



VOL. 4 ISSUE 11 • OCTOBER 2025

THE HOLY POST

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

"LOVING NOT JUDGING"

INTERIM MUSINGS

BY PASTOR CAROLYN

Unlike the world's ways, where so many interactions are transactional, church fellowship is relational. We are called to be in relationship with one another and care for one another. Recently, one of our members, Sylvia Ferguson, passed. I marveled at and was thankful for this church's tender care of the Ferguson family. The Holy Trinity Lutheran Church family tenderly surrounded them with love. The memorial garden was prepared, a visitation reception was planned and offered, the worship space was set up and people stepped into worship roles. People participated in the celebration of life service, and they stood beside the Ferguson family. The ashes of three Ferguson members, Rich, Rodger, and now Sylvia, rest in the Holy Trinity Memorial Garden, and the bench that the Ferguson family donated overlooks the area. The service and activities represent the relationship we create with one another. I know that Johanna, Austin and Alayna felt loved and comforted. Walking beside and standing with people is what we do as followers of Jesus. We love as we are loved.

The relationships we have with each other make a difference in people's lives. What if each of us challenged ourselves to intentionally develop a relationship with three people or families at church? What if you deliberately reached out to them periodically, particularly if they are not at worship? Would your life and theirs be different?

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INTERIM MUSINGS (CONTINUED)

BY PASTOR CAROLYN

I suspect if you take the challenge, lives will be transformed, including your own. Relationships are messy, it is true, but they bring us much joy.

Thank you for considering the challenge. If you take the challenge, let me know what you think. I look forward to your feedback. I will be praying for all of us as we learn more about relationships by intentionally being in relationship with one another.

God's peace to you,
Pr. Carolyn Hayford



HOSPITALITY AND FELLOWSHIP TEAM

BY DIANA JOHNSON

Many thanks to everyone who assisted with the Ferguson family reception on September 27.

I know that Johanna, her children and everyone appreciated the extra time to share memories and love.

Returning to HTLC on October 26: Pound-Go and Pizza

Come join us on Sunday, October 26, following worship in the fellowship hall for a fun and unique twist on Bingo! Instead of the usual prizes, bring a pound of something to be used as prizes during the game -anything fun and creative, your choice! A pizza lunch will be provided. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex. For more information, please contact Diana Johnson.

Save the Date: Here Comes Christmas!

Yes, it's almost that time again, so start thinking about what tasty potluck dish you want to bring to the annual "Here Comes Christmas" potluck lunch! We will have lunch on December 7th, immediately following the congregational meeting, in the Corky Ingram Fellowship Hall. I hope you will plan to join us for some great food and fellowship!

PROPERTY TEAM

BY ROY JOHNSON

Many thanks to...everyone who contributed to the Library Chair Fund. Because of your generosity, we were able to replace 10 chairs at a very fair price (2 are still needed)—and even donated most of the old ones to good use. Stop by and have a look! A special thanks goes to **Linda Davis** and **Lynn Butts** for their time and effort in coordinating the purchase and handling the related details.

and thanks to

Linda Davis, C.J. and Kim Van Pelt, and Lynn Butts for sprucing up the Memorial Garden. We're also grateful to Terrence, one of our pantry visitors, who kindly helped with putting down the wire fencing and other tasks.





STEWARDSHIP TEAM “LOVING GOD’S PEOPLE”

Our annual Stewardship Program this year is titled “Loving God’s People.” Throughout the coming month, several members of our congregation will share reflections on how our church reaches out beyond our walls to serve the wider community. We invite each of you to take a fresh look at the many blessings God has given you, and to prayerfully consider what level of giving feels faithful and appropriate in response. Though our congregation is small, together we make a meaningful impact in the community. That impact is only possible with the support of every member. You should receive a Stewardship Letter with pledge information in the next week. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, October 26, when we will gather responses.

With gratitude,
The Stewardship-Finance Team

OUTREACH 4JUSTICE

BY LINDA DAVIS & PASTOR CAROLYN

God’s Work, Our Hands



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in God’s Work, Our Hands on Sunday September 7! We had a *wonderful time* painting kindness rocks, putting together kits for our Pantry visitors and participating in our Street Clean Up Project. Many, many thanks to all of you for doing God’s Work with Your Hands!

Linda Davis

Wear Orange Day



On Sunday Oct. 12, we will be wearing orange and taking time to acknowledge our Native American brothers and sisters. Wearing orange helps us remember the generations of children torn from their families and sent to residential boarding schools, creating trauma for them and future generations. Residential schools were places that attempted to erase Indigenous identity and culture, operating in the US from the late 1800s to the mid-20th century. Tragically, a 2024 report from the US Department of the Interior reported that at least 973 children actually died while attending Indigenous boarding schools. By wearing orange, we’re reminded of the story of Phyllis Webstad, a member of the Canoe Creek

Indian Band, just six years old and excited to start school. She wore a brand-new, bright orange shirt that her grandmother gave her. When she arrived at the residential school, her shirt was stripped from her and replaced with the standard residential school uniform, never to be returned. Wearing orange also reminds us that Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Catawba and Sugaree Peoples. We will begin service on October 12 with a Land Acknowledgement during our announcements, followed by a Call to Worship from the ELCA American Indian/Alaska Native Lutheran Association Liturgy “Indigenous People’s Celebration: A Service of Indigenous People.” For those that do not have orange apparel, orange ribbons will be available to wear.



OUTREACH 4JUSTICE (CONTINUED)

BY LINDA DAVIS

A Child's Blessing



Blessings of The Animals and Blessings for Children! Drop-In: October 4, 2025, 8 – 11 am

Blessing of
the Animals



We will be offering free Animal Blessings for the neighborhood as well as members and friends. This is done as a drop-in service, with Pastor Carolyn and volunteers available in the large church parking lot in front of the church office. ***If you'd like to participate and bless animals, you are welcome to do so. You are also welcome to bring any animal you want blessed.*** Since there are a lot of youngsters in strollers in the neighborhood, we will also offer blessings for children.

Animal blessings are often associated with St. Francis of Assisi, a catholic monk who emphasized our relationship with all creatures. He called creatures his brothers and sisters, and believed that God loved the animals just as God loved humankind. There is a story that St. Francis did the first blessing of animals when he was wandering outside the city. At the time, he was full of doubt and asking God if everything he had done with his life up to that point was wrong, as he had not listened to his earthly father when he was advised to get married and raise a family. As he walked and prayed, Francis saw some birds along the path and started talking to them as equals. He began "preaching" to them about God and all the reasons why birds and humans should be thankful. This event was considered to be the "first blessing of animals" provided by St. Francis.

OCTOBER PANTRY SCHEDULE

	STAFF 1	STAFF 2	STAFF 3
10/2/2025	JIM SIETMANN	LYNN BUTTS	LYNN SULLIVAN
10/7/2025	PENNY KUHN	GOLDA JAY	
10/9/2025	KATHY GROSECLOSE	LAURA LITTLE	
10/10/2024	JIM SIETMAN	LYNN BUTTS	LYNN SULLIVAN
10/14/2025	PENNY KUHN	TBA	
10/16/2025	JIM SIETMANN	LYNN BUTTS	LYNN SULLIVAN
10/21/2025	PENNY KUHN	GOLDA JAY	
10/23/2025	KATHY GROSECLOSE	LAURA LITTLE	
10/28/2025	PENNY KUHN	TBA	
10/30/2025	JIM SIETMANN	LYNN BUTTS	LYNN SULLIVAN



MUSIC TEAM

BY GWEN POSTLE

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church



CHOIR SEASON BEGINS

OUR CHURCH CHOIR HAS STARTED UP AGAIN! WE ARE A WARM AND WELCOMING GROUP, AND WE'D LOVE FOR YOU TO JOIN US! NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY—JUST A LOVE OF SINGING. REHEARSALS ARE AT 9:45 AM IN THE CHOIR ROOM ON THE 1ST AND 3RD SUNDAYS OF EACH MONTH. COME ADD YOUR VOICE TO THE HARMONY!

Please get in touch with Gwen Postle (gwenpostle@gmail.com) with any questions.

WORSHIP TEAM

BY KATHY GROSECLOSE

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

BIBLE STUDY AND LUNCH
11:00 AM WEDNESDAY, LIBRARY

CHOIR REHEARSAL
1ST AND 3RD SUNDAYS
9:45 AM, CHOIR ROOM

SUNDAY WORSHIP
11:00 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP
(IN-PERSON AND LIVESTREAMED)

Sunday worship YouTube link:
<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCrojYPr2eITCpj87J0sPk0g>

OCTOBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister

Communion Assistant

Acolyte

Lector

Oct. 5	Sheila Liles	Golda Jay	Thomas Reinke	Bill Larsen
Oct. 12	Matilda Gawf	Caroline Reinke	Daniel Reinke	Amy Lageman
Oct. 19	Luke Reinke	Lilith Martina	Jadon Roger	Sheila Liles
<i>Reformation Sunday</i>			(Torches)	
Oct. 26	Matilda Gawf	Santhosh Prabhu	Jonas & Isaac Jay	Matilda Gawf
<u>Crucifer:</u> Lilith Martina <u>Book Bearer:</u> Jadon Roger <u>Banner:</u> Santhosh Prabhu <u>Streamers:</u> Jeremy Jay				



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!

COUNCIL CORNER

BY CAROLINE REINKE

Dear HTLC family,

Room In The Inn (RITI) is coming back again this December through March. We are hoping to host 8 people for 8 nights (2 nights per month). There are so many ways to support our community, both locally and beyond. This outreach program is special to me because it provides an opportunity to spend time and make personal connections with our guests. If you are interested in contributing, whether organizing, cooking/serving, being present to share a meal, sleeping over, or if you are not sure how to best match your gifts with this ministry, please reach out to me (caroline.coor@gmail.com). Dates and details will be coming soon!

For more information about RITI, please see the Roof Above flyer below, or visit www.roofabove.org.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER 6	AUSTIN SEAGRAVE
OCTOBER 10	NICHOLE DAVIS
OCTOBER 11	BISHOP EMILY HARTNER
OCTOBER 11	AARON LUCKEY
OCTOBER 11	AVYN HINDSMAN-LUCKEY
OCTOBER 14	LANDON HINDSMAN-LUCKEY
OCTOBER 14	TIM OWENS
OCTOBER 14	LYNDSEY WATSON
OCTOBER 17	METTE ANDERSEN
OCTOBER 18	NATHANIEL YOUNG
OCTOBER 18	SHELLEY SIZEMORE
OCTOBER 20	LILLIE HINDSMAN-LUCKEY
OCTOBER 23	ASHER GRAY DAVIS
OCTOBER 24	BERT WRAY
OCTOBER 27	TRACY DAVENPORT
OCTOBER 28	GINNY BOYD
OCTOBER 29	JADON ROGER
OCTOBER 30	JEANNE SCOTT

Room In The Inn is a Roof Above program that provides emergency winter shelter during the winter months. (December-March)

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The basic goal is to provide shelter and food for the homeless to keep them from freezing on cold winter nights. We expand that goal to include offering a loving relationship between individuals experiencing homelessness and the individuals at the host site. The person may come into the program feeling the label of homeless, but through this program their "label" is transformed into neighbors.



HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

Neighbors are registered and checked in at the Day Ser (945 N College St) each evening starting at 4:30. Assignment priorities are families with children, single women and then men.

Hosts provide transportation to pick up the Neighbors to take them to the host site. The host site becomes their home for the night where they are welcomed with a hot meal, an opportunity for social time, and the assurance they have a safe warm place to get some much-needed rest. Morning comes early and neighbors wake up to breakfast and transportation back uptown to the Charlotte Transit Center/or Day Services Center.



Beds set-up at different Room In The Inn host sites.



FINANCE AT A GLANCE

BY TIM OWENS

August 2025					
		August YTD	Budget YTD	Over(Under) Budget	
Income and Expenses:					
Contributions	14,417	136,110	127,723	8,387	
Rents & Building Use	4,300	38,335	40,950	(2,615)	
Interest Income	-	2,924	3,090	(166)	
Other Income	95	642	668	(26)	
Total Income	18,812	178,011	172,431	5,580	
Budgeted Expenses	17,047	174,739	181,682	(6,943)	
Net Income (Loss)	1,765	3,272	(9,251)	12,523	
Assets & Liabilities as of August 2025					
General Fund			77,743		
Dedicated Funds			28,699		
Endowment Fund			118,122		
Joseph Fry Scholarship Fund			4,357		
Total Assets			228,921		
Note Payable - Home Mission (Boiler)			112,551		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>OCTOBER 2025</div> <div>STEWARDSHIP MONTH</div>			11am Bible Study & Lunch, Library 1 5pm ARTS+, F. Hall	2 9am-Noon Food Pantry 5pm ARTS+, Sanctuary	3	4 8-11am Blessing of the Pets and Babies 10am Fiber Arts Group, Library 5pm Girl Scouts, F. Hall
5 9:45 am Choir Rehearsal 11:00am Worship	6	9am-Noon Food Pantry 7 3:30pm ARTS+, F. Hall 4pm ARTS+, Choir Room	8 11am Bible Study & Lunch, Library 5pm ARTS+, F. Hall	9 9am-Noon Food Pantry	10	11 10am Fiber Arts Group, Library
12  11:00am Worship	13	9am-Noon Food Pantry 14 3:30pm ARTS+, F. Hall 4:00pm ARTS+, Choir Room	15 11am Bible Study & Lunch, Library 5pm ARTS+, F. Hall	16 9am-Noon Food Pantry	17	18 10am Fiber Arts Group, Library 3pm Sons of Norway, Fellowship Hall
19 RESTOCK THE PANTRY SUNDAY 11am Worship 1pm Congregational Council	20	9am-Noon Food Pantry YAH 12:30pm, Landmark 21 3:30pm ARTS+, F. Hall 4:00pm ARTS+, Choir Room	22 11am Bible Study & Lunch, Library 5pm ARTS+, F. Hall	23 9am-Noon Food Pantry	24	25 10am Fiber Arts Group, Library 5pm Girl Scouts, Fellowship Hall
26 Pledge Cards Due 9:45am Choir Rehearsal, Choir Room 11am Worship Following Worship: Pound Go & Pizza	27	9am-Noon Food Pantry 28 3:30pm ARTS+, F. Hall 4:00pm ARTS+, Choir Room	29 11am Bible Study & Lunch, Library 5pm ARTS+, F. Hall	30 9am-Noon Food Pantry	31	

For updates go to:
<https://htlccharlotte.org/calendar/>