

# THE HOLY POST

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

"LOVING NOT JUDGING"

## A Letter From The Pastor

BY PASTOR EMILY

Oliver and I were recently at a restaurant where a TV was on in the corner. He was clearly distracted by it.

"What's 'NFL' stand for?" he asked me.

"National Football League," I replied.

"Oh," he said, "so they're playing football news instead of bad news."

I paused for a moment. Do our children today believe that bad is the default for news?

"Well," I said after reflecting, "there are lots of kinds of news: sports news, national news, what's happening in our world. There's school news, and, actually, there's even good news. Can you think of some good news?"

Oliver thought for a minute and then asked, "Have I told you about the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade?" He was referring to an effort at his school that involved creating "floats" and parading them through the hallways. "Tell me more," I urged him...

Friends, my conversation with Oliver was a reminder that we are bearers of the gospel—the good news of Jesus. In fact, the Advent and Christmas seasons emphasize that this good news has come into the world to counter the bad news that sometimes feels so pervasive today.

If we let the bad news win, we live in despair. If we believe in, look for, and proclaim the good news, we live in hope.

For the next month, we will dwell in good news, the good news that Jesus came into the world to change its trajectory. Let us not lose heart, but let us live in this hope—in this good news.

Advent blessings,  
Pastor Emily

## This issue:

A Letter From The Pastor

PAGE 01

Music Team Notes

PAGE 02

Outreach 4Justice

PAGE 03

RITI, Hospitality and Birthdays

PAGE 04

Community Events

PAGE 05

Worship

PAGE 06

Staying In Touch

PAGE 07

Poinsettia Dedications

PAGE 08 AND PAGE 09

Finance at a Glance

PAGE 10

Calendar

PAGE 11



## Music Team Notes

BY DR. RON ELLIS

### MUSIC CHANGES FOR 2025

The Church Council has approved Gwen Postle to become Director of the Adult, Children's, and Handbell Choirs at Holy Trinity effective January 1, 2025.

I will continue as Director of Music, accompanying the choir as well as playing the organ and piano for services and also scheduling and working with soloists. (While I have been directing choirs for sixty years, my first love has always been playing keyboard instruments, to which I will now devote maximum time.)

We are very fortunate to have Gwen assume this responsibility. Well known to us as a member with a warm personality and a kind and loving manner, she is a Seattle native and was educated at Washington State University with a Master's in Music from the University of York. She has taught brass and piano in group and private lessons, general music, and directed bands and handbell ensembles ranging from elementary through college age.

Currently, Gwen is high school music director at the highly-regarded Pioneer Springs Community School in Huntersville.

At Holy Trinity, Gwen Postle is also working with Luke Reinke to revitalize the Children's Choir and, in time, will reorganize the Handbell Choir. Since she has worked closely with me over the past dozen years, both of us are looking forward to expanded cooperative efforts. As is the congregation!

### HTLC CHRISTMAS WORSHIP EVENTS



\*LESSONS AND CAROLS\*  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

\*CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE\*  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24:  
MUSICAL PRELUDE 6:30PM  
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7:00PM

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR 7:00 PM  
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICE

- Assisting Minister: Luke Reinke
- Torchbearers: Daniel and Thomas Reinke
- Communion Assistant: Santosh Prabhu
- Crucifer: Lilith Martina
- Streamers: Jeremy Jay
- Book: Jadon Roger
- Lector: Bill Larsen



# THE HOLY POST

## DECEMBER 2024



### Outreach

BY LINDA DAVIS

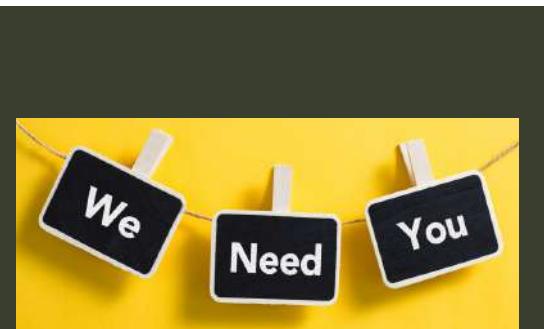
#### A BIG THANK YOU...

...to Kim Van Pelt for carving and providing the beautiful Christmas ornaments, and to all who purchased them to raise money for the Little Pantry! It was a SOLD OUT event!

Thank you also to Kim for repainting the HTLC Little Library!

Your time and talents are a true blessing to Holy Trinity!

**Hurricane Relief Continues:** "The North Carolina Synod has branded t-shirts and sweatshirts available through the web store, Bonfire (see QR code). Beginning today and for the foreseeable future, all profits from these sales will go to the NC Synod Disaster Fund to support NC Synod congregations and rostered ministers affected by Hurricane Helene and the recent unnamed storm in southeastern NC." To learn more and contribute, use this QR code:



Have a little extra time and looking to serve our community? Consider volunteering at our food pantry! It's a great way to form relationships with our neighbors! The pantry is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am - 12 noon. Contact Linda Davis for more information at [lovingnotjudging2@gmail.com](mailto:lovingnotjudging2@gmail.com).

#### DECEMBER PANTRY SCHEDULE

	STAFF 1	STAFF 2	STAFF 3
12.3.24	LYNN BUTTS	GOLDA JAY	
12.5.24	JIM SIETMANN	LYNN BUTTS	LYNN SULLIVAN
12.10.24	LYNN BUTTS	PENNY KUHN	
12.12.24	KATHY GROSECLOSE	LAURA LITTLE	KIM VAN PELT
12.17.24	LYNN BUTTS	GOLDA JAY	
12.19.24	JIM SIETMANN	LYNN BUTTS	LYNN SULLIVAN
12.24.24	LYNN BUTTS	PENNY KUHN	
12.26.24	KATHY GROSECLOSE	LAURA LITTLE	KIM VAN PELT
12.31.24	LYNN BUTTS	GOLDA JAY	



**Do you want to help others but not sure how?**

**Are you yearning for a way to make connections with our neighbors in need?**

**Maybe you support great organizations with your finances, but are looking for that personal interaction!**

Come be part of the HTLC "Inn Crowd" (Room at the Inn that is)! We have all the material needed to host a small group of our neighbors in need of shelter overnight in the winter months. Our aim is to start small, just a few nights this season. Our greatest need will be people and time - can you help? If so, email Caroline Reinke ([caroline.coor@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.coor@gmail.com))

Opportunities to be part of this tremendous work include:

1. Setting up (put sheets on cots, create welcoming space)
2. Cooking meals AND eating with the neighbors we welcome
3. Hosting evening activities
4. Sleeping overnight at the church
5. Cooking breakfast
6. Cleaning up/put away after breakfast
7. Transporting neighbors to and from our building

I hope you will prayerfully consider this ministry opportunity to use two of our greatest assets (our people and our building!) to share God's love.

Caroline Reinke

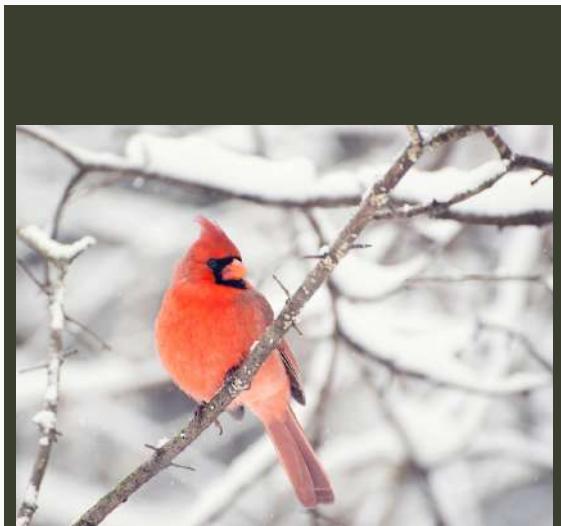
## Hospitality Team

BY DIANA JOHNSON

Merry Christmas!! Yes, it's almost that time again, to start thinking about what tasty pot luck dish you want to bring to the annual "Here Comes Christmas" pot luck lunch! We will have the lunch on December 8th immediately following the service, in the Corky Ingram Fellowship Hall.



I hope you will plan to join us for some great food and fellowship, a service project for the HTLC Pantry and a few Christmas carols accompanied by Luke Reinke. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask me (Diana Johnson, Fellowship Team Leader).



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Dec. 2 Tom Pendleton

Dec. 9 Roy Johnson

Dec. 9 Nicia Moore

Dec. 11 Ted Hill

Dec. 13 Tracy Gentile

Dec. 14 Kelly Walters

Dec. 14 Paul Allison

Dec. 22 Oliver Hartner

Dec. 24 Taryn Lynn Brady

Dec. 29 Garrett Brown

Dec. 29 Art Gentile

Dec. 31 Caroline Reinke



## Community Music Event



### OVC's Holiday Concert

December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>

First United Methodist  
501 N Tryon, Charlotte, NC 28202  
Free parking available.

Get your tickets for some holiday cheer!  
All are welcome here.



Who: One Voice Chorus of Charlotte

What: OVC's Holiday Concert - Pride & Joy

When: Dec. 13th at 7:30pm, and Dec. 14th at 2pm and 7:30pm

Where: First United Methodist in uptown

Why: To celebrate our LGBTQIA+ lives through song and to help spread our mission of kindness, acceptance, and love in our community. And of course, a bonus perk is a little dose of our favorite carols!

Join us after for a free reception with complimentary beer (from NoDa Brewing), wine, NA drinks, and all the holiday cookies you can imagine!

Price: \$20 to \$35. Please use the discount code: PJ24EB to save \$5 on each ticket purchased! If you know of someone who'd love to attend but may have financial constraints, please do not hesitate to have them get in touch with me.

To learn more and reserve tickets: [www.onevoicechorus.com/events](http://www.onevoicechorus.com/events)



## Worship Ministry

BY KATHY GROSECLOSE

Well, here we are at the end of one year, 2024, and the beginning of another ADVENT!

I was always taught that Advent meant that this was a time of *waiting*. The root of the word Advent is “to come” not “to wait.”

When we celebrate Advent, we are celebrating the coming of Christ. Over the next four Sundays, our services will include the use of four blue candles. Blue is the seasonal color of the church for Advent. Each of the candles has a meaning : HOPE, JOY, PEACE and LOVE. These words will be seen and heard in our prayers and services. All this leads to Christmas and the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We hope to see you on the Sundays in Advent and at our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service on December 24th, celebrating Christ’s birth.

The Worship Team:

Kathy Groseclose, Laura Little, C.J. and Kim Van Pelt and Steve Allen



### SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:15 AM CHOIR PRACTICE

11:00 AM SANCTUARY/ONLINE  
WORSHIP

(SUNDAY WORSHIP YOUTUBE LINK)

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCrojYPr2elTCpj87J0sPk0g>

### December Worship Schedule:

	<u>Assisting Minister</u>	<u>Communion Assistant</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Lector</u>
December 1	Wayne Simpson	Caroline Reinke	Daniel Reinke	Lynn Sullivan
December 8	Sheila Liles	Matilda Gawf	Thomas Reinke	Amy Lageman
December 15	Ian Hartner	Lilith Martina	Isaac Jay	Daniel Reinke
December 22	Matilda Gawf	Donna Jones	Jonas Jay	Donna Jones
December 24	Luke Reinke	Santosh Prabhu		Bill Larsen
<i>(See page 2 for 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service Assistants)</i>				
December 29	Wayne Simpson	Lilith Martina	Isaac Jay	Matilda Gawf



## **Staying In Touch...**

### **WELCOME NEW HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH MEMBERS!**

On Sunday, December 1, we welcomed:

Kim and Mike Trabold  
(tmikekimzr@gmail.com)

and

Lexi Barnhill  
(barnhillLexi@gmail.com)



### **MEMBER UPDATES**

Nancy Outen (updated phone number pending)  
656 Denning Place  
Charlotte, NC 28227

Chaz Pofahl, Nicia Moore (chazpofahl@gmail.com)  
(Casey and Thomas)  
8409 Mission Hills Rd  
Charlotte NC 28227

Libb Moss (mmm12@gmail.com)  
Little Flower Assisted Living  
8700 Lawyers Rd Suite 26  
Charlotte, NC 28227

Evelyn Holbrook (704-526-0726)  
Legacy Heights Senior Living Center  
11230 Ballantyne Trace Court  
Apt A-5  
Charlotte, NC 28277

Gwen Postle (gwenpostle@gmail.com)  
8044 Brookbank Drive  
Charlotte, NC 28269

Rasheeda Rashada-Jones and Donna Jones  
3212 Lintel Road  
Midland, NC 28107



**The updated Church Directory  
will be included in the 2025  
Annual Report, published in  
January! Please be sure to let  
the church office know of any  
changes in your address,  
phone number or email by the  
end of December!**



## POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

### GIVEN BY...

### IN MEMORY OF...

Susan Allison	John Allison, Sr.
Corky Ingram	Johnny Ingram
Roy and Diana Johnson	Roy E. and Melba Johnson
	Bill and Adeline Davis
Billy and Luellen Jones	Those we have loved and lost
Cathy Fry and Joanne Marinaro	Joseph Fry
Wayne Simpson and Tim Owens	Carl Simpson, Rachel and Fred Owens
Wayne Simpson and Tim Owens	Trudy Owens Koch
Lynn Sullivan	Leslie Sullivan
Matilda Gawf	John Lee Gawf
Kari and Richard Nguyen	Rev. Rudolph and Meta Ritz and Naomi Ritz
	Thinh Nguyen
Lynn Butts	Doris Butts
Christine Duggan	Dorothy McAdams
	Joyce Duggan
Steve Allen and Bill Larsen	Howard and Nell Larsen
	Bob Allen, Linda Lail
Oliver Hartner	Jett
The Granetzke Family	Julia Igor
Linda Davis	Ginny Simmons
Ron Ellis	Fred and Gertrude Ellis
	Jim and Ann Miller
Heather, Ben, Sofia and Landon Smith	Wynn Childers, Joe Knaga, Brad Truitt, Paul Ritz



**GIVEN BY...**

**IN HONOR OF...**

Debbie Foster	All my family
Cathy Fry and Joanne Marinaro	Kaley Fry and Sammie Groom
Santosh, Lilith and Jadon	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Billy and Luellen Jones	Our children and grandchildren
Wayne Simpson and Tim Owens	Bessie Simpson
Dr. Angela L. Wadsworth	Jerry Wadsworth
	Dr. Jerry Evans
Oliver Hartner	Hartner Family
Aaren Battle	Douglas F. Birch
	Seth A. Kanode
Heather, Ben, Sofia and Landon Smith	Brady McKay and the McKay Family
Steve and Angela Schang	The Kamerer family
	Martha Lacy
	The Schang Family



## Finance At A Glance

BY TIM OWENS

### OCTOBER 2024

		October YTD	Budget YTD	Over (Under) Budget
Income and Expenses:				
Contributions	14,509	156,731	151,948	4,783
Rents & Building Use	4,200	40,575	40,083	492
Interest Income	-	2,976	2,222	754
Other Income	815	2,433	417	2,016
Total Income	19,524	202,715	194,670	8,045
Budgeted Expenses	19,136	212,059	211,022	1,037
Net Income (Loss)	388	(9,344)	(16,352)	7,008
Assets and Liabilities as of Oct. 2024				
General Fund			80,889	
Dedicated Funds			13,901	
Endowment Fund			102,784	
Joseph Fry Scholarship Fund			3,200	
Total Assets			200,774	
Note Payable - Home Mission (Boiler)			121,069	

# DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10:15am - Choir Rehearsal @ 11am - Worship	9am - Office Hours	9am - Food Pantry @ Belle Terre 9am - Office Hours 10am - Staff Meeting @ Library	9am - Office Hours 11am - Bible Study @ Library	9am - Food Pantry @ Belle Terre 9am - Office Hours	Youth Lock In @ Morning Star 9am - Office Hours	Fellowship Hall Reserved for
10:15am - Choir Rehearsal @ 11am - Worship 12pm - Congregational Meeting @ 1pm - Potluck Luncheon @	9am - Office Hours	9am - Food Pantry @ Belle Terre 9am - Office Hours 10am - Staff Meeting @ Library	9am - Office Hours 11am - Bible Study @ Library	9am - Food Pantry @ Belle Terre 9am - Office Hours	9am - Office Hours	10am - Fiber Arts Group @ Library 5pm - Girl Scouts @ Fellowship
Restock the Pantry Sunday!	4pm - Room in the Inn	9am - Office Hours 9am - Food Pantry @ Belle Terre 9am - Office Hours 10am - Staff Meeting @ Library 12:30pm - YAH Group	9am - Office Hours 11am - Bible Study @ Library	9am - Food Pantry @ Belle Terre 9am - Office Hours	9am - Office Hours	10am - Fiber Arts Group @ Library
10:15am - Choir Rehearsal @ 11am - Worship-Lessons & Carols 1pm - Congregational Council	9am - Office Hours	Christmas Eve Church Office Closed for 9am - Food Pantry @ Belle Terre 10am - Staff Meeting @ Library 6:30pm - Christmas Eve Prelude 7pm - Christmas Eve Service	Christmas Day Church Office Closed for 11am - Bible Study @ Library	9am - Food Pantry @ Belle Terre 9am - Office Hours	9am - Office Hours	10am - Fiber Arts Group @ Library
10:15am - Choir Rehearsal @ 11am - Worship-Christmas Play	9am - Office Hours					
10:15am - Choir Rehearsal @ 11am - Worship	9am - Office Hours	New Year's Eve 9am - Food Pantry @ Belle Terre 9am - Office Hours 10am - Staff Meeting @ Library				

ACCESS THE ONLINE WEBSITE CALENDAR AT: <https://htlccharlotte.org/calendar/>

