



Trinity Today

Vol. 23, No. 6

June 1, 2021

VBS in a Box!

What a year we have had, all sorts of new things alongside A LOT of hard things, which is why this summer we decided to do VBS in a Box using the TREASURED VBS curriculum! Starting the week of JULY 18th families can embark on an epic quest through hidden ruins, ancient caves, and dense jungles. Because of Treasured VBS, kids will dig into action-packed, faith-filled adventures at home with their families and friends! They'll discover God's greatest treasure isn't diamonds, gems, or gold—it's them! Treasured truly reaches today's kids with a message of hope and love, reminding them of how precious they are to their Heavenly Father.

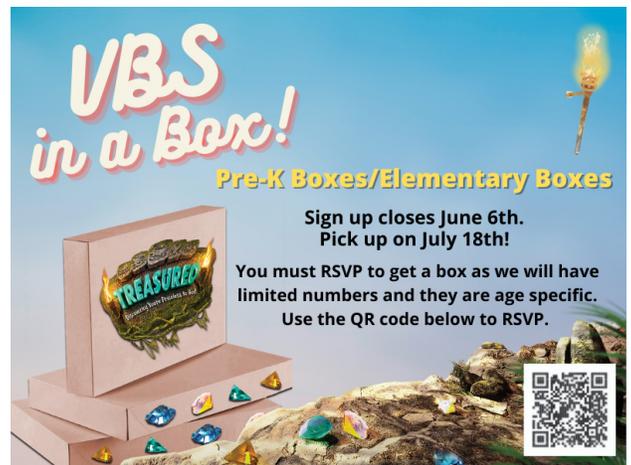
The boxes will be age appropriate for preschool and elementary school so it's vital that you RSVP to make sure you get the right box! I'm also making an exact number of boxes to steward resources well! The number of boxes packed, by my amazing volunteers, will be based solely on the number of RSVPs! So, if you want a box for your child, grandchild, neighbor or friend, make sure to click the link below or scan the QR code!

<https://trinitydt.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/164/responses/new>

Inside each box will be a letter from me with access codes to the station video lessons, age-appropriate resources for the stations that require them, game ideas to play with your pals, and a few other surprises! My prayer is twofold, that this tool would bless our kids at Trinity and give them something fun to do this summer. The second part begins with this, it is well established that Trinity's congregation is widespread, I'm sure I don't have to tell you that; sometimes that challenges us, but in this situation, I think it is a unique way that God has equipped us to have a huge impact! Can you imagine if we planned to get our neighbors, cousins and friends together in our back yards, and we were able to give each kid a box and then run a backyard VBS! What an impact to all of the different neighborhoods we live in! My prayer is that God would use this tool in your hands to impact a huge part of Houston! AMEN!

If you have any question or would like to help put together boxes, or make station videos with me, please email or text me! I look forward to this adventure with all of you!

Blessings,
Haley Davisson, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries



Hey, Trinity Families!

It's been such a great month together! and June is looking even better! We will have a youth lock-in, a high school service trip (serving the downtown community), open gym for youth and a kids event! We are preparing for VBS in a Box as well as preparing for a new year in Sunday gatherings for kids and teens!!! We are redecorating the space downstairs to reflect Kingdom Quest a bit more and recruiting volunteers for the new year! It's a very exciting time! I am so grateful for all the people who have gotten involved in helping the kids at Trinity grow in their faith!

Check out some of the upcoming events pictured below. RSVP using the QR codes to reserve your spot.

Haley Davison,
Director of Youth and Children's Ministries

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Open Gym

ENTERING 5TH-GRADUATING SENIOR

Every Thursday in June & July!
2:30-4:30 pm

Come play basketball, volleyball and other games then stay for a half an hour Bible study!



YOUTH LOCK-IN 2021

JUNE 11-12
7 PM - 7 AM

Come ready for games, fellowship and Jesus!
It's an ALL night adventure to remember.



RSVP using the
QR code by
June 10th.



Abide

SUMMER SERVE TRIP

Entering 9th - Graduating Seniors
June 17-19th

- Staying at Trinity
- Serving Downtown Community
- Building relationships with Christ the King youth group!

\$40 deposit reserves your spot!

Scan the QR
code to RSVP
(by June 10)



Life-size

SORRY!

Game Day



Kindergarten - 4th Grade
June 20th
12:30 - 2:00 PM
Lunch Included!

Please RSVP using
the QR code.



Finance Corner - June 1, 2021

Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift! 2 Corinthians 9:15 ESV

Dear Supporter of Trinity's Ministry:

For the month of April, tithes and offerings were 16% (or roughly \$24,000) lower than our monthly budget. Total revenue for the year was 7% lower than our budget, but 19% less than the same period in 2020.

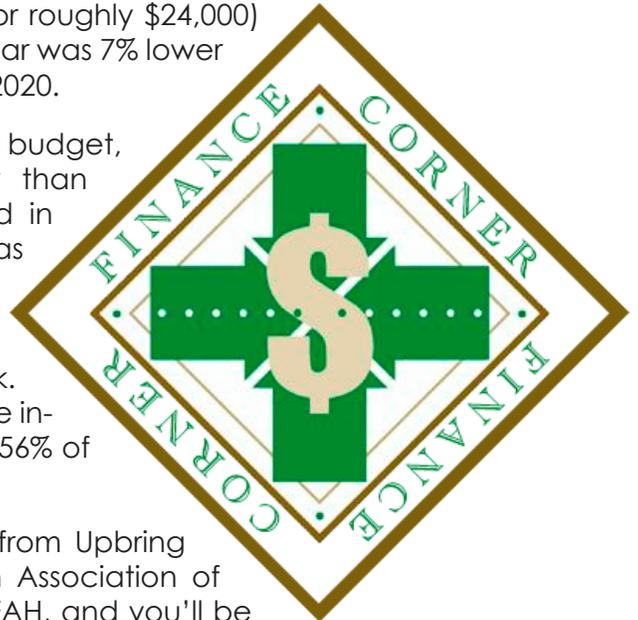
Our operational expenses in April were 5% lower than budget, while our year-to-date expenses totaled 1% lower than budget. When compared with the same time period in 2020, expenses in 2021 were 16% lower than what was incurred in 2020.

Our weekly attendance in April averaged 539, with 103 attending Adult Bible study or Sunday School each week. Our attendance pattern continues to trend toward more in-person participation and fewer online viewers. In April, 56% of our worship service attendees joined on campus.

On June 1st, the Early Childhood ministry transitioned from Upbring to our new strategic partner, the Lutheran Education Association of Houston ("LEAH"). We are thrilled to be working with LEAH, and you'll be seeing a number of joint activities with LEAH, Trinity's Children's Ministry and LINC in the coming months. First up will be LEAH's "Touch a Truck" event on June 5th, followed by Kathy Entzenberger's commissioning on June 6th.

As summer approaches, please remember that our ministries (and costs) continue unabated, so your faithful, ongoing giving is even more important. Your continued generosity during the summer can make a real difference in Trinity's impact and outreach to our community, as God works His work among us.

Joyfully joining Jesus alongside you,
Ron Lacy, CFO



amazonsmile
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!

ARE YOU EXPERIENCING PANDEMIC FATIGUE?



Are you feeling exhausted from all the disruptions to life brought on by the pandemic? Are you or someone you know struggling with challenges like . .

- **Isolation and loneliness**
- **Anxiety over health**
- **Grief due to many different kinds of losses**
- **Tension from juggling work, childcare, and schooling**
- **Financial strain or job loss**
- **Uncertainty about the future**
- **Other unexpected life challenges?**



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

If so, you don't have to face it alone. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support.

Stephen Ministers are laypeople in our congregation trained to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to individuals facing difficult times in life—grief, cancer, divorce, financial difficulties, hospitalization, chronic illness, job loss, disability, loneliness, a spiritual crisis, or other life struggles. They have a compassionate heart for those who are hurting, and they're equipped with caring ministry skills by their congregation's Stephen Leaders. They listen, care, pray, encourage, and offer emotional and spiritual support. They often work in cooperation with licensed counselors, psychiatrists and other professional caregivers to help those suffering from depression.

Do you have an issue that you need to bring to the feet of our Lord in prayer? 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.

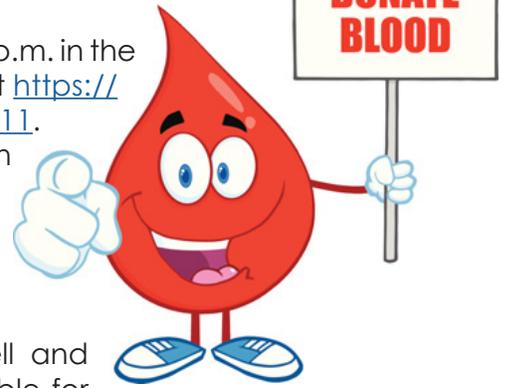
“Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

Matthew 11:28

Blood Donor Sunday

Our next Blood Donor Sunday will be held June 27, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the gym. If you would prefer a special time, please sign up online at https://www.commitforlife.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/322611.

While scheduling an appointment ahead of time gives us an estimate of how many donors to expect and the Blood Center sends out the appropriate number of workers; an added bonus is we take scheduled appointments prior to walk-ups. All donors will receive a coupon for a free stack of IHOP pancakes!



We look forward to a very successful drive. Double red cell and combination whole blood and plasma machines will be available for those wishing to donate that way. Both count for two donations.

Save time with the DIGITAL DONOR APP. The App makes it easy to find a blood drive, schedule your donation and answer the CFL Express Pass health history interview before you arrive.

REMINDER!! The minimum donor age requirement to give blood is 16 years old with a parent's permission. Weight must be 122 lbs. (still 110 lbs. for 17 and older) and in general good health.

REMEMBER: one unit of blood can save as many as three lives as it is broken down into three components – red blood cells, platelets and plasma.

LEAH SCHOOLS DOWNTOWN ACADEMY
1316 WASHINGTON AVE., HOUSTON, TX 77002

ON THE MOVE TOUCH-A-TRUCK EXPERIENCE!



SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 9-NOON

EXPLORE A BUS, A MAIL TRUCK, AN RV, AND A VARIETY OF OTHER VEHICLES DESIGNED TO MOVE PEOPLE AND PACKAGES!

FREE CART RIDES PROVIDED BY TRINITY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**FAMILY FRIENDLY AND FREE
MASKS REQUIRED FOR ATTENDEES WHO ARE 10 YEARS OLD AND OLDER.**

Youth and Adult Virtual Bible Studies

Please consider joining one or more of our weekly virtual Bible studies. It's a wonderful way to begin a new spiritual discipline. Virtual login information is available on Trinity's website www.trinitydt.org.

SUNDAYS - YOUTH

Foundations 56 (5th-6th grades) - 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Led by Jane Suchma & Karen Maynard

Online Kids Interactive Experience. (Note: To join this class go to <https://www.trinitydt.org/youth-ministries/>.)

High School Class (7th-12th grades)

Led by Elizabeth Oliver - 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Study of the book of Psalms.

SUNDAYS - ADULT

Acts

Led by Pastor Paul Dorn - 7:00-8:00 p.m.

As we journey through the book of Acts, we will read how the Word of the Lord Jesus Christ grew and the number of those who believed the Word increased mightily. It is in that Word that Christ will confront us also—strengthening our faith in Him and encouraging us to be His witnesses in Houston, in Texas, and to the end of the earth.

First World Problems - Modern Dilemmas

Led by Thomas DeVries - 10:30-11:30 a.m.

As Christians we find ourselves living in the wealthiest setting in history. We face challenges and questions that aren't readily answerable in the Bible or by the examples of the ancient Church. In most cases, our dilemmas are not even relatable to many of our fellow Christians in other parts of the world. We will work through them honestly, openly and with an eye towards discerning God's will as we seek to answer these questions. We will explore topics that are applicable directly to how we live our lives and that we find ourselves debating about over dinner or in conversations with others. This is where the rubber meets the road on living our Christian faith.

James: Life on the Ground

Led by Jim Cleary - 10:30-11:30 a.m.

We all can use very practical help living out our faith. Join us as we sit at the feet of James, soaking up what he has to say about how life really works and even more importantly, how it should work. Discussion-oriented.

Parables and Proverbs

Led by Bill Fischer's Team - 10:30-11:30 a.m.

"Parables and Proverbs" - examples of Jesus using the wisdom of Proverbs to emphasize the points of His Parables.



WEDNESDAYS - ADULTS

Bless These Lips (Women's Study)

Led by Jan Case - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Make over your words to influence the world! *Bless These Lips: 40 Days of Spiritual Renewal* examines things we say that get in the way of our relationships with God and with others. Each chapter draws on lip product analogies and uses humor, anecdotes, and observations to introduce Scripture passages that address common behaviors and attitudes.

Virtual Midweek Spiritual Check-in

Led by Jim Cleary - 7:00-8:00 p.m.

THURSDAYS - ADULTS

Sonrise Bible Study

Led by Pastor Donald Black - 7:30-8:30 a.m.

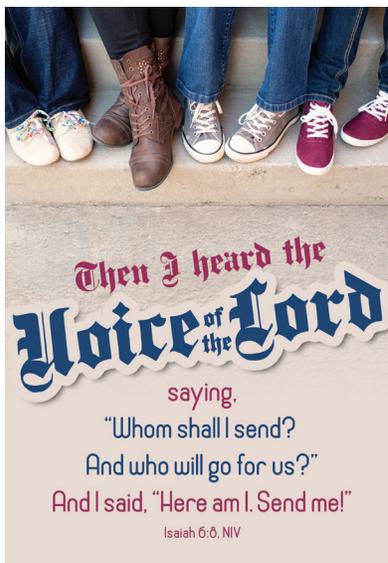
The class discusses the Scripture readings assigned for the following Sunday. The class is open to men and women. For more information, contact Bill Fischer at 713.827.8664 or bfisch@aol.com.



Life Thoughts in the Church Year - May 30 - Holy Trinity

Almighty God makes Himself known to us as Father, Son, and Spirit (Isaiah 6:3, 8). He delights in nothing more than bringing forth children (Psalm 29:9; John 3:3-5). Childbearing means more than just political controversy or personal choice. It belongs to the Gospel's essence to cherish all the little ones. Whom shall He send to celebrate it? Here we are—send us!

From the Spring 2021 issue of *LifeDate*, a quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life - www.lutheransforlife.org.



2021 GOVERNING BOARD

Jim Baccus (Elder)
Kim Davis (Chair)
Cindy Deere
Delvin Dennis (Elder)
Thomas DeVries
Pastor Michael Dorn
Tim Grady (Elder)
Cassandra McGarvey
Dan Krueger (Vice-Chair/
Elder)
Janet Mueller (Secretary)
Cynthia Roney

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

Ladies Circle Meeting on June 3

Trinity Lutheran Ladies Circle will continue its summer schedule with a meeting at 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 3, 2021, in Room 124.

Masks are required only if you have not been fully vaccinated - optional for all others.

The guest speaker for the day is Judge Lincoln Goodwin. In 2014 Judge Goodwin was unanimously appointed by Commissioners Court to serve as the Justice of the Peace, Precinct 4, Place 1. In 2016 he was elected for a full term. He currently serves as the presiding judge for all Harris County Justices of the Peace.

The agenda for the meeting will include a report on the distribution of grants from the Lucile Finn Bequest Fund and the installation of officers for the new fiscal year.

Following the business meeting, we will move into the gym for a luncheon. To encourage a time for fellowship but still follow safe protocols, we will order box lunches (sandwiches, chips, and a cookie) from Jersey Mike's Subs. A basket will be available for freewill offerings.

Please RSVP to Audrey at 713.782.6307 or dgb32@att.net by May 31, to indicate your choice of A - Ham & Provolone; B - Turkey & Provolone; C - Tuna Fish; or D - You may choose to bring your own lunch from home.

For further information about the Ladies Circle, please contact Debbie Leonard, president, at 319.431.6804. For questions about the lunch, contact Audrey Black at the numbers listed above.

Bring along a friend or spouse. Guests are always welcome.



Ministries

Save the Date

The Trinity Concert Series

presents



Chelsea Chen

in concert Sunday, September 26 at 2:30 pm

BOARD OF ELDERS - CONTACT INFORMATION

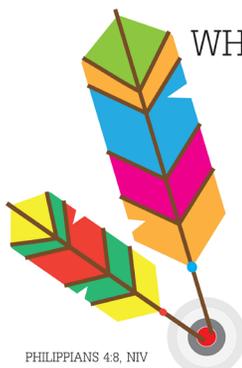
Jim Baccus	jimbaccus@comcast.net	713.956.1899
Delvin Dennis	ddennis@entouch.net	281.415.8787
Tim Grady	timlgrady@aol.com	281.639.0036
Dan Krueger	dwkrueger5@yahoo.com	901.258.4029

Greetings from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis!

Stephanie and I are now finished with our essays and we are breathing a sigh of relief as we prepare for the exams, which will be administered over the first couple of weeks of June. We are quickly approaching the end of our Cambridge adventure and heading into planning for the Fall semester and the birth of our son. Apartment hunting and moving are coming soon, to be followed by summer work and nursery setup.

With my intense focus lately on the topic of habituation and character, I've begun to rethink a very basic practice that I have had for a long time. That practice is to generally not consume media repeatedly in preference for new content. That is, once I've watched a movie or TV show, or read a book, I generally do not watch or read it again. Of course, this doesn't apply to reading the Bible! But I generally have the mindset that I've gotten enough out of the story or information conveyed in such media that I do not need to spend more time than necessary to cover it once. Whereas Stephanie remembers fondly watching a few certain movies repeatedly with her brother and cousins, I would rarely watch a show more than once unless reruns were the only thing available (remember when we didn't have streaming services and you were at the mercy of whatever the TV stations decided to play?). There is a lot of media out there just waiting to be consumed and not very much time to consume it! Of course, not all media is created equal. Some is better than others and some isn't worthy of being consumed at all.

Recognizing that we have a limited amount of time each day and in life in general, and since what we consume affects how we think, feel, speak, and act, it seems important to seriously consider what we consume. Furthermore, since anything worth consuming is not likely to be exhausted of meaning in one sitting, I think it would be worthwhile to spend more time repeatedly reading, watching, and



PHILIPPIANS 4:8, NIV

WHATEVER IS *pure*
WHATEVER IS *lovely*
WHATEVER IS *admirable*
if anything is *excellent* or *praise-worthy*
think about such things.

listening to quality content. This would be enhanced through discussions with other people so that we challenge and encourage each other as well. I'm not advocating some legalistic or pietistic shift where we all only read the Bible when we're not working. Instead, recognizing that we are reading books and streaming videos, podcasts, and music during leisure time, I am suggesting that perhaps some repetition of good media would help us to think about things worthy of praise, as St. Paul admonished the Philippians. I don't suppose it would hurt to have a little more beauty in our lives, since most of the world seems confused or distorted about what is beautiful, true, and good. Perhaps this would even help us develop patience, as we are weened off a constant stream of 'new'.

This will certainly require wisdom and discernment. I pray that the Lord would grant each of us, and His whole Church, that wisdom.

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4:8–9, ESV)

In Christ,
Chuck Ridley



**Chuck Ridley,
Seminary Student**

Blessings from Bohumín

From Chelsea Irwin, LCMS Missionary Serving the Lord in Bohumín, Czech Republic

Last year, Easter looked very different here in the Czech Republic. Everything was closed. There were no church services or gatherings of any kind. This year we were more open. We were able to have a service on Good Friday as well as Easter Sunday! For special services our team is typically more involved. On Good Friday (shown in the picture below) Honza, Jirka, and Miriam shared a dramatic reading of the crucifixion story. As the Scripture echoed through the sanctuary, my eyes welled with tears as I heard the well known story so proudly proclaimed in Czech for the first time.



On Easter Sunday, Pastor Roman asked me to share a thought at the beginning of church about the celebration of Easter. Even though it was early in the morning I thought this would be a good time to stand up and practice shouting our common phrase "He is risen!" and the response "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!". Of course we practiced in Czech, but I was surprised as some of our most timid members stood up and participated in the action with me, even raising their hands. How wonderful it was to see others so excited at expressing their Easter joy on this special day!

Since our church in Bohumín didn't hold a service on Maundy Thursday, our youth team had a little gathering of our own. After we

ate dinner, we shared a devotion and sang songs together. This was the first time our whole team had gathered outside of church since Christmas! (shown on right)

The painting of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (shown below) was the perfect fit for our Good Friday service as we remembered the sacrifice our Savior, Jesus, made for us on the cross.



After church on Easter Sunday our team headed 30 minutes by car to Český Tešín for a special youth service for the other parishes in our district. Since Český Tešín is a border town with Poland, many parts of the service were in Polish as well as the local dialect Ponaszymu. What a blessing to attend two services on Easter Sunday!

There's a common tradition in the Czech Republic around Easter time where many people bake a special cake in the shape of a lamb. This lamb, called Beránek, is often surrounded by colorful eggs, Easter grass, and chocolates. However, a much deeper symbol lies beneath the surface. The lamb symbolizes purity and innocence. Beránek refers to Jesus, the Lamb of God, who died on the cross for the sins of the entire world. This particular cake in the picture to the right was baked by our youth leader, Honza. The delicious cake was a great way to learn a new Czech custom, and reflect on the sacrifice Christ made on our behalf on the cross.



God continues to bless this ministry through your prayer and financial support. Prayerfully consider partnering in God's mission to the Czech Republic and Eurasia through a financial gift.

Send checks to:

LCMS International: P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861
(Write "Irwin/Czech Republic" on the memo line)

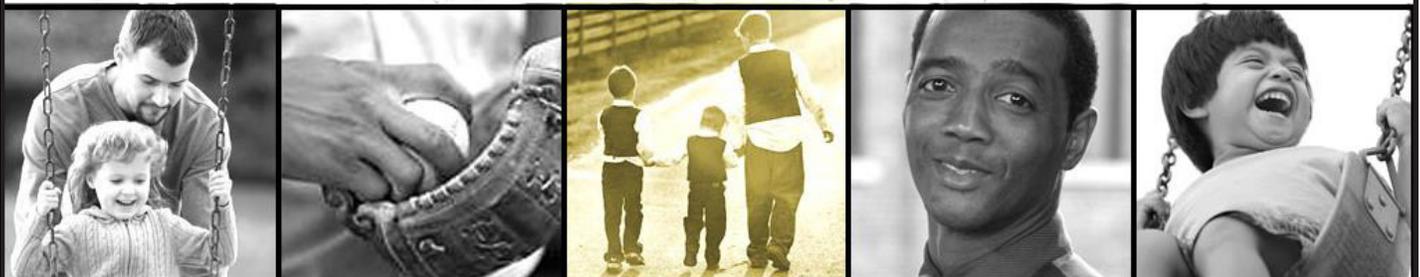
Give online: lcms.org/irwin

Contact Chelsea Irwin:
chelsea.irwin@lcms.org

You can also send your support to the wonderful people at:

Mission Central
407818 Highway E-16
Mapleton, Iowa 51034

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



**HONEST • LOVING • SWEET
MENTOR • PROTECTOR • PROVIDER**

Drive-Up Holy Communion



Wednesdays
11:00 am - 1 pm

Saturdays
9:30 am - 11:00 am

Call the Church Office
at 713-224-0684
8:30 am - 2:15 pm
Monday - Friday
to RSVP

Drive-up Holy Communion will not be offered on June 30 and July 3, 7 & 10. It will resume on July 14.

Prayer Chain



For urgent prayer requests, please call:
Lil Hohle - 346.207.7442 or Alice Scherer - 713.984.0803



STAFF DIRECTORY

713.224.0684

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Michael P. Dorn713.229.2940

Visitation Pastor
Donald G. Black . . .713.229.2917

Chief Financial Officer
Ron Lacy713.229.2970

Dir. of Administration
and Human Resources
Trinity Garrett713.229.2937

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Mary Voigt713.229.2922

Director of Youth and
Children's Ministries
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Stefanie Bowman . .713.229.2950

Hostess (Fridays)
Sarahai Flores713.229.2950



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

Trinity Downtown

www.trinitydt.org

800 Houston Avenue • Houston, TX 77007

713-224-0684



Article submission deadline is **June 14** for articles to be published July 1, 2021.
Submit articles to pschroeder@trinitydt.org.

Contact Pam Schroeder at 713.229.2944 with any questions about this publication.