the Connect tab. Click on the square labeled "Video Call Information" and a few minutes before the class is to begin, click on the link of the class you want to join.

SUNDAYS (10:30 a.m. or adjusted based on the needs of the group)

Devotions in a Time of Covid-19

Led by Bill Fischer's Team

Foundations (5th-8th grades)

Led by Jane Suchma & Karen Maynard

God Meant it for Good - Joseph

Led by Jim Cleary

Life Today and Forever with Jesus

Led by Pastor Paul Dorn

Come explore the witness of Matthew's gospel and discover how to walk with our Lord and Savior.

Post-Confirmation

Led by Thomas DeVries

WEDNESDAYS

Waiting – A Bible Study on Patience, Hope and Trust (Women's Study)

Led by Jan Case - 9:30 AM

Gideon (Women's Study)

Led by Mary Oliver - 6:30 PM

We are using a new study of Priscilla Shirer's book, *Gideon*. Through Gideon's story, we are studying how God provides His love and strength for us in spite of our weaknesses. We will learn how our weaknesses can be used by God for His purpose. An online study guide is available for \$5.00 at Lifeway.com. The printed study guide book is \$14.99 on Lifeway.com.

Virtual Midweek Spiritual Check-in

Led by Jim Cleary - 7:00 PM

THURSDAYS

Sonrise Bible Study

Led by Pastor Donald Black - 7:30 AM

The class discusses the Scripture readings assigned for the following Sunday. The class is open to men and women. For more information, contact Bill Fischer at 713.827.8664 or bfisch@aol.com.



Greetings from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis!

I've caught myself forgetting which month it is on a few occasions. I finished vicarage at the end of July and my classmates will be starting classes for their fourth year on the last day of August. I am supposed to travel to England in September. In theory, nothing noteworthy really happens in between these points of time. But life keeps going.

Stephanie and I were busy at first getting our condo cleaned out and ready to go on the market. Several trips were made to the storage unit we rented and to her parents' house. We moved out of the condo to facilitate showings and have been staying in her parents' basement since. (Cue joke about millennials.) Jokes aside, this is a great blessing to us! We are less than a mile away from the condo and don't have to worry about cleaning up after every little thing we do or paying for a temporary living situation.

I've also participated at a couple of other events at Resurrection – the installation of the new pastor and the Rite of Confirmation for last year's 8th graders. It probably looked odd that I had an official send-off and end of my vicarage only to show up a couple of weeks in a row again. Regardless of how it may have seemed, it was a blessing to be part of these events in the life of the congregation.

Stephanie and I were also able to spend a few days down at the Lake of the Ozarks. We were able to relax a bit, learn about the construction of the dam that formed the lake, and take in some sun before our time of perpetual cloudiness in England. We've managed to find small things to keep us busy, but when you're not working full time, the day can go by very slowly.

Thankfully, we've received encouragement about the process of getting over to Cambridge. As of this writing, we're still waiting to receive our CAS numbers from the UK government. But our contacts think we will have them by the end of August, enabling an arrival by September 24th. This may mean that we don't get to do the "field trips" that previous students have done, but perhaps those will come later in the year. Who knows? Our "adventure" seems to become more and more adventurous the longer we wait. At least we now have information on what classes are available!

In a conversation I had recently. I was told that if you watch the news, you'd think there isn't anything going on in our world but politics. It certainly feels that way at times. Even if it isn't politics, maybe you get the feeling that your life is pretty one-dimensional. I think that can become very disheartening in our complex world.

As I write this, there are two storms threatening to hit southern Louisiana and Texas over the next week. Maybe you're feeling some relief at this news simply because it provides a break from the constant political bickering or COVID statistics. Maybe you're feeling dread because you're in the path of the storms and you're not sure if your house is going to come through unscathed this time. Maybe you're just overwhelmed for one more thing to be heaped on top of the ongoing pandemic.

However you're feeling, this situation helps demonstrate how multi-dimensional your life is. Not only do you have your continued responsibilities as citizens to be informed and your responsibilities to your neighbor in social distancing, etc. But now you have a situation that calls for preparation and response. As God's people, you have the opportunity to serve your neighbors in various ways. Maybe you can help (or did help) elderly and disabled persons prepare to weather the storms; or helped



Chuck Ridley, Seminary Student

people get packed up to leave the area; or check in with some folks after the storms passed; or help clean up afterward; or stayed with those who need help; or stuck around to perform a job critical to public safety. Whatever the task, you have purpose.

And amidst all of these threats, all of this turmoil, the Church continues in her mission. The proclamation of the Gospel of Christ continues. The forgiveness of sins in Christ continues to be proclaimed; to be given and received. The sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper continue to be administered for the sake of delivering the grace of God to His people.

The reign of our Lord gives us hope. We know that He IS risen and He IS reigning, even when we don't see it. And we know that He WILL return and make that reign evident and complete. While we wait, we work. Even if you don't have a full-time job, there are things to be done. Even in retirement, you have various vocations to fulfill. And while we work, our Lord feeds us with His body and His blood in the Supper. He refreshes us, sustains us, encourages us, unites us. Go to the Lord's table to receive His gifts for you. He invites you to receive His peace in the midst of chaos.

Built on the Rock the Church shall stand
Even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land;
Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the souls distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.

Grant, then, O God, Your will be done,
That, when the church bells are ringing,
Many in saving faith may come
Where Christ His message is bringing:
"I know My own; My own know Me.
You, not the world, My face shall see.
My peace I leave with you. Amen."

(LSB 645: 1, 5) Text: Public Domain



In Christ,
Chuck Ridley

Trinity Archives

Trinity's archives collection has received donations of historic photos and dedication folders, church and school memorabilia, newspaper articles, Trinity wear, candid photo albums, and numerous church related mementos and publications. Special thanks to Julie Bertrand, Dottie Burroughs, Estate of Martin Luker, Jr., Kathryn Schoeneman, Janis Taube, and Bea Uhl for their donations. All donations to Trinity's archives are valued and appreciated.



Any questions regarding the archives collection can be directed to Ruth Stoerkel at fws1pub@earthlink.net.

Because of the pandemic, worship service cancellations and social distancing, the foyer display cabinet has remained "under construction." When regular services begin, displays of private collections are welcomed and encouraged. Contact Ruth Stoerkel to schedule a future display. The extensive "Astros" baseball collection by Elizabeth Bertrand was enjoyed in early 2020.

Drive-Up Holy Communion

Wednesdays, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Saturdays, 9:30 am - 11:00 am



Call Stefanie
at 713-224-0684,
8:30 am - 2:15 pm, M-F
to RSVP

STAFF DIRECTORY

713.224.0684

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and Human Resources
Trinity Garrett 713.229.2937

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Director of Accounting
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Communications Coordinator
Pam Schroeder . . . 713.229.2944

Contributions Manager
Angela Avant 713.229.2963

Hostess
Stefanie Bowman . 713.229.2950



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

WITH HIS
LOVE,
HE WILL CALM
ALL
YOUR FEARS.

ZEPHANIAH 3:17, NLT



Hofmann Accepts Call

Pastor Michael Hofmann has accepted a Call to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Clay Center, KS. His installation is anticipated some time in October.

Please keep Pastor and Stacy Hofmann in your prayers as they transition to where God is leading them.



www.trinitydt.org

Trinity Downtown
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713-224-0684



Article submission deadline **September 13** for articles to be published October 1, 2020.
Submit articles to pschroeder@trinitydt.org.
Contact Pam Schroeder at 713.229.2944 with any questions about this publication.