



# Trinity Today

Vol. 24, No. 8

August 1, 2022

## Kick Off Sunday!

Hey, Trinity Families!

Have you heard it's almost Fall?! Summer is almost over, which is sad BUT there is an exciting event coming! We will celebrate the beginning of a new school year here at church! August 28<sup>th</sup> is Kick Off Sunday! If you have kids who are 0-18 this will be the first Sunday they are in their new class for the year! The grade they are entering this fall is the Sunday morning class they will be in! Please make sure you come to the registration table in the Foyer starting August 7<sup>th</sup> through August 21<sup>st</sup>! This will help us make sure we have enough volunteers and make sure all our information is correct about your student!



August 28<sup>th</sup> will be different from any other Sunday of the year! No matter what age group you are in, everyone 0-18 will start in the gym. Parents, stick around, because after opening in the gym you will have a chance to go with your kids to see their rooms!

We will bless the backpacks in BOTH worship services August 28<sup>th</sup>! Students bring your backpack (adults too) and we will give you something special to go on it!

This is a celebration for all of us! What do celebrations always need? Food; and yes, you guessed it, our Holy Smokers team will be making us a DELICIOUS meal! We will serve lunch promptly at noon! This is a little different from our usual schedule, because we want to make sure the WHOLE church can fellowship over food together no matter what service you attend! So if you have time to kill, please bring cards, dominoes and other games! It will be a great way to pass on joyous memories and traditions to a younger generation! Plus, I'm told, I really need to learn to play 42!

I look forward to celebrating this new year with each of you! Please call the church office or email [info@trinitydt.org](mailto:info@trinitydt.org), or [hdavisson@trinitydt.org](mailto:hdavisson@trinitydt.org) if you have any questions!

Blessings,  
Haley Davison

# Join the Music Ministry This Fall!!!

Our music program has had a challenge. Some of our musicians were no longer comfortable driving to Trinity in the dark on a Wednesday night. Others had kid's activities to attend or homework to supervise. It was just difficult for our musicians to attend a Wednesday night rehearsal. So we decided to try an experiment. We changed the rehearsal schedule to a time when singers and ringers were already at Trinity—Sunday morning. And this experiment has worked very well.

## Wouldn't you like to join us this fall? This is how it works:

The choir rehearses one Sunday per month on Sunday morning from 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. in the Band Hall. The group then sings for the traditional worship service the following Sunday. The music for the other Sundays each month is provided by soloists or ensembles from within the choir or by our Handbell Choir. The soloists and ensemble members rehearse on their own and then we put the music together on Sunday mornings before the 9:00 a.m. worship service. Handbells rehearse 1 - 2 Sundays per month from 11:20 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. and play the first Sunday of the month for the 9:00 a.m. worship service.

To prepare for special occasions this fall such as Reformation and Christmas, the choir will have special workshops on Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. – noon. The plan this fall will be to hold these workshops on October 1 and December 3.

So, what about Bible Study on Sunday mornings? If you sing in the choir, you will be able to participate in Sunday morning Bible Studies three Sundays a month. Or you may participate in Pastor Paul Dorn's Sunday evening Bible Study via Zoom or other weekly Bible Studies held during the day and evening in person or via Zoom.

I believe that the music provided by the Sanctuary Choir, the ensembles, the soloists and the Trinity Handbell Choir add to our worship experience. You're invited to give it a try and see if singing or ringing could be a fun and meaningful addition to your Sunday mornings.

Our August choir rehearsal will be held August 21 from 10:15 – 11:15 a.m. in the Band Hall. Handbells will also meet August 21 from 11:20 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. in the Band Hall.

We'd love to see you there. If you would like more information, please call or text Mary Voigt at 281.543.0407.



**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](http://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!

# Finance Corner - August 2022

*And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. 2 Corinthians 9:8 NLT*

**Our financial “summer slump” worsened in June.** For the month of June, tithes and offerings were 31% (or roughly \$34,000) lower than our monthly budget. Total revenue for the year so far was 12% (or roughly \$112,000) lower than our budget, although 2022’s revenue was 3% higher than the same period in 2021.

Our operational expenses in June were 4% lower than our monthly budget, while our year-to-date expenses were just a bit lower than what was budgeted. YTD expenses in 2022 were 7% higher than what was incurred during the same period last year when we were still largely unable to have community and outreach events due to COVID.



**As you can see, we are on-track to leave summertime with 4 weeks of tithes and offerings “missing” from our giving.** Your gifts of time, treasure and prayer are an important way you can participate in sharing the love of Christ to our city, **so please prayerfully consider how the Lord would have you respond to our financial shortage.**

Other than our financial shortfall, we are having a bountiful summer. Here are some additional indicators of how we are doing as a congregation:

- **Worship**

- In June, we averaged 365 weekly participants in our regularly-scheduled weekend worship services, which is 5% lower than in 2021; however,
- We averaged 226 *in-person* attendees in June of 2022, while only 191 participated *in-person* in June of 2021. We had a corresponding decrease in the number of virtual worship participants; an average of 37% of participants worshipped *in-person* in June, compared with 53% in the same month last year.

- **Grow**

- An average of 173 individuals participated in our Sunday School and adult Bible classes each week in June. During the same period in 2021, an average of 100 persons attended our (exclusively online) classes; and
- Participation in our Spanish-language classes offered by CASA remains solid, with an average of 29 individuals meeting *in-person* each week in June;
- 19 students and 4 adult leaders participated in the National Youth Gathering in Houston on July 9-13. At the last NYG event in 2019, Trinity was able to send 2 students and 2 adults.

- **Live**

- The Holy Smokers provided food for the international students attending the National Youth Gathering at their kick-off meeting; and
- Trinity Downtown provided resources and space each night of the NYG so that the church who sent the largest single contingent to the Gathering (over 100) could provide dinner in one place for their group.

As summer vacation season draws to a close, please remember that our ministries (and costs) continue unabated, so your faithful, ongoing giving is even more important. **Your continued generosity in helping us catch up from our financial shortfall 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

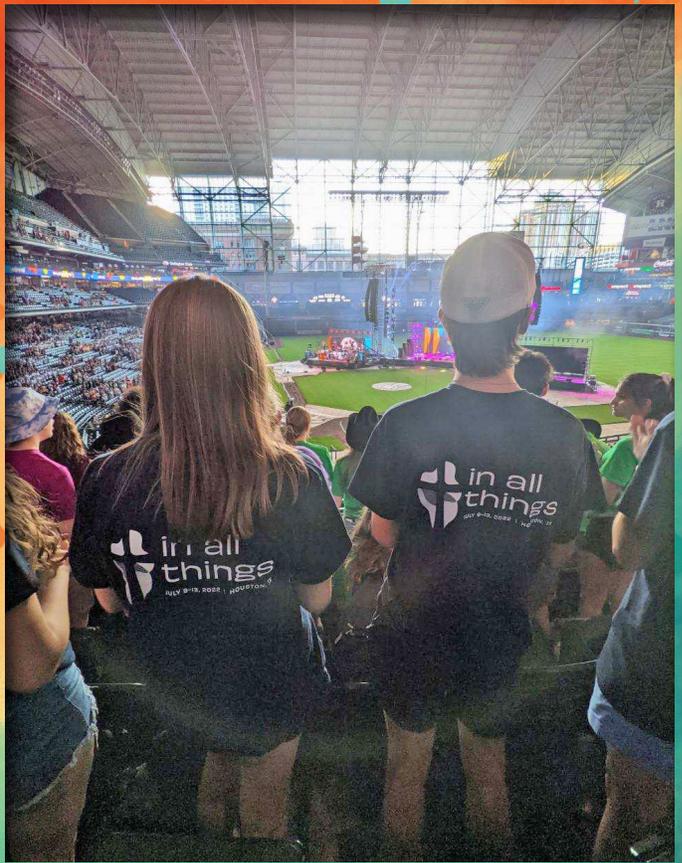
# Youth Update!

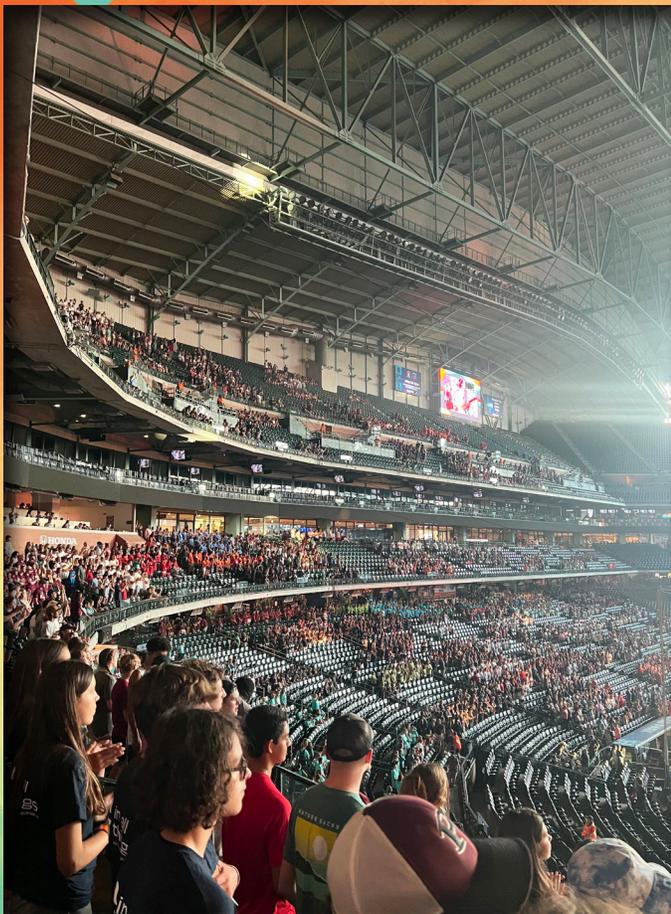
Hey, Trinity! I am so excited about August! We will kick off the new year on August 28<sup>th</sup>! Our high school youth are meeting in the basement and doing Kingdom Quest skits for our elementary school kids! Our middle school kids will meet upstairs on the second floor. Confirmation starts on August 28<sup>th</sup> with everyone else. However, parents, there will be a meeting for you on August 21<sup>st</sup> during the Bible study hour in Pastor Dorn's office where we will discuss expectations for this year, dates and any questions you have. **This meeting is for returning parents as well!**

The Youth Gathering was amazing! The kids had so much fun! Check out some photos from our trip! Please be on the lookout for information about next summer and what we will be doing!

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







# The Church Needs Introverts

The world is filled with extroverts. You know, the kind of folks who LOVE being in crowds, who get reenergized by interacting with other people (preferably in a large and noisy crowd), and can keep a group spell-bound with their stories.

But God created introverts, too. Unlike their extroverted cousins, introverts find that being in large crowds or social gatherings DRAINS their energy. While they may have superb social skills, they prefer to have quiet one-on-one conversations, and prefer an inward-facing world of thoughts, introspection and reflection. Introverts are not necessarily shy, just quiet. They like to read, journal, write and paint. And you'll likely find them in the corner of any large social gathering, sometimes just observing.

Of course, very few individuals are "pure" introverts or extroverts, with almost everyone falling somewhere on a spectrum between the two extremes. In His wisdom God apparently saw fit to create fewer introverts than extroverts; social scientist estimate that extroverts outnumber introverts by about 2 to 1.

As you might expect, our society seems to be tailor-made for extroverts, especially the male variety. They fit comfortably in an alpha-male role, barking orders and making decisions. They seem ideally suited for highly energetic, competitive and stimulating environments. They fit the mold of leaders who are rewarded for being relentlessly optimistic, energetic and expressive.

But God made introverts for a reason, of course. They are (often) the ones with the most thoughtful ideas!

And the Church needs introverts, too. They are the ones that value the patient acquisition of virtue, who find Jesus' model of servant-leadership more attractive and can be more attuned to needs of others, because introverts listen well.

We have a group of good listeners at Trinity Downtown who are part of our Stephen Ministry. Founded by an LCMS psychologist in 1975, Stephen Ministers are commissioned members of our congregation who have received 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. While Stephen Ministers are NOT trained to assist those (of any age) suffering from serious mental health challenges, they CAN provide a listening ear to those who are facing difficulties.

Trinity Downtown's Stephen Ministry is available to come alongside you. We're here to hear what you're thankful for or what may be troubling you during this stressful time. And we're good listeners.

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](mailto:rlacy@trinitydt.org) or 713.229.2970.



# Ladies Circle Fall Schedule

- There will be no regular meeting in August.
- Members who have not yet provided Kim Flaviani with updated information re. address corrections or current phone numbers, or want to know how they can serve in the months to come, please contact Kim Flaviani at [kimberly@flaviani.net](mailto:kimberly@flaviani.net) or 832.671.7979.
- Mark your calendar now for Thursday, September 8, when we will resume our full schedule, hear a report from our delegates to the recent LWML Texas District Convention, install our officers, and celebrate July, August and September birthdays with a covered dish Potluck Luncheon in the Mary/Martha Fellowship Hall.
- All ladies are welcome to these events. For additional information, please contact Trinity Garrett, president, at [tgarrett@trinitydt.org](mailto:tgarrett@trinitydt.org) or 281.300.5660, or Kim Flaviani, vice president, at [kimberly@flaviani.net](mailto:kimberly@flaviani.net) or 832.671.7979.

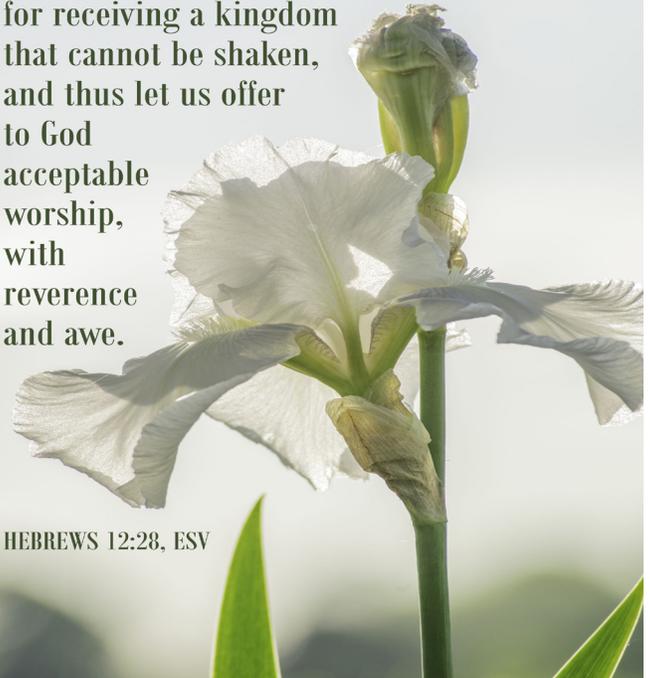


**Kinder Ready?**  
Enroll now in Pre-K!  
**LEAH Downtown Academy**  
**832-301-3100**

**Save the Date**  
**Blood Donor Sunday**  
**Sept. 18**

Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe.

HEBREWS 12:28, ESV



# Welcome Our New Members

The individuals pictured below were received into membership during our traditional worship service on July 3. Please introduce yourself to them and welcome them to our fellowship.



Pictured L to R: Debbie Herbrich, Ray Herbrich, Vivian Garcia, Michele Oncken, Sophia Oncken and Kirk Oncken



Pictured L to R: Paul Hahn, Grethe Hahn and Mary Hahn



## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

### AUGUST 28

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR BACKPACK TO CHURCH FOR A SPECIAL BLESSING.

## Telephone Prayer Chain

For urgent prayer requests, call Lil Hohle at 346-207-7442.



### 2022 GOVERNING BOARD

- Jim Baccus (Elder)
- Thomas DeVries
- Pastor Michael Dorn
- Mike Gilmore
- Tim Grady (Chair/Elder)
- Ross Krueger
- Cassandra McGarvey (Secretary)
- Dan Krueger (Vice-Chair/Elder)
- Marie Munier
- Cynthia Roney
- Chris Sonneborn (Elder)

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

# Children, Youth and Adult Bible Studies

Please consider joining one or more of our 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](http://www.trinitydt.org). Children and youth classes are in person unless indicated otherwise. Adult classes are either virtual, in person or hybrid.

## SUNDAYS - CHILDREN (10:15 - 11:15 AM)

**Nursery** (Infants - age 2) - Room 234

**Kingdom Quest 2 & 3 year olds** - Room 233

**Kingdom Quest 4 & 5 year olds** - Room 232

**Kingdom Quest 1st Grade - 4th Grade** - Kingdom Hall (basement)

**Casa 'de Oracion Spanish** (all grades) - Room 209

## SUNDAYS - YOUTH (10:15 - 11:15 AM)

**Foundations 56** (5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>\* grades) - Room 207

**High School** (7<sup>th</sup>\*-12<sup>th</sup> grades) - Underground (basement)

\*7<sup>th</sup> graders can choose to attend Foundations 56 or High School Bible Study during the summer.

## SUNDAYS - ADULT

### Depending on Jesus

Led by Jim Cleary - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 205 - Hybrid

As believers know we have to depend on Jesus for many things: for salvation, for guidance, for forgiveness, for daily needs. But to depend on Christ for everything? Excluding nothing? It's a scary—but also a profoundly biblical—idea. Join us for our series of people in the Bible learning that they could rely on Christ to see them through, even when all other avenues of help failed. They encountered every kind of obstacle: hostility, loneliness, injustice, failure, and other seemingly impossible difficulties. Just as they discovered that Christ is sufficient for any and all circumstances, you will be encouraged to discover the same. Discussion oriented. *(On August 28<sup>th</sup> this class will begin a study of Elijah.)*

### Joining Jesus on His Mission

Led by Pastor Jose Flores of Casa 'de Oracion - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 211 - In Person

Participants are encouraged to join this study using the book and videos for *Joining Jesus on His Mission*. Written and produced by Trinity's deployed missionary, Pastor Greg Finke, *Joining Jesus on His Mission* is a simple, powerful, and practical book that will move you and your tribe from merely thinking about being everyday missionaries to launching. You will feel both relief and hope as you gain insights into how to recognize where Jesus is already at work in your everyday world and join Him.

This is a Spanish-speaking Bible study opportunity.

### Liturgical Arts

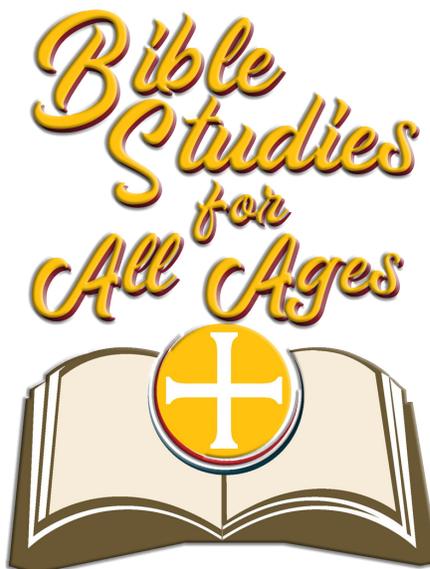
Led by Thomas DeVries and Anthony Flaviani - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 206 - In Person

Ever notice that many churches are designed as a cross? Ever wonder where the liturgy came from? The Christian church over many centuries has built a beautiful mosaic of traditions and meanings behind what makes a church unique from anything else in the secular world. We'll go through the history, the why, and the meaning behind what we experience every Sunday. *(This class will have a single stand alone topic each Sunday until August 28<sup>th</sup> when it will begin "Liturgical Arts".)*

### Romans 12-16 - "Living the Life of Love"

Led by Bill Fischer - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 201 - Hybrid

In these last five chapters of his letter to the Romans, Paul applies the powerful gospel truths from the first eleven chapters to how we develop and nurture our relationship with others. He gives us practical examples of "Living the Life of Love."



## **The Bible Alive ... God In Action**

Led by John Reisig - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 124 - In Person

In this study, each Sunday offers a single stand alone topic. The material covered each week will provide a meaningful experience for regular participants, visitors to Trinity Downtown, and for those simply looking to get back into a routine of attending Bible study. The single topic format insures that no one will be lost or feel behind during the study, and will feel welcome and encouraged to attend at any time. Bibles will be provided and utilized each week. Providing historical context to the scriptural message, and modern application of His word, the Bible will "Come Alive," and show that God has been working throughout history, and is still working today out of love for His people.

## **The Book of Hebrews**

Led by Pastor Paul Dorn - 7:00-8:00 PM - Virtual **(On hiatus - will resume on August 21)**

In our study of Hebrews we will be challenged with a rich theology and with practical applications for Christian life. We also will be encouraged to live for Christ in spite of our circumstances for through Jesus we are made capable of enduring and overcoming all the struggles of life.

## **TUESDAYS - ADULTS**

### **Joining Jesus on His Mission - Virtual Bible Study for Young Adults**

Led by Maddie Meier - 7:15 PM on every other Tuesday - Virtual

Young adults are encouraged to join this virtual study using the book and videos for *Joining Jesus on His Mission*. Written and produced by Trinity's deployed missionary, Pastor Greg Finke, *Joining Jesus on His Mission* is a simple, powerful, and practical book that will move you and your tribe from merely thinking about being everyday missionaries to launching. You will feel both relief and hope as you gain insights into how to recognize where Jesus is already at work in your everyday world and join Him. Books are available in the church office.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/92015984452?pwd=ZUh4dnNTT3lzdVNQNTVmQWcwNDBKdz09> Meeting ID: 920 1598 4452, Passcode: zGND4G

## **WEDNESDAYS - ADULTS**

### **Jesus in the Psalms (Women's Study)**

Led by Mary Oliver - 6:30-7:30 PM - Virtual **(There will be no class August 24 and 31)**

The class will be looking at a Psalm each week and where it is quoted in the New Testament to discover more about who Jesus is as we discuss what it means in Acts 17, "*For in Christ we live and move and have our being.*"

### **Virtual Midweek Spiritual Check-in**

Led by Jim Cleary - 7:00-8:00 PM - Virtual

## **THURSDAYS - ADULTS**

### **Sonrise Bible Study**

Led by individual class members - 7:30-8:30 AM - Virtual

This member led virtual class primarily discusses the scripture readings assigned for the following Sunday. The class is open to men and women. We plan to follow this member-led format while Pastor Black is recovering from his recent illness. For more information contact Bill Fischer at 832.459.3241 or the church office.



## **BOARD OF ELDERS - CONTACT INFORMATION**

Jim Baccus . . . . .	<a href="mailto:jimbaccus@comcast.net">jimbaccus@comcast.net</a> . . . . .	713.956.1899
Tim Grady . . . . .	<a href="mailto:timlgrady@aol.com">timlgrady@aol.com</a> . . . . .	281.639.0036
Dan Krueger . . . . .	<a href="mailto:dwkrueger5@yahoo.com">dwkrueger5@yahoo.com</a> . . . . .	901.258.4029
Chris Sonneborn . . . . .	<a href="mailto:csonneb@gmail.com">csonneb@gmail.com</a> . . . . .	713.854.8692



*Drive-Up Holy Communion*

Drive-up Holy Communion is available from 11:00 a.m. to Noon on Wednesdays.

**CANCELED**

**STAFF DIRECTORY**  
713.224.0684

Senior Pastor  
Michael P. Dorn . . . .713.229.2940

Visitation Pastor  
Donald G. Black . . .713.229.2917

Associate Pastor of Missions  
Greg Finke . . . . .281.844.7644

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 Youth and Children's Ministries  
Haley Davisson . . . .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 (Mondays - Thursdays)  
Stefanie Bowman . .713.229.2950

Hostess (Fridays)  
Sarahai Flores . . . .713.229.2950



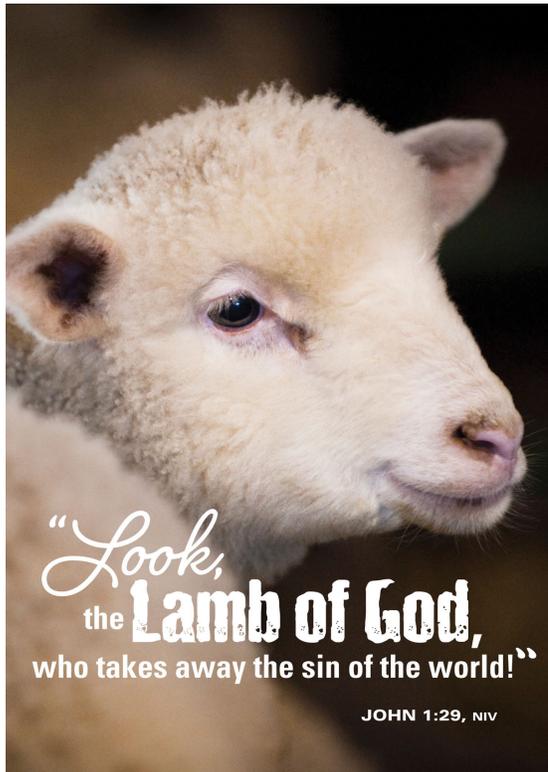
**TRINITY**  
*Downtown*

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

## Life Quote

"God has come down and given us His Son. But in times of doubt or struggle we can clearly see—through the eyes of faith—Christ the Savior, shining bright into our world. And so, we go down the mountain to the everyday and even the unknown. Like the disciples then, we go with Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

Rev. Cody Copper, guest speaker on *The Lutheran Hour – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)



*Look,*  
the **Lamb of God,**  
who takes away the sin of the world!"

JOHN 1:29, NIV

Trinity Downtown  
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Article submission deadline is **August 15** for articles to be published September 1, 2022.  
Submit articles to [pschroeder@trinitydt.org](mailto:pschroeder@trinitydt.org).  
Contact Pam Schroeder at 713.229.2944 with any questions about this publication.