



VOL. 4 ISSUE 9 • JULY 2025

# THE HOLY POST

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

"LOVING NOT JUDGING"

## A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

BY PASTOR EMILY

Dear friends,

*I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. (Philippians 1.3-4)*

As many of you are aware by now, at the NC Synod Assembly on May 31 I was elected to serve as the next Bishop of the North Carolina Synod. This is a huge honor and a genuine call. As bittersweet as it is, however, this new call means that I will no longer serve as your pastor at Holy Trinity. I am resigning my call effective July 31, though my last Sunday at Holy Trinity will be July 13. This timeframe will allow me to use some vacation time to focus on the transition and also to attend the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, AZ in July.

Some of highlights of my eight years with you include Sunday morning worship, our mission trip to our companion synod in Costa Rica, the months we spent worshipping in Corky Ingram Hall while our boiler was being replaced, weathering the pandemic together, forming a youth group, establishing our core values, engaging in antiracism training, walking with you in the Pride parade, overseeing the start of a food pantry and the Room in the Inn program, and numerous baptisms, funerals, weddings, and confirmations.

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## A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR (CONTINUED)

BY PASTOR EMILY

I appreciate having worked with so many of you in so many capacities as we improved our policies and procedures and grew our Endowment to over \$100K!

I look back on my time with you with great joy and gratitude. You gave me space to grow as a leader and even the grace sometimes to fail. Please know that in my new role, I will remain your advocate and that you will always hold a special place in my heart. I will genuinely “thank my God every time I remember you.”

With gratitude for our partnership in the Gospel,  
Pastor Emily



## SAVE THE DATE



On May 31, 2025 the NC Synod Assembly called our own Rev. Emily Hartner to be the new bishop-elect. She is the first woman to serve as the NC Synod bishop. Pastor Emily will be installed as bishop on Saturday, November 15, at 2:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church in Charlotte. Look for more details in upcoming bulletins and newsletters.

## COUNCIL CORNER

### CAROLINE REINKE, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear HTLC Congregation

Transitions often bring a lot of mixed emotions! Pastor Emily's last day with us will be Sunday, July 13. I am personally excited for Pastor Emily about the call she's received, and sad to not have her as part of our congregation on a day-to-day basis. I'm excited about what lies ahead for our church, and also feel a bit of unease with the unknown. Many of you have been through this process before, and I know that, with the support of our community and the Synod, we are in good hands and have a lot to look forward to!

If you have concerns, questions, or suggestions as we move forward in the transition, please reach out to me or any Council Member. We will be reaching out in the coming months with updates about an Interim Pastor and getting your input as we work through the Call process for a new Pastor.

Caroline



## OUTREACH MINISTRY

BY LINDA DAVIS AND C.J. VAN PELT

Dear Friends

In early May, we invited you to share your thoughts on the social issues that matter most to you so that your input can help guide our church's outreach, education, and advocacy efforts as we seek to be Christ's hands and feet in the world. The response was terrific, with 43 respondents to the survey. The Top 3 Issues selected were:

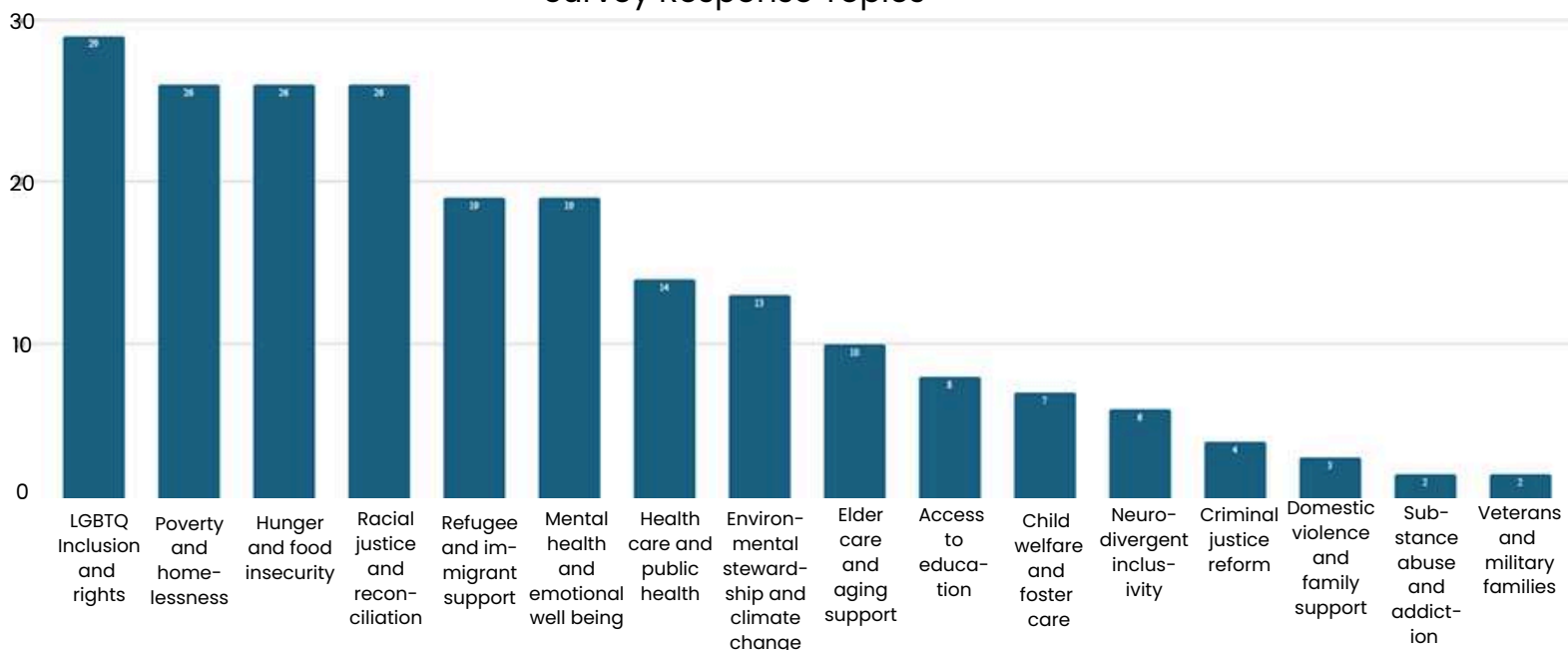
- 1) LGBTQ+ Inclusion and Rights
- 2) Poverty/Homelessness tied with Hunger/Food Insecurity - based on comments, many felt these were hand in hand
- 3) Racial justice and reconciliation

The great news is that our current service ministries and priorities support these issues well, from celebrating Pride in August, our 2x a week Food Pantry and hosting the NC African Descent Lutheran Association anti-racism training in February.

However, we can do more. The council will host brainstorming sessions in the next several months to identify actionable steps to support these social issues. Stay tuned for more.

If you are interested in helping to lead or facilitate a discussion in one of these areas, please contact Linda Davis or CJ Van Pelt.

Survey Response Topics





## NEWS FROM OUR PRIDE PARTNERS

Greetings,

We would like to invite you and members of your faith group to the annual Charlotte Pride Interfaith celebration on August 10, 2025, at 4:00 pm.

The Unitarian Universalist Community of Charlotte, at 234 North Sharon Amity Road in Charlotte, will host this year's service. It will last about an hour and will be followed by an after-service social and refreshments.

This service brings together the LGBTQIA+ community and different faith groups to reflect, celebrate, and build relations. Additionally, this celebration initiates Pride Week in Charlotte, culminating in the festival and parade the following weekend.

Each year, the service focuses on a theme, and this year's theme is "Faith in Action." In light of recent global and national events, many feel frustrated and are perhaps questioning the effectiveness of past efforts to advance social justice. However, we believe meaningful progress remains possible, particularly at the local level through community engagement. The service will highlight stories of action at the local level, especially regarding how faith can motivate us to make a positive impact and advance the rights of others. Our goal is for attendees to leave the service feeling empowered to effect meaningful change in their own lives and communities.

This year, we will feature the following participants:

Reverend Val Rosenquist, Senior Minister at First United Methodist Church of Charlotte  
Kyndra Frazier, CEO/Founder of KYND Consulting, Member of the Board of Directors of MeckMin  
Ayya Sudhamma Bhikkhuni, Founder and Head Monk at the Buddhist Vihara of Charlotte

We would like to know whether you and some members of your faith group would be interested in attending. If so, we are trying something different this year. There is an Eventeny page where you may sign up to receive a ticket at no cost. If you plan on attending or even think that you may attend, please reserve a ticket. We are only using Eventeny for planning purposes. We will not be checking for tickets on the day of the event. If you and a group of people are attending, you are able to reserve as many tickets as you think are necessary so that we may plan accordingly.

Additionally, if you are willing to announce this event or share this email or Eventeny link to members of your faith group, we would greatly appreciate that. As we approach the celebration, we will send some information to include in bulletins, social media accounts, or any other method of communication.

If there are any questions about the service or our organization, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you on behalf of the Charlotte Pride Interfaith Team,

Matt Comer, Quan Lindsay, Troy McElrath, Wes McNeely, Joseph TenHulzen







## WORSHIP MINISTRY

BY KATHY GROSECLOSE

### SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY AND LUNCH

11:00 AM LIBRARY

SUNDAY WORSHIP

11:00 AM WORSHIP, SANCTUARY AND  
LIVESTREAMED



*Children's Sunday School and Adult Sunday School and Choir Rehearsal are now on break for the summer. Wednesday Bible Study and Lunch will continue each Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. Look for details about the fall schedule in upcoming bulletins and newsletters.*

## JULY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	<u>Assisting Minister</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Communion Assistant</u>	<u>Lector</u>
<b><u>July 6</u></b>	Wayne Simpson	Lilith Martina	Jadon Roger	Lynn Sullivan
<b><u>July 13</u></b>	Matilda Gawf	Golda Jay	Isaac Jay	Donna Rashada-Jones
<b><u>July 20</u></b>	Sheila Liles	Matilda Gawf	Jonas Jay	Roy Johnson
<b><u>July 27</u></b>	Wayne Simpson	Isaac Jay	Sheila Liles	Sheila Liles



## FELLOWSHIP

BY DIANA JOHNSON

**Congregational Luncheon:** It is both joyful and bittersweet that Pastor Emily has been elected to be NC Synod Bishop! While we will deeply miss her leadership and presence among us, we're excited for what lies ahead in her ministry. Her final worship service as pastor at Holy Trinity will be July 13. Please join us in the fellowship hall following worship on July 13 for a Potluck luncheon as we celebrate her faithful service and send her off with love, prayers, and plenty of good food. Council will be providing BBQ. A sign-up sheet for the luncheon is available in the narthex.



[www.lutherridge.org](http://www.lutherridge.org)

## LUTHERIDGE 75<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AUGUST 15-17

Come for a weekend of fun for the whole Lutheridge family! Our time together will include favorite camp activities like crafts, games, sing alongs and a special Saturday night campfire and vespers service. Staff reunions and outings are also being planned. Stay onsite for the whole weekend or commute. Come on your own or bring your family. Stay for the whole weekend or come for the day on Saturday. Stay on-site (lodge and cabin housing options are available) or commute.

**Sign up at <https://lutherridge.campbrainregistration.com/>**  
[Note: You will be asked to log in or create an account to register. If you need help, call our Registration Office at 828-209-6302.]

We hope you spread the word about the Lutheridge Birthday Party Weekend. We can't wait to celebrate 75 years of faithful ministry with you and all our camp friends!



JULY 4	SHEILA LILES
JULY 5	JENNIFER BROOK
JULY 5	LEXI BARNHILL
JULY 6	BARBARA OLAH
JULY 7	LIB MOSS
JULY 8	SANDY LOYDPIERSON
JULY 11	BETTIE INGRAM
JULY 11	JEREMY JAY
JULY 12	ANGELA SCHANG
JULY 12	PATTI SMART
JULY 14	AMELIA BUIE
JULY 15	BILL LARSEN
JULY 19	ABBY DAVENPORT
JULY 22	BEVERLY BOYD
JULY 25	DANIEL REINKE
JULY 25	BILLY JONES
JULY 25	LAURA LITTLE
JULY 25	ERIC MILHOLLAND



## FINANCE AT A GLANCE

BY TIM OWENS

May 2025					
			May YTD	Budget YTD	Over (Under) Budget
Income and Expenses:					
Contributions	13,631		89,304	83,938	5,366
Rents & Building Use	4,639		23,410	25,250	(1,840)
Interest Income			1,617	1,590	27
Other Income			205	418	(213)
Total Income	18,270		114,536	111,196	3,340
Budgeted Expenses	24,271		110,491	110,786	(295)
Net Income (Loss)	(6,001)		4,045	410	3,635
Assets & Liabilities as of May 2025					
General Fund				79,812	
Dedicated Funds				21,204	
Endowment Fund				109,628	
Joseph Fry Scholarship Fund				4,276	
Total Assets				214,920	
Note Payable - Home Mission (Boiler)				115,137	

# JULY 2025 CALENDAR

FOR MOST CURRENT UPDATES, VISIT  
[HTLCCHARLOTTE.ORG/CALENDAR](http://HTLCCHARLOTTE.ORG/CALENDAR)

		<b>1</b> 9am-Noon Food Pantry	<b>2</b> 11:00am Bible Study & Lunch, Library	<b>3</b> 9am-Noon Food Pantry	<b>4</b> Church Office Closed for July 4 Holiday	<b>5</b> 10am Fiber Arts Group, Library
<b>6</b> 11:00am Worship	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9am-Noon Food Pantry	<b>9</b> 11:00am Bible Study & Lunch, Library 5:00pm Pride, Fellowship Hall 7:00pm NEST, Sanctuary	<b>10</b> 9am-Noon Food Pantry	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10am Fiber Arts Group, Library
<b>13</b> 11:00am Worship Following Worship: Luncheon /Reception for Pastor Emily	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9am-Noon Food Pantry 12:30pm, YAH	<b>16</b> 11:00am Bible Study & Lunch, Library	<b>17</b> 9am-Noon Food Pantry	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10am Fiber Arts Group, Library
<b>20 Restock the Pantry Sunday</b> 11:00am Worship 1:00pm Congregational Council Meeting	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9am-Noon Food Pantry	<b>23</b> 11:00am Bible Study & Lunch, Library	<b>24</b> 9am-Noon Food Pantry	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:30am Pride, Fellowship Hall 10am Fiber Arts Group, Library
<b>27</b> 11:00am Worship	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 9am-Noon Food Pantry	<b>30</b> 11:00am Bible Study & Lunch, Library	<b>31</b> 9am-Noon Food Pantry		

