

Trinity Today

Vol. 25, No. 11

November 1, 2023

Thanksgiving Worship

November 23, 2023
9:00 a.m.



*Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!
For His mercy endures forever.
Psalm 136:1*

November 5th - All Saints' Sunday

On November 5th, we will celebrate All Saints' Sunday in our worship service. 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 2022.

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



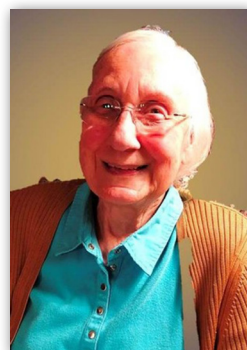
**Beverly Ann
Montalbano**
05/15/1937 -
12/16/2022



**Joanne
Husser**
08/02/1933 -
01/29/2023



**Paul Richard "Bud"
Hahn**
05/08/1953 -
02/23/2023



**Olive
Eastwood**
12/09/1931 -
03/08/2023



**Jennifer
Ortiz**
07/21/1996 -
03/11/2023



**Patsy Jane
Lewis**
11/21/1951 -
05/28/2023



**Dolores McClelland
Auffarber**
06/22/1930 -
08/07/2023



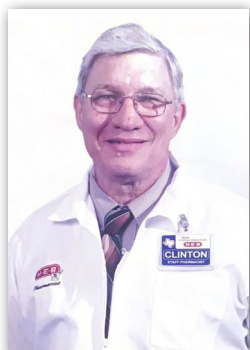
**Marie Fisher Black
Heinke**
04/06/1938 -
08/12/2023



**David
Frederking**
11/20/1942 -
08/14/2023



**Diane Denise
Janczak-Garcia**
06/29/1959 -
08/14/2023



**Clinton
Heine, Jr.**
08/17/1946 -
10/06/2023



Annual Congregational Assembly Meeting

Our annual Congregational Assembly will be held in the Gym starting at noon on November 12, 2023. Hot dogs will be served for the attendees starting at 11:30 a.m. Childcare will be provided.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- I. Call to order
- II. Opening prayer
- III. Approval of minutes from Congregational Assemblies held on 9/25/2022 and 11/06/2022
- IV. Election of Elders and Governing Board members
- V. 2024 Nominating Committee elections
- VI. Governing Board report
- VII. Consideration of the proposed 2024 Ministry Financial Plan
- VIII. Closing prayer

Biographies and pictures of 2024 Governing Board nominees may be found below. One elder and two non-elder positions are open.



2024 Governing Board Nominee: Timothy L. Grady

Age: 68

Years Trinity Member: Approx. 13

Occupation: Retired CPA in industry and consultant

Summarize your prior or present involvement in the Church:

Governing Board Chair 2022 and 2023. HUG2 and Mighty Acts campaign Co-Chair, HUG2 fulfillment team, Endowment Board, Bible Study teacher, New Member class teacher on Stewardship, Usher, Lector, Communion server, Financial Analysis and reporting for Board, Board nominating committee, Board member for 6 years, Board liaison for the Mission MAT, Holy Smokers, Senior Care Committee.



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

CPA and MBA, professional administrative and Board facilitating skills, Financial Analysis and Strategic Planning, Crisis Management skills, wealth of experience in governance, biblical and spiritual devotion and prayer life, proactive/action oriented.

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

My wife and I love Trinity DT and the great community of faith. We have been blessed by the spiritual nourishment and guidance. We have enjoyed strong fellowship and we bear each other's burdens. We are devoted to God's kingdom. We personally cheerfully give both time and possessions and we use these gifts from God to further His Kingdom.



2024 Governing Board Nominee: Brent Laumen

Age: 35

Years Trinity Member: 5

Occupation: Construction Manager

Summarize your prior or present involvement in the Church:

Chaperone for the 2022 National Youth Gathering, Facilities Ministry Action Team Chair, Joesph in the 2021 Christmas Pageant, Member of John Reisig's Bible Study Class



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

As a construction manager, I have honed my organizational and project management skills, overseeing complex projects. This experience has given me a strong ability to plan, allocate resources, and execute tasks efficiently. I believe that these skills can be applied to our church's governance, helping us plan and manage various initiatives effectively.

Church governance often involves working with a wide range of people, each with their unique perspectives and ideas. I believe I am adept at fostering positive and productive relationships, which is essential for a harmonious and successful governing board.

In my role, I'm responsible for managing budgets and ensuring projects stay within financial constraints. I believe this financial acumen can be applied to the responsible stewardship of our church's resources, allowing us to make the best use of our financial blessings.

Lastly, my construction management background has cultivated strong problem-solving skills and an ability to adapt to changing circumstances, both of which are essential in addressing the challenges that may arise in our church.

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

I was confirmed in 2001 at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Jersey Village.

I'm a proud graduate of Texas A&M University (2010) with a B.S. in Construction Science and a Minor in Business.

I have been blessed with a loving wife, Amanda, and two beautiful girls, Clara (5) and Hallie (6 Mo.).

My hobbies include hunting, working in the yard, reading history, listening to music, and spending time with family.



2024 Governing Board Nominee: Cassandra (Cassie) McGarvey

Age: 42

Years Trinity Member: 38ish

Occupation: Attorney

Summarize your prior or present involvement in the church:

Trinity is my home and I've grown up in this church. We joined Trinity at the recommendation of my great aunt. I attended Trinity Lutheran School (c/o 1995) and later graduated from Lutheran High North (c/o 1999). I've been involved with Trinity in various levels – from acolyte and torch bearer to serving on the governing board for 2020-2023.



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

This will be my second term on the Board. During my term on the Board, I served as Secretary (2021-2022) and Vice-Chair (2022-2023), and was a Board representative on the Call Committee. On a professional level, I am an experienced real estate attorney and business owner. I understand how businesses work and can provide practical reasoning in assistance in making business decisions for the church. I understand Texas law regarding non-profit organizations and, while I will not be providing legal advice in connection with my service on the board, I offer opinions from a legal background. Also, I've spent a significant amount of time understanding general business operations and financial issues. As a business owner, I understand the decisions that need to be made and how those decisions can impact the organization. As an attorney, I understand the legal implications of those decisions.

Additionally, I have other board involvement. Currently, I serve on the board of directors for the Houston Volunteer Lawyers and the Friendswood Rotary Club. Additionally, I have served as a committee chair for the Houston Bar Association Law Week Fun Run Committee and the Houston Bar Association Real Estate Section. As such, prior board experience means that I understand my obligations and responsibilities as a board member.

I am actively involved with Rotary Club of Friendswood (which performs various service projects from locally and internationally), Cub Scouts Pack 442 (leading the Tiger Den), and Houston Volunteer Lawyers (taking on pro bono cases within my law firm). In each of these organizations, I understand the value of outreach and the need to have a system in place to do the greatest good.

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

It has been an honor to serve on the Board. I was delighted when the Nominating Committee requested that I stand for re-election. Service on the Board has greater connected my family and me to Trinity. Board service is how I can ensure that Trinity can be the same blessing to others. I want to make sure that Trinity continues to grow and allow my kids to experience the same type of environment that I had.

As for general biographical information: I've been married to James McGarvey for almost 17 years and we have three children, Clara (11), Lorelei (9), and William (6). Our children attend Friendswood ISD school.

I attended Trinity Lutheran School and Lutheran High North. I graduated from the University of St. Thomas in 2003 and University of Houston Law Center in 2006. I am a double board certified attorney with specializations in Residential and Commercial Real Estate. I formed my law firm, McGarvey PLLC, in February 2020.

When not spending time with my family or working, I'm an avid runner and athlete. I enjoy swimming, biking, and running. My running goals are to train consistently, not get injured, and to put myself in a position to qualify for the Boston Marathon. I've completed three IronMan triathlons, more than a dozen marathons, and numerous shorter distance races.

BOARD OF ELDERS - CONTACT INFORMATION

Jim Baccus	jimbaccus@comcast.net	713.202.3757
Mike Gilmore	mdgilmore85@gmail.com	713.569.2371
Tim Grady	timlgrady@aol.com	281.639.0036
Chris Sonneborn	csonneb@gmail.com	713.854.8692
Mike Sterling	nasasterling@gmail.com	713.299.7238

Fall Food Drive November 12

Our annual Fall Food Drive will be held on November 12. Non-perishable food, baby items and monetary gifts are welcome.

Suggested items for Thanksgiving dinner include:

- Large box of instant mashed potatoes
- Two cans of green beans
- Two cans of kernel corn
- One large can of sweet potatoes
- Gravy (can or dry mix)
- One can of cranberry sauce
- One box of "Stove Top" stuffing
- Donation (or grocery gift card) to be used to purchase turkeys and other necessities.

Call Steve or Tana Bell with any questions at 713.461.1676.



Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale

Cleaning out that holiday closet or knick knack cabinet? Feelin' crafty? Not sure what to do with that collection of Hummels you inherited? Our Annual Ladies Circle Bazaar will put it to good use!!!

Plans are underway for the Annual Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale fundraiser to be held in Room 125 on Sunday, November 12, 8:30 a.m. - Noon. Donations of items for the Bazaar may be brought to the church and placed in Room 125. Proceeds will benefit local missions (more info on that at the Bazaar!).

Items wanted by November 11:

- Craft kits and gift baskets
- Good condition Christmas and Thanksgiving decor and dishes
- Good condition re-giftables (aprons, decorative towels, fancy doilies, vases, antiques and the like)
- Homemade crafts, quilts and crocheted/knitted items
- Children's books, art tools and small toys
- Devotion books, unused journals, office supplies, etc.
- Jewelry

Items wanted on November 11 or morning of November 12 (day of Bazaar):

- Carrying-sized plants
- Baked goods (labeled with what it is)

What we cannot use (do not bring):

- Clothing/shoes
- Furniture
- Items over 10 pounds

Still not sure if we want it or need help with picking up? Feel free to send chairpersons Gay Shackelford or Kim Flaviani an email to inquire: dangay.shack@att.net or kimberly@flaviani.net.



TRINITY CONCERT SERIES

PRESENTS

ORGANIST

Stephen Buzard



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023
2:30 PM

Stephen Buzard is one of the leading organists of his generation, serving as Director of Music at historic St. James Cathedral in downtown Chicago. His playing is both thoughtful and heartfelt, dazzling audiences with his technique and engaging programming.

Stephen Buzard grew up in a household filled with organ music. His father is the president and founder of Buzard Pipe Organ Builders, and his mother is an Episcopal organist and choirmaster. Buzard attended Westminster Choir College where he studied organ performance with virtuoso Ken Cowan. During this time, Buzard recorded his first solo album "In light or darkness" and won the prestigious Arthur Poister Competition.

After graduation, Buzard became senior organ scholar at Wells Cathedral in the UK where he accompanied for daily choral services and assisted in the training of the boy and girl choristers. He returned to the United States to study with Thomas Murray at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music.

In 2013, Buzard became Assistant Organist at Saint Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue in New York City. Following the tragic death of Director of Music John Scott, Buzard became Acting Organist and Director of Music, leading the church's world-renowned choir of men and boys.

In 2016, Buzard was called to St. James Cathedral in Chicago, following in the footsteps of Dudley Buck, Clarence Dickinson, and Leo Sowerby. In addition to maintaining the church's excellent musical heritage, he founded a chorister program for boys and girls and an organ scholarship to train the next generation of church musicians. His career was highlighted in the AGO monograph series "The Making of an Organ Virtuoso."

Connecting Our Families with a New Pictorial Directory!

We are pleased to announce that Trinity Downtown will be publishing a new pictorial directory. A photographer will be available to take your picture on November 5th and 12th from 8:30 - 11:45 a.m. in the Gym. No reservation is needed.

Quick and Easy:

- No appointment necessary
- Everything done in-house
- Each household who participates will receive a printed directory in January (earlier if time permits). Non-participants may purchase a printed directory for \$10.00.



On the day you have your picture taken:

- Check in at the table in the Gym.

Verify the information that will be included in the directory:

- Name
- Address
- Phone numbers
- Email addresses

You can also confirm your Trinity Member Profile including:

- Date of birth
- Date of baptism
- Date of wedding

Taking your picture:

- Proceed to the photo station right by the check-in table.
- A picture will be taken of your family for the directory.
- Individual pictures will be taken of all family members for the church database.
- You will not be asked to purchase photos, so nothing else needs to be done.

To submit your own photo:

- Email your picture to pschroeder@trinitydt.org
- Include names of family members, address, phone number and email address.
- Pictures should be landscape and JPG format.

Finance Corner - November 2023

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 ESV

Dear Members and Friends of Trinity Downtown:

The Fall season is upon us, and the activities at Trinity Downtown are in full gear. We've already had two Fall Concert Series events, plus Oktoberfest and Trunks 'n' Treats. **Average attendance during the first nine months of 2023 increased compared with the same time period in 2022, even though we suspended the Contemporary service early in 2023. The percentage of online participants has increased by 8% compared with 2022, and we've been honored to add 30 new members to our congregation so far in 2023!** Compared to 2022, our (already stellar) participation in Discipleship Hour classes has increased, with an additional class now being offered by Pastor Lonnie. We've been especially blessed to have celebrated 14 baptisms so far this year, including 3 adults.



Gifts to our Magnify Capital Campaign totaled \$729k at the end of September, so we are within striking distance of making our \$750k goal by the end of 2023.

Thanks be to God for His bountiful blessings!

Home Treasury Giving Under Budget

Unfortunately, giving to the general needs of the church is a different story; through the end of September, tithes and offerings were 13% (or roughly \$162,000) lower than our annual budget. Giving so far in 2023 has been \$33,000 less than 2022's offerings.

Our YTD operational expenses through September were 2% (or \$32,000) lower than our budget and were 5% higher than what was incurred during the same period last year.

Please prayerfully consider how the Lord would have you respond to our financial shortage during this season of Thanksgiving. Your gifts of time, treasure and prayer are an important way you can participate in sharing the love of Christ to our city, and to keep our ministries operating at full speed.

Here's a quick summary of other "visible results" for September:

September 2023 Summary			
Average Worship Attendance	In-person 228	Online 161	Sept. 2022 393
Avg. Discipleship Hour Attendance	Adults 130	Students 58	Sept. 2022 203
Contributions	Actual	Budgeted	Last Year
September 2023 tithes and offerings	\$121,114	\$152,489	\$152,857
Year-to-date 2023 tithes and offerings	\$1,139,489	\$1,302,489	\$1,173,022
Magnify Campaign gifts thru 09/30/2023	Received \$729,007	Pledged \$758,875	Last Year N/A

Honored to serve you,
Ron Lacy, CFO

Hey, Trinity Families!

Wow, October was a blast! Our youth fundraiser made over \$1,200 towards both mission trips and Pastor Lonnie now has the distinct title of "Pie Face Champion"! Check out the great photo of him. Our children's ministry had an awesome time at Trunks 'n' Treats (see pictures below), and thank you all for your support!

November looks forward to a youth event that will be filled with laughs and memories planned by our high school youth leadership team. I am looking forward to it! Please make sure to join the youth and children's-ministry on the 26th of November



to help decorate our ministry spaces! If you are able to help please let me know (hdavisson@trinitydt.org)! Thank you so much for your continued support! You are all a blessing to our children and youth!

Blessings,

Haley Davisson, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries





Christmas Decorating

Sunday, November 26
11:15 a.m.

Lunch will be provided.

Sign up at Welcome Center
if you can help.

Contact Mary Voigt
for more information.

Annual Christmas Video Bible Study

Pastor Dorn will be leading his annual Christmas Video Bible Study beginning on December 3rd. *The Polar Express* is the movie the group will be watching.

The Polar Express is about an unnamed boy who has reached an age when he questions whether Santa Claus is real. He has found much evidence to disprove Santa's existence, including a World Book encyclopedia that says that the North Pole is "devoid of life." But

on Christmas Eve the boy is picked up by The Polar Express, a magical train that takes select children to the North Pole. The train takes the boy and his new friends on an icy roller coaster ride that, on multiple occasions, nearly ends in disaster.

The Polar Express is a story of faith. The film contains no religious imagery, quotes no Scriptures, and never mentions God, yet *The Polar Express* is a movie that touches the spirit with lessons about belief and friendship. It will undoubtedly prompt discussion on difficult spiritual questions such as, "What does it mean to believe—to truly believe?"

The movie is rated G and the study is open to all ages. Fresh popped popcorn will be served! The study will be held in Room 123 (Pastor Dorn's Office) at 10:15 a.m.



Wanted: Holiday Bakers

On Sunday, December 10th, Trinity members and guests will enjoy the sounds of Christmas at the annual Carols and Bells service at 9 a.m. Following the service, all are invited to enjoy homemade cookies and wassail in the foyer.

We need members to bake cookies, dessert bars, brownies, muffins or anything else that adds inches to the waistline. Please bring approximately three dozen treats to the foyer prior to the 9 a.m service. If you want your container back, please label the bottom.

There will be a signup sheet at the Welcome Desk beginning on Thanksgiving, November 23rd. If you have questions, please call Sharon Balke at 713.249.5446.



CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR SCHEDULE

ADVENT WORSHIP

DECEMBER 24, 2023 - 9:00 A.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE

(PAGEANT WITH LIVE ANIMALS AND CANDLE LIGHTING)

DECEMBER 24, 2023 - 4:00 & 6:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25, 2023 - 9:00 A.M.

NEW YEAR'S EVE MORNING

DECEMBER 31, 2023 - 9:00 A.M.

Calling All Trinity Ladies and Friends!

The next meeting of the Ladies Circle is on Thursday, November 2nd at 10:00 a.m. (refreshments served starting at 9:45 a.m.) in the Gathering Space.

Sharon Stoerkel will talk with us about the [LWML National Convention](#) held in June in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

After the presentation, we are going to continue our Bible study walking through a book called "The Women of the Bible Speak" by Shannon Bream. Each month when we meet, we will discuss the questions at the end of the selected chapter. If you haven't picked up your book and want one, please reach out to Trinity Garrett (trinitygarrett@hotmail.com). Please know that even if you haven't read the book for a given month, you will still be able to participate! The questions are pulled straight from scripture references that will be reviewed. This month we will be looking at Rachel and Leah.

The Ladies Circle raises funds in various ways to support local missions (the Bazaar is one of them!) At this meeting, members are invited to bring suggestions for local ministries that the Circle can provide with a special Christmas love offering.

Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month. For additional information, please contact Trinity Garrett, president, at (c) 281.300.5660 or trinitygarrett@hotmail.com. All ladies are welcome.



The Key to a Joyful Life

One of the keys to crafting a joyful and fulfilling life lies in our ability to build and maintain meaningful relationships. While happiness can be influenced by various factors such as personal achievements, material possessions, and life circumstances, it is the depth and quality of our connections with God and others that often stand out as the most potent source of lasting contentment.

At its core, the human experience is deeply rooted in connection and social interaction. We are inherently social beings, and our well-being is intricately linked to our capacity to form bonds with God and others. From the moment we are born, we seek human connection, relying on relationships for support, love, and a sense of belonging. During difficult times, the emotional and practical support from our relationship with the Lord, with loved ones and with friends can be a lifeline. Knowing that someone cares, empathizes, and is willing to stand by your side in times of trouble can mitigate stress, boost resilience, and help you find the strength to overcome life's challenges.

In the same way, during moments of joy and celebration, our relationships become even more valuable. Sharing our successes, achievements, and happiness with loved ones amplifies the pleasure we derive from these experiences. The laughter, smiles, and shared excitement create lasting memories that contribute to a joyful life.

Loneliness, on the other hand, has been linked to a variety of physical and mental health issues. It can lead to depression, anxiety, and an overall sense of discontentment. Building and maintaining relationships with God and with people can be a powerful antidote to loneliness. Sharing our joys and fears with the Lord in prayer can ease our burdens and provide a healthy perspective on our life. And even a single meaningful connection with others can significantly enhance one's well-being by offering a sense of purpose and belonging.

In our fast-paced, digital world, building and maintaining relationships require conscious effort. Taking time to attend church and interacting with a Discipleship Hour class can be essential ingredients in nurturing connections and ensuring they remain strong and vibrant.

Jesus reminded us that a joyful life isn't about accumulating wealth or chasing lofty goals; it's about hearing God's call for our lives, while at the same time cherishing the journey and the relationships that shape it. These connections act as beacons of light, guiding us through the ups and downs, providing comfort, and reminding us of the value of human connection.

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

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.



Magnify Campaign Update

- The Magnify campaign is the first step in our plan to revitalize our facilities and, through these improvements, carry out the Lord's Great Commission to bring others into our Trinity community, both through worship services and other community outreach events, such as performances and concerts.
- The final steps of the Sanctuary Refresh were completed in October with the installation of the last three lighting fixtures in the Balcony



- We are pleased to report that through September 30th, **pledges** to the Magnify campaign total \$758,875, which exceeds our goal. Actual payments received total \$729,007, which is 96% of the total funds pledged.
- Any capital campaign donations above the original campaign goal of \$750,000 will be used to offset the construction costs that were paid for out of the church's cash reserves.
- Thank you to all who have supported this renovation, through your gifts, prayers, and encouragement. The Magnify campaign will continue through the end of 2023, so if you have not yet contributed, please prayerfully consider how you might participate in this effort to bring the grace and love of Jesus to our community.

We have three new videos that highlight how the funds from the Magnify campaign were used to refresh our Sanctuary. You may view them using these links:

[5 minute "looking back" video](#)

[1 minute giving opportunity video](#)

[1 minute thank you video](#)

Magnify Capital Campaign Team,

Jim Hill
Campaign Chair
jimhill77027@yahoo.com
(713) 409-5640

Betty Berg
bettyberg@gmail.com
(281) 455-5426

Rick Berg
oldhippie@gmail.com
(281) 455-5413

Deena Buford
dlbuford@prodigy.net
(713) 594-2879

Reggie Buford
rbuford@prodigy.net
(713) 594-2879

Dag Calafell
dodiggitydag@gmail.com
(713) 560-0371

Rachel Calafell
rachel.calafell@gmail.com
(832) 389-8998

Katherine Gilmore
Communication Director
kgilmore7@gmail.com
(713) 476-1225

Karen Mattern
Fulfillment Director
power4211@yahoo.com
(713) 501-1530

Ross Mattern
Fulfillment Director
rm11926@yahoo.com
(832) 332-9019

Jim Schulien
jeschulien@gmail.com
(214) 551-5828

Wendy Schulien
Wlschulien@gmail.com
(214) 551-5826

Kris Sonneborn
Campaign Coordinator
krissonne@yahoo.com
(832) 659-8259

New “Vending Machine” Now Available!

For several years, Trinity has had vending machines located near the Gym entrance offering a variety of Dr. Pepper beverages. These machines were provided free of charge from the vendor, but all of the proceeds went to them. Given the relatively low volume of sales, our vendor decided to remove the machines early in October.

In response, we've replaced the vending machines with a large glass cooler filled with a variety of beverages from different bottling companies including coffee and tea products. We operate on the honor system: you can select whatever beverage suits your fancy, and pay online by scanning one of the QR codes that are attached to the cooler.

The really good news is that the prices have dropped; any canned drink can be purchased for a donation of \$1, while any bottled beverage costs \$1.50. Bottled water is available for \$.50. We'll be adding a cash option soon that will allow you to drop your donation into a small safe.

We'll also be adding healthy snacks to the honor system on a table next to the cooler.

And, we'd appreciate any thoughts on any additions to the beverage and snack selection, since it is now in Trinity's control!



**VOTE AT TRINITY
NOVEMBER 7
7:00 AM - 7:00 PM**

2023 GOVERNING BOARD

Jim Baccus (Elder)
Lori Dixon
Pastor Michael Dorn
Mike Gilmore (Elder)
Tim Grady (Chair/Elder)
Ross Krueger
Cassandra McGarvey (V. Chair)
Marie Munier
Mary Oliver
Cynthia Roney
Chris Sonneborn (Elder/Sec.)
Mike Sterling (Elder)

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

Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries - What Child Is This?

In Jesus' birth, God came down to earth for us. In What Child Is This? we see how Jesus, foretold by the prophets and confirmed by God as His own Beloved Son, is the Father's ancient promise fulfilled. Born to save us from our sins, this lowly Child triumphed over sin and death to become our Savior.

Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Printed devotions will be available on November 26 or have them delivered right to your [inbox](#), [podcast the audio devotional](#), access them on your mobile device through the [FREE app](#), or listen with [Spotify](#), [iHeart Radio](#), [Alexa](#), or [Google Home](#). Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family, friends and congregations, these seasonal meditations will help prepare you to celebrate the true meaning of these seasons.



SAVE THE DATE

**December 10, 2023
9:00 a.m.**

A large red bow with gold bells and green pine branches.

Carols and Bells

**Bring a bell and ring along with the music.
Wassail, Coffee and Cookies will be served in the Foyer after the service.**

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. 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

Foundations 56 (5th-6th grades) - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 207

Confirmation (7th-8th grades) - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 208

High School (7th-12th grades) - 10:15-11:15 AM - Underground

SUNDAYS - ADULT

Discipleship Bible Study - The Whole Story - Creation to Jesus

Led by Group of Members - 10:15-11:15 AM - Room 125 - In Person

This Bible study series covers creation through the redemptive story in the Old Testament. It is perfect for people interested in learning a simple and reproducible model to study Scripture in a group setting. The study is sponsored and facilitated by a committed group of members at Trinity Downtown. Participants can come and go throughout the series.

Isaiah - The Herald of the Messiah

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

Christmas in July is a popular summer device for sales, TV shows and movies. We will continue our own celebration looking toward Christmas with Isaiah, the Old Testament prophet who is quoted more than any other in the New Testament. Many, and probably most of these, point to the birth of Jesus, the Messiah. This is not a thorough verse by verse study, but rather a look at selected passages that highlight God's promises of our Savior through Isaiah.

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.

Prayer and Praise: Psalms and Hymns

Led by Pastor Paul Dorn - 7:00-8:00 PM - Virtual

Psalms are often quoted by the New Testament writers. The psalms were the prayer and song book of God's people both in Old and New Testament times. Class members will discuss psalms and hymns that have been meaningful to them. We will be looking at what the psalms mean for us now as we pray them. At the same time the class will discuss hymns and songs written in our times. The class will meet each Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Please email Pastor Paul Dorn at pbdorn6@gmail.com if you wish to be part of this study and he will send you a link for the Zoom meeting.

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 Rest of the Story

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

Jesus often spoke in parables – stories with meanings that go beyond the surface. Sometimes they were so baffling that He had to later explain them to His disciples. Join us as we get to hear the rest of the story – not just the parable but also the explanation. Designed to help you navigate all the craziness you face, our class is discussion oriented and contains lots of laughs.

The Spiritual Life - A Study on 1st Corinthians

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

Paul writes to the Church in Corinth instructing them regarding spiritual life in the context of the local church. The Church is called to live a life empowered by the Spirit of God.

TUESDAYS - ADULTS

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study - LifeLight: Acts, Part II

Led by Karen Maynard - 10:00-11:30 AM - Room 205 - Hybrid

This study is part of the LifeLight Bible study series of in-depth studies of Bible books. The goal of LifeLight is that through a regular program of in-depth personal and group study of Scripture, more and more Christian adults may grow in their personal faith in Jesus Christ.

Young Adult Bible Study

Led by Maddie Meier - 7:15 PM on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays - Virtual via Zoom
(Meeting ID: 870 6099 1252, Passcode: 694814)

Young adults are encouraged to join this virtual fellowship hour diving into the Lord's word, celebrating one another's accomplishments, supporting each other through the trials of young adulthood, and praying over one another.

Who is welcome: Age is but a number. This Bible study is geared towards anyone that would consider themselves a "young adult". Whether you are a seeker, a new Christian, or a seasoned disciple this space is for you.

WEDNESDAYS - ADULTS

I Am

Led by Mary Oliver - 6:30-7:45 PM - Virtual

This fall, we will look at the statements Jesus makes about Himself in the Gospels when He says "I Am".

As we discover more about who Jesus is, we will discuss what this means for us as Jesus followers and how we respond in our daily lives.

Virtual Midweek Spiritual Check-in

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

THURSDAYS - ADULTS

Sonrise Bible Study

Led by Bill Fischer, Pastor Black and 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. For more information contact Bill Fischer at 832.459.3241 or the church office.

Postage Stamp Project Ends

The LWML will no longer be collecting used postage stamps. This program has ended. Thanks to the faithful support of the project by Trinity members through the years.



Presents Christmas 2023

"The Night the Angels Sang"

Friday, December 1
7:30pm

Memorial Katy Lutheran Church
5810 3rd St
Katy, TX 77493

Saturday, December 2
7:30pm

New Life Lutheran Church
3521 E Orange St
Pearland, TX 77581

Sunday, December 3
4:00pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church
306 E 15th St
Houston, TX 77008

STAFF DIRECTORY

SENIOR PASTOR

Michael P. Dorn713.229.2940
mdorn@trinitydt.org

ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF OUTREACH

Lonnie Gonzales713.229.2905
lgonzales@trinitydt.org

VISITATION PASTOR

Donald G. Black713.229.2917
dblack@trinitydt.org

ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF MISSIONS

Greg Finke281.844.7644
finkeonthemove@aol.com

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Ron Lacy713.229.2970
lacy@trinitydt.org

DIR. OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Mary Voigt713.229.2922
mvoigt@trinitydt.org

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Haley Davisson713.229.2910
hdavisson@trinitydt.org

DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING

Roseann Gamez713.229.2962
rgamez@trinitydt.org

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Pam Schroeder713.229.2944
pschroeder@trinitydt.org

CONTRIBUTIONS MANAGER

Angela Avant713.229.2963
aavant@trinitydt.org

HOSTESS (MONDAYS - THURSDAYS)

Stefanie Bowman713.229.2950
sbowman@trinitydt.org

HOSTESS (FRIDAYS)

Sarahai Flores713.229.2950
sflores@trinitydt.org

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

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Sunday,
November 5

Set your
clock back
one hour.



Trinity Downtown

www.trinitydt.org

800 Houston Avenue • Houston, TX 77007

713-224-0684



Article submission deadline is **November 13th** for articles to be published December 1, 2023.
Submit articles to pschroeder@trinitydt.org.

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