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## Council President Alison Strickler

Grace and peace to you as we awaken into a new year and a new decade! It has been an honor to serve this congregation and work with the council and pastors this year. Our congregation is blessed with so many gifts: a dynamic voice in faith and action, the commitment of engaged and generous members, ministries that connect people with resources and God’s love, one church in two sites, and thoughtful and visionary leadership. I have been excited this year by so many things happening in the congregation – from new covenants and structure around anti-racism to a growth of youth (both in number and size) and ministries for and with them. I’ve also been utterly amazed by an overwhelming generosity to our capital campaign, to a fundraising effort that met our budget challenge, and in pledged giving. Truly, this is a moment to pause and give thanks.

And may it also be a moment to reaffirm our commitment to sharing these gifts with others; to being a community of faith that reaches out into the hurting world around us with love, compassion, and action.



## Lead Pastor Craig Mueller

We begin a new decade, grateful for God’s grace that enables Holy Trinity to be a vibrant community of faith, service, and hospitality. In the next four years we will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our building and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation’s founding.

Here are some highlights reflecting our mission priorities:

- In 2019 we began a **two-year antiracism initiative** in partnership with the Metropolitan Chicago Synod.
- Vicar Noah Herren completed his year of internship and we welcome Troy Spencer, Melissa Hrdlicka, Reed Fowler and Sarah Krolak as new Ministry in Context students.
- We ended the 2019 financial year very strongly! We were able to replenish the Reserve Fund after being unable to contribute to it for several years. Thank you for your support and generosity. The Shine fundraiser in October not only surpassed our goal but great fun for the community.
- Following 2.5 years of our 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. service schedule (and 9:30 a.m. from May through September) we are reviewing how things are going, what improvements could be made, or whether we should consider other options.



### TOWARD 100



It is hard to believe we officially kicked off the Toward 100 capital campaign at a Mardi Gras dinner last March. This past summer, we installed air-

conditioning in the sanctuary, completed most of the tuckpointing work, and refurbished the stained-glass window in the balcony.

This coming summer, we embark on the major construction portion of the campaign. We will install a lift to Passavant Hall, something five persons could have used for our Epiphany Sunday brunch. By removing the stage upstairs, we will open up flexible space for our growing Sunday School and larger community gatherings. Finally, the placement of



the lift and church office reconfiguration made this an opportune time to remodel the Spiritual Life Center area, removing many of walls designed for Night Ministry office space in 1990 but no longer useful for us. This new space will be available for meetings, receptions, or adult formation events.

After raising approximately \$702,000 a year ago, we need \$107,000 more to complete this summer's projects. Eight donors have already stepped forward to meet two-thirds of this funding gap!

This past fall we received more accurate cost projections that revise the budget. This information and the new awareness of the inter-dependence of this summer's construction projects, means that the third phase of the campaign—the renovation of the kitchen-- will be addressed last as we receive additional donor support. The initial kitchen budget was \$65,000 and we are now beginning a design process to refine plans and costs.

## LUTHERANS IN LAKEVIEW

Pastors of the five ELCA congregations in Lakeview and North Center (Resurrection, Lakeview, Concordia, Saint Luke and Holy Trinity) have been meeting for over a year to prepare for a collaborative Lutheran witness in Lakeview. With the decline in religious participation today, it is unlikely all five congregations will survive the coming decade. There is now a strong desire to move forward with a consultative process to imagine alternate futures and work together.

A synod grant funds a consultant who will meet with all five congregations and a Vision Team will be made up of lay and clergy representatives from the parishes. The Team will develop a set of core values for collaborative Lutheran ministry going forward and construct a flexible process for collaborative congregational decision making. This will allow the Coalition to respond to immediate challenges and opportunities as well as support congregational decisions that emerge over a longer period of time. This is not necessarily a merger but a long-term process of seeking opportunities for shared ministry such as joint worship services, youth and other interest groups, educational offerings, and other events.

## STAFF

We are most fortunate to have a **very talented and dedicated staff**. My deep thanks to all of them: Michelle Sevig, Ben Adams, Brooke Petersen, Beau Surratt, David Brackley, Paul Strome, Ayriole Frost, John Weit, Lauren Haines and Audrey Frost. And thanks to all of you for your continued support, generosity, and prayers.

## Associate Pastor Michelle Sevig

2019 was a year full of adventure, celebration and surprises.

First off, the unexpected offer of a sabbatical. I've served as pastor in varying capacities since January 2002, always part-time. I was surprised and delighted to be offered a sabbatical as a part-time pastor. During the six-week sabbatical I had time to rest, reorganize, reconnect with family and friends. Highlights of the sabbatical time were the one on one getaways I was able to do with each family member. With Oliver I went to Milwaukee for a baseball game and kyaking on the , with Peder I went to Michigan to enjoy nature and pick blueberries, with Annika I went to Holden Village where we hiked in the mountains and worshipped daily and with Julie we appreciated a day alone in Chicago to be tourists in our own





city. These are precious times with my family that would not have been possible without intentional “rest” time that sabbatical empowers. Thank you for your support and encouragement of my ministry here for the past 18 years

On Pentecost Sunday we confirmed six of our HTLC youth. It was an exciting day to see these young people, many of whom I’ve known since they were very little, now stand before their community of faith, parents and sponsors to affirm their faith in God and their intention to continue to grow in the Christian faith.

The youth group has been more active in the past year and continues to grow. Each year we go to Lutherdale Bible Camp for a winter retreat and in 2019 we had 16 Jr and Sr High youth attend. It was an amazing time for group bonding and spiritual growth for both the leaders (Vicar Noah and me) and the youth. In addition to camp, we did a couple of fun events together--a lock-in, movie night and a high ropes course and we served as a group with the Night Ministry and with the South Loop Community Table.

Kids Night Out has been a great success this past year. Audrey Frost who supervises the nursery each Sunday and Annika Sevig are the hosts and welcome children for a night of interactive fun and learning while parents get some free time. The children enjoy coming to church and being in a familiar place with their friends and parents appreciate a safe and loving place for their kids to play while they go out on a date or go home to rest.

With my heart full of gratitude, I give thanks for the many ways this community of faith has blessed me and my ministry.

## Associate Pastor Ben Adams

Reflecting on this past year at Holy Trinity has revealed just how tough it was, but also how rewarding it was. My year began with some deep loss with the passing of my Uncle Jim Healy, my internship supervisor Rev. Jim Stender, my high school friend Hameed Qureshi, and a South Loop Community Table member Bill Radzik. I was so grateful for the support and time away to make it to each of their funerals and find some closure. Even with a tough start, we accomplished so much in 2019. It was helpful for me to compile a list of our accomplishments, so I’ve included that list below:

- I preached at Rev. Josh Evan’s Installation at Unity Lutheran!
- We turned out for Nadia Bolz-Weber’s Shameless: A Sexual Reformation” book tour event.
- First ever movie night at HTLoop, *Three Identical Strangers*.
- We held a pair of great joint Ash Wednesday Services with Grace Episcopal.
- We held a Lenten Book Study with Holy Family Lutheran wher we read James Cone’s *The Cross and The Lynching Tree*
- We held a pair of great joint Good Friday Services with Grace Episcopal.

- HT Youth Group volunteered at the South Loop Community Table Meal.
- We fought against the eventual deportation of ELCA Pastor, Betty Rendon, and her husband Carlos.
- We hosted our annual Pentecost Party at HTLoop complete with spicy wings!
- We faithfully represented Holy Trinity at the Printers Row Lit Fest where we gave out almost 300 tote bags!
- We elected new Bishop, Yehiel Curry, in the Metro Chicago Synod!
- We turned out and marched in a very rainy Chicago Pride Parade.



- We turned out for Lenny Duncan's Dear Church book tour event.
- The Anti-Racism ministry then invited everyone to read Dear Church together during the month of July.
- We said goodbye to Vicar Noah and we welcomed two MIC Seminarians to HTLoop/South Loop Campus Ministry.
- We had our best attended student night lasagna dinner with eight students in attendance!
- We finally kicked off Saturday School at HTLoop for our kiddos on the second and fourth Saturdays of the Month.
- We had an amazing Pet Blessing service in the park with Grace Place Episcopal! Our best one yet!
- The Anti-Racism ministry hosted a Coffee House with the theme: Take a Walk in My Shoes.
- We participated in another great CROP Hunger Walk!
- We hosted an adult forum to become more acquainted with our newest neighbors at Grace Place, Masjid al-Rabia.
- We welcomed six new members at HTLoop!
- We Kicked off our two year covenant with the Metro Chicago Anti-Racism Ministry.
- Our Thanksgiving Eve Service this year was a Dinner Church Service. The first time we'd ever tried it!
- For the first time ever, Holy Trinity had a sponsored table and an ad in the brochure for the Arise Chicago Faith, Labor, Action Breakfast!
- We kicked off another Life Together Catechumenate process with five people at our first meeting!
- We hosted our annual holiday party we called Hygge Holiday and we wore our coziest pajamas!
- We had a great holiday season with a joint Blue Christmas Service and two joint Christmas Eve Services with Grace Place.

We now enter 2020 with an HTLoop Advisory Council assembled, which will do three main things for us moving forward:

1. Cast vision for the direction our HTLoop community is headed.
2. Advise the Holy Trinity Congregational Council with recommendations when key decisions are made about HTLoop.
3. Have oversight and a stake in HTLoop financial sustainability and carry out one fundraising benefit each year. We will be organizing a benefit fundraiser for the ministries of Holy Trinity with a focus on HTLoop in September of 2020.

We are also going into 2020 with some real tangible steps towards the kick off of the Spiritual Life Center in the Loop. Right now there is an available space on the third floor of Grace Place that we have looked at and will be discussing with the American Friends Service Committee what agreement we could work out to make that our space for individual counseling and psychotherapy as well as group wellness initiatives.

2019 was a year of building and growing, and 2020 will be a year of living out into our South Loop Community in new and creative ways with the Spiritual Life Center in the Loop being the newest way in which South Loop neighbors can interact with Holy Trinity and experience the grace that we would like to share with the world.





# Minister of Music David R. Brackley

23 Choir members + 7 Children's Choir members + 11 Cantors  
 21 Instrumentalists  
 28 in Advent/Christmas Festival orchestra

## Music Staff:

David Brackley, *Minister of Music* + Ayriole Frost, *Music Assistant*  
 Lauren Haines, *Children's Choir Director* + John Weit, *Assistant Organist*

### Winter

- Epiphany Festival with Children's and Adult Choirs
- Instrumentalists share their gifts of music each month in worship



### Spring

- Children's Choir sings
- Holy Week with Cantors, Chamber Singers, the Holy Trinity Choir and Instrumentalists
- Easter Day Festival Eucharists with both Choirs, Brass, Timpani and great congregational singing.

### Summer

- Instrumentalists & Cantors led in worship individually and in small ensembles during the summer
- Choir social at the home of the Guilfoiles.



### Autumn

- Continued "summer schedule" with one service at 9:30 through September. Choir rehearsals began during September and choir sang in services beginning on the last Sunday in September, when we celebrated the Feast of St. Michael and all Angels.
- Strings from HTLC and Lakeview Orchestra played on All Saints' Sunday in both services.
- SHINE! Fundraiser featured the Holy Trinity Choir and numerous HTLC musicians in a cabaret of entertaining music.



### Advent & Christmas Music

- *Festival of Music for Advent and Christmas* with the Holy Trinity Choir and full 28-piece orchestra. The theme was *Mary, Woman of the Promise*. A good crowd of people enjoyed fellowship over a tasty lasagna dinner following the Festival.
- Choir and cantors sang on Christmas Eve

### On a personal note. . .

I continue to give thanks for the great music staff at Holy Trinity:

**Ayriole Frost**, Music Assistant performs many "unseen" tasks—filling choral and instrumental music, preparing and distributing parts to players in advance, scheduling instrumentalists, and the longer-term process of compiling a database of the Music Library. She sings in the choir and also plays viola, cantors at non-choir services from time to time, and much more.

**Lauren Haines**, Children's Choir director, works wonders with our young singers. Lauren sings in the adult choir and cantors in non-choir services as well.

**John Weit**, Assistant Organist, continues to lead the musical portion of the liturgy in the non-choral services, work with cantors, assist in the Advent/Christmas Festival concert, accompany Children's Choir and more.



In the fall of 2019 we had to forego Children's Choir due to lack of response when we reached out to parents about starting the new season. We hope that this will change in the upcoming year and that our Children's Choir will sing once more! We love to see our young singers learning and growing musically, and their music touches us all!

It has also been a long-term hope and dream to have a Handbell Choir play at least from time to time. This could be an intergenerational group as it only requires some basic note reading ability. We will continue to pursue this in future. If you are interested in participating, I would be delighted to know!

Probably the most important aspect of my ministry is the stewardship of our resident musicians and their talents. I love seeing more and more of our congregation involved in making music for worship at Holy Trinity. Thanks to every choir singer, cantor and instrumentalist for the hours of time that they give to this work. We could not have a music ministry without them!



## Anti-Racism Ministry *John Flowers*

This year was one of studying, building relationships, and new directions for the Anti-Racism Ministry at Holy Trinity.

We were invited to participate in weekly Lenten Wednesday suppers with discussion and vespers services at Holy Family Lutheran Church. Through five gatherings, together we read and discussed "The Cross and the Lynching Tree," theologian James Cone's book about how "The cross and the lynching tree interpret each other." Rejoining Holy Family for another book study is in the works.

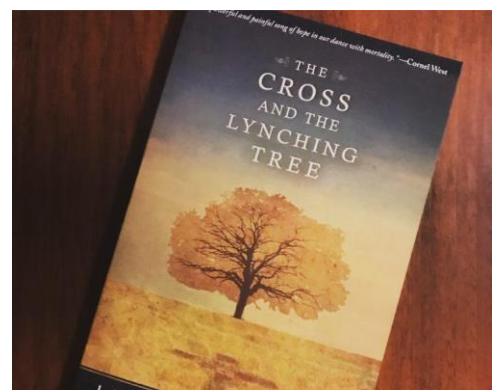
We continued to meet throughout the year. A particularly meaningful meeting for many was when HT member Josh Brown led us in a presentation and guided discussion of the literary works of James Baldwin.

Rev. Lenny Duncan came to Chicago in July on his book tour for *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.* Ten of us attended the event, and we read and discussed the book in our meetings. As we identify and undertake the ways we will confront racism, we continue to hear Rev. Duncan's call - "We must take the lead, Church. There is no one else."

Holy Trinity began its formal two-year covenant with Another Pebble, the Chicago Metro Synod's Anti-Racism Ministry. As this work begins, the focus is on:

- inviting the congregation to help us gauge the climate and gather data through a survey,
- gathering a historical perspective of our church, its neighborhood and the synod/city
- closely looking at our mission/vision statements, guiding principles and welcoming statements

In this process, the congregation looks to complete an assessment of the structural and cultural changes that are needed to become more inclusive and anti-racist.







In October, we hosted a coffee house at HTLoop with over a dozen performances from Holy Trinity and the community for a night of music, poetry, spoken word, and comedy. Many thanks to all of the performers and volunteers who made this a success, and to Kris and Jim Hiepler-Hartwig for the concept and organizing the night.

In 2019, Holy Trinity also joined the Emmaus Collective Pilot Group of churches “on the way to, or working on, dismantling white supremacy in their church culture. We are not saying they are done or totally safe, we are saying these are churches who are naming and claiming they that are doing the work.” <https://emmauscollective.org/>



Holy Trinity also joined CARE (the Coalition of Allies for Racial Equality) - the direct-action organizing arm of Lighthouse Foundation. Lighthouse Foundation, founded by Jamie Frazier, lead pastor at Lighthouse Church Chicago, is a “non-sectarian, nonprofit social justice organization that advances justice for Black LGBTQ+ people across Chicagoland through empowerment, education, and entertainment.” Early efforts have included a push for police accountability in East Lakeview, and Holy Trinity members have participated in organizing, planning, and actions as part of this coalition.

Lastly, re-naming these initiatives as Holy Trinity’s Anti-Racism *Ministry* this year helps us remember that this is congregational work, not the work of a small team.



## Fundraising Team

### Kim Caviness Vaus and Betty Guilfoile

Holy Trinity took on a big challenge last summer. Could we raise an extra \$10,000 to close a gap in our 2019 budget that would allow us to deliver our full wishlist of ambitious ministry, kids’ and music programs?

A Fundraising Team quickly formed—Pastor Mueller, Laura Spalla, Betty Guilfoile, Kim Caviness Vaus, Beau Surratt and Pastor Sevig, who was recruited literally the second she walked through the door on her first morning back from sabbatical.



First, we needed the big idea. We were inspired by Holy Trinity Lakeview’s stained-glass windows, which would soon be whisked offsite for restoration as part of our Toward 100 campaign. Until its return at the end of last October, our window frame would be covered by heavy boards. Holy Trinity Lakeview would be partially dark.

*Let there be light.* The committee decided to produce a fall 2019 multi-sensory, illuminating experience: “Shine! A celebration of light and music to benefit the vibrant ministries of Holy Trinity.”

In collaboration with HT Minister of Music David Brackley, we organized a Sunday afternoon concert on Oct. 27, 2019, starring the choir and musical friends of HT on Oct. 27, followed by a catered reception. The showcase host was HT member, former choir member and improv actor Sarah Barnhardt, “Shine!” performers included Lauren Haines Walerow and Kim Duffy, vocalists; Nora Shaffer and Erin Miesner, clarinet; John Kregor, jazz guitar; The Holy

Trinity Choir; and HT choir member Frank Blackman's pitch-perfect barbershop quartet, Onset. Kyla Cisneros stunned with her rendition of "Rainbow," and John Weit and Beau Surratt served as accompanists.

The Shine! team also created a six-foot-tall puzzle made from a large-scale photo of our stained-glass window, taken by HT Lakeview's Dawn Roscoe, a professional photographer. The stained-glass puzzle illuminated the second part of the fundraiser. We sold each of the puzzle's 70 pieces for \$2,500 to \$25, depending on size. Every single piece sold!

Our "Shine!" fundraising musical showcase and puzzle combo was a success, thanks to almost 100 members of Holy Trinity's generous support and participation.

As for our goal of raising \$10,000? "Shine!" killed it. After expenses, the fundraiser brought in \$11,700, helping us deliver on our full roster of wish-list programs.

If you'd like to see the finished puzzle for yourself, take a stroll down HT Lakeview's office hall by Beau's office. Go ahead; pull off a piece, find its spot, pop it back in, and get your "Shine!" on. Thank you for helping shine a light on HT's mission of faith, ministry and music.



## HTLoop

## Geraldine Kruse

2019 was filled with many crossover ministries and activities. Listed below are a few highlights of ministries in which the HTLoop Site Team participated.

- Pentecost Potluck sharing "fiery tidbits" while celebrating the Holy Spirit
- Lit Fest: Canvas book bags to decorate and meet the neighborhood folks and visitors
- Noahpalooza - Potluck reception to thank Vicar Noah Herren and send him to his next ministry with love and blessings.
- New Student Lasagna Dinner for students of LSTC and South Loop Colleges and Universities
- HTOnTopic with Masjid al Rabia, an inclusive Muslim community sharing space at Grace Place
- Blessing of the Animals with Grace Episcopal Church
- Coffee House Evening - a reminiscent evening of the '60s with students, neighbors, our own, some marginalized, depreciated, and abused who shared their stories through song, poem, and original stories. Raising our awareness of those we don't see around us. Also, adding an additional perspective of our Anti-Racism Ministry.
- Holiday Hygge Party - a cozy evening of acapella Christmas songs, sharing comfort food, conversation and glogg.
- Christmas Giving Tree - \$25.00 gift cards for our homeless neighbors







# Mission Endowment Fund Committee

## Susan Boin

### Financials:

Balance Dec 31, 2018	\$311,879.66
Additions	0
Withdrawals	(11,550.78)
Reinvestment	9,593.78
Change in Market Value	31,069.01

### Sep. 30, 2019 – \$340,992.45



The Holy Trinity Endowment Committee has the rewarding privilege of giving out annual grants to organizations that connect to our purpose and guiding principles. Our funding comes from our Endowment Fund's interest earned. Holy Trinity's endowment fund has grown from generous donations, typically one-time annual special donations or one-time donations from those that have allocated a small percentage of their estate to Holy Trinity in their Last Will and Testament. In 2019, we received a record number of applications, with 17 grants requested and 7 organizations funded; we also received scholarship requests from three seminarians and one deacon. With the market upturn, we were able to fund all of these initiatives while still allowing our fund to grow. For the first time, we also hosted a reception at HT Loop to introduce and honor our grant recipients for the year, offering our members the opportunity to connect with these amazing organizations on a more personal level. The Endowment Committee would like to share the impact our grants had in 2019:



**Shift Englewood:** Shift Englewood offers intensive musical training to children normally excluded due to location or socio-economic status. They currently work with three elementary schools in the Englewood neighborhood, offering after school programming to over 200 students. Their students have performed in Englewood, other neighborhoods, and at a festival in Cincinnati. With the help of our grant, Shift was able to fund transportation for field trips and performances for the children in the program.



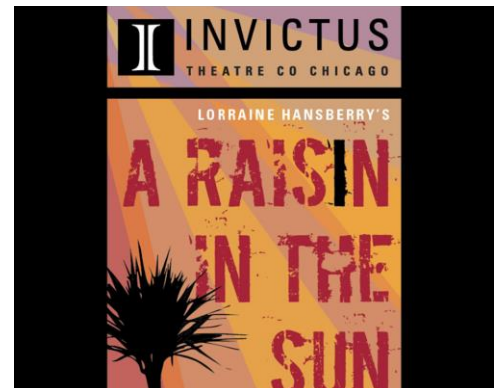
**Hyde Park Refugee Project:** The Project helps refugee families rebuild their lives by providing basic assistance in areas such as health care, education and mentoring, housing, and providing community. 2019 was the second year that the Project offered a summer camp to refugee children, along with children from the neighborhood. The summer camp program adds to the refugees' engagement with their new home and appreciation of the Hyde Park community. With our assistance, they were able to expand their program from 20 children to 30 children, reaching more children and, in

turn, more families.

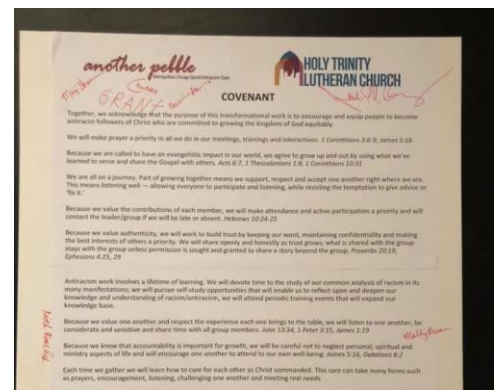
**Chicago ROAR:** Chicago ROAR is a regional program of Crossroads Antiracism Organizing & Training. The purpose of Chicago ROAR is to dismantle systemic racism and build antiracist multicultural diversity within institutions and communities implemented primarily by training institutional transformation teams. Chicago ROAR was able fund quarterly caucusing opportunities in Uptown location which allow for deeper conversations regarding racism.

**Hands to Help:** Hand to Help was formed by five neighborhood churches and community leaders in 2006. They support the homeless on the northwest side of Chicago, meeting them on the street and provide for basic needs like food and clothing. The group also provides drop-in hours in their office, offers direct financial assistance to help clients obtain or maintain existing housing, as well as supportive services such as budgeting, benefit assistance, and employment referrals. Our grant allowed them to fund the purchase of basic necessities for the individuals they serve.

**Invictus Theatre:** This theatre group teaches Shakespeare to at-risk youth, and our grant allowed them to expand the size of their program and increase the amount of rehearsal time. The program is a juvenile detention diversion program, where educators from the theatre rehearse with the children 3 days a week for 6 weeks and then put on a performance of a Shakespeare play. The rehearsal space provides a safe space for these youth, and it empowers them to share their stories and build their voices. The goal of the program is to reduce recidivism among offending youths and divert them from the prison system, showing them other ways of expressing themselves.



**South Loop Campus Ministry:** The South Loop Campus Ministry was thrilled to be awarded a grant from the HT Endowment Fund again this year! They put the money to good use in supporting the mission of the South Loop Community Table meals that they serve to approximately 100 neighbors experiencing homelessness every Sunday night. To be able to pull this meal off week after week they rely heavily on students from the South Loop Campus Ministry as well as the Inclusive Collective Campus Ministry they partner with from UIC. This event is much more than a meal, it's a community. Every week they say their communal covenant together and then proceed to eat, chat, sing, laugh, cry, and build one another up. For the students it's a chance to give back and expand their idea of who their neighbor truly is. For their guests experiencing homelessness, it's a chance to let their walls down and feel truly seen and accepted. Most of all, the South Loop Community Table is a picture of what the beloved community can look like when they create space for it to take place.



**Holy Trinity Anti-Racism:** The Holy Trinity Anti-Racism Ministry is a group of church members who are committed to dismantling institutional racism and creating a more equal world. The grant provided by our Fund supported the participation of our group in the newly launched Emmaus Collective, which provides resources and education to its members.

**Seminarians and Deacons:** The Fund provides scholarship funds to seminarians connected to our congregation. This year, we were able to support Josh Evans, Ismael Calderon and Jonas Ellison, helping with their tuition costs at LSTC. We were also able to assist Andrew Fredel as he works through the ELCA program to become a deacon.







(Photo at left: Holy Trinity volunteer Patrice Macken delivers holiday gifts to staff member Ms. Pierre at the Fox Valley Adult Transition Center for Women in Aurora.)

## Prison Ministry Carol and Ryan LaHurd

In 2019 the program took a year off from collecting and distributing books, figuring that after six years Holy Trinity members might have exhausted their book give-ways. But the **annual collection will resume in Spring 2020.**

These activities continued during 2019:

~The updated Holy Trinity Prison Ministry website page <http://www.holytrinitychicago.org/ministries/prison> contains links to many criminal justice resources and programs.

~In June an updated **criminal justice resource sheet** was given to visitors to the Holy Trinity booth at the annual Printer's Row Lit Fest.

~Ongoing support for Fox Valley Adult Transition Center for Women included donated items for the clothing boutique, toiletry welcome kits (supplied and delivered periodically by Patrice Macken), and the purchase of composition books for the prisoners' journaling program, using some of the past loose offerings dedicated to the prison ministry.

Additional outreach to and support for Fox Valley during 2019:

~A seminar on job application, interviewing, and career-related web presence was presented at the Center by Ryan LaHurd for 12 new arrivals on June 19.

~These small Christmas gifts were purchased and delivered for all 130 residents: winter gloves, datebooks, and socks.



## Team Trinity (Social Ministry) Ken Duckmann

For all of 2019:

- 46 Team Trinity volunteers gave -
  - over 300 hours of community service to the Lakeview Pantry and The Night Ministry.
  - 71 volunteer hours were given to the Lakeview Pantry.
  - 129 volunteer hours were given to The Night Ministry's The Crib.
  - 109 volunteer hours were given to The Night Ministry's Youth Outreach Team.

Would like to thank the volunteers for all of 2019, who were involved with either the Lakeview Pantry or The Night Ministry – The Crib and/or the Youth Outreach Team:

Abbey Casagrande, Audrey Frost, Ayriole Frost, Barbara Kudirka, Belle Craig, Bob Reiff, Carrie Egan and Connor Egan, Denise Mineck, Ed Beach and John Bumatay, Garrett Glawe, Jim Hiepler-Hartwig, Kris Hiepler-Hartwig, Kelly Hartwig, Jim Swanson, Kaitlin Cernak, Lisa Anderson-Shaw, Lisa Snyder, Pr. Michelle Sevig, Vicar Noah Herren and Sam Herren, Rita Schnell, Scott Kuhagen, Steven Roets, Susan Boin, Tom Schmidt, Betzy Cisneros, Kyla Cisneros and Micah Cisneros, Covenant Youth Collision (connected with Betzy Cisneros), James Perez and Ken Duckmann.



Team Trinity statistics – for meals served at The Crib:

105 lbs. of potatoes – for our mashed potatoes  
70 lbs. of ground beef – for making our famous meat loaf  
Which results in 28 loaves of meatloaf  
672 ounces of vegetables were cooked and served  
Which is 42 lbs. of vegetables that were prepared  
200 cookies were made and served for dessert  
On average a typical grocery bill, to obtain the needed food items, is \$200 dollars  
For 2019 nearly \$1,400 was spent on food to serve at The Crib.



Team Trinity statistics – for meals served with the Youth Outreach Team (YOT):

36 extra-large loaves of bread were used to create 600 sandwiches  
15 lbs. of sandwich meat is purchased to make 140 sandwiches  
2 large containers of peanut butter and  
3 large jars of jelly is used to make 75 PB&J sandwiches  
576 granola bars have been distributed to clients of the YOT  
486 bags of chips have been distributed to clients of the YOT  
700 individual oranges, apples, or bananas; as well as sandwich bags, and brown paper lunch bags  
have been distributed to clients of the YOT  
540 individual juice boxes have been distributed to clients of the YOT  
450 “meals in a bag” have been distributed to clients of the YOT  
A typical grocery bill at Costco, to obtain the needed food items, is \$350 dollars  
For 2019 nearly \$1,100 was spent on food to create the “meals in a bag”.





# Toward 100 Capital Campaign Kent Swanson

*(Capital Campaign Committee Members: Kent Swanson, Hugh Vondracek, Deborah Stevens, Johanna Olson, Rick Boyum)*



As a council member said to me recently, “these are exciting days at Holy Trinity.” As we move toward the 100th anniversary of our building, we are making necessary improvements that will help us fulfill our mission in the 21st century. As you recall, our work in the Capital Campaign Committee over the past two years has been collaborative and inclusive and has led us to focus on accessibility so all can participate in worship and church programs along with larger and more flexible areas for Sunday School to service our rapidly growing number of young people.



This past summer, we installed air-conditioning in the sanctuary, completed most of the tuckpointing work, and refurbished the stained-glass window in the balcony. The stained-glass window is like a new 4K video monitor. The light, vibrance and color bring a real change to the experience in the sanctuary.



This coming summer, we will embark on the major construction portion of the campaign. We will install a lift to Passavant Hall, something five persons could have used for our Epiphany Sunday brunch. By removing the stage upstairs, we will open up flexible space for our growing Sunday School and larger community gatherings. Finally, the placement of the lift and church office reconfiguration made this an opportune time to remodel the Spiritual Life Center area, removing many of walls designed for Night Ministry office space in 1990 but no longer useful for us. This new space will be available for meetings, receptions, or adult formation events.



This past fall we refined the architectural plans, completed engineering work, and received more accurate cost projections that revised the budget. Our initial fundraising goal was \$800,000. After raising approximately \$702,000 a year ago, we need \$107,000 more to complete this summer’s projects for a total budget of \$809,000. Eight donors have already pledged to meet two-thirds of this funding gap!

The third phase of the campaign—the renovation of the kitchen-- will be addressed last as we receive additional donor support. The initial kitchen budget was \$65,000 and we are now beginning a design process to refine plans and costs to complete this project in 2021.

We are grateful to everyone who has donated to this effort to modernize our church for its mission as it enters the next 100 years.

**TOWARD 100 BUDGET  
MAINTENANCE/IMPROVEMENTS**

	2020 Revised Budget	2019 Estimates
Stained glass repair	\$115,000	\$115,000
HVAC / AC (replace HVAC in Magnolia building; ductless AC in nave)	\$125,000	\$125,000
Tuckpointing	\$83,000	\$70,000
Security doors	\$10,000	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$333,000</b>	<b>\$310,000</b>
<b>ACCESSIBILITY, PASSAVANT HALL, KITCHEN</b>		
Limited-use elevator, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor reconfiguring	\$176,250	\$165,000
Passavant Hall renovation	\$71,250	\$60,000
Stage removal and storage	\$71,250	\$60,000
Accessible restroom, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor	\$51,250	\$40,000
Kitchen improvements	\$5,000	\$65,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$375,000</b>	<b>\$390,000</b>
<b>ARCHITECT: Multiple phases</b>	<b>\$31,000</b>	<b>\$21,000</b>
<b>SPIRITUAL LIFE INITIATIVE</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>	<b>\$70,000</b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECTS</b>	<b>\$809,000</b>	<b>\$791,000</b>

**INITIAL PLEDGES** \$702,000      **\$702,000**  
**NEW ADDITIONAL GOAL** \$107,000  
 Two-thirds has already been pledged. This does not include funding for the kitchen.





# 2020 Annual Meeting

*Holy Trinity Lutheran Church + January 26, 2020*

## Agenda

### **I. Call to Order** – Alison Strickler, Congregation President

- a. Determination of Quorum
- b. Opening Prayer

### **II. Adoption of Agenda**

### **III. Approval of Minutes** – January 27, 2019 Annual Congregation Meeting

### **IV. Finance Report** – Ramsey Donnell, Finance Committee

- a. Financial Report for the year ending December 31, 2019
- b. 2020 Proposed Budget

### **V. Comments from the pastors**

### **VI. Capital Campaign Update** – Johanna Olson, Toward 100 Committee

### **VII. Elections**

#### a. Congregation Council

- i. Four persons to 3-year terms. Recommended slate: Ayriole Frost, Keith Kanthak, Hanh Meyers, Lisa Reiff
- ii. One person to 1-year terms. Recommended slate: Hugh Vondracek
- iii. One person to a youth 1-year term: Recommended: Katie Peyton

#### b. Nominating Committee

- i. Three persons to 1-year terms: Recommended slate: Betty Guilfoile, Camille Licklider, Alison Strickler

#### c. Mission Endowment Fund Committee

- i. Two persons to 3-year terms: Christian Cisneros and Amy Fanale

#### d. Audit Committee (elected by council 1/8/20)

- i. One person to 3-year term: David Biggs

### **VIII. Recognition** – Alison Strickler, Congregation President

### **IX. Adjournment**

# 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2019

1. **Call to Order** by Alison Strickler, Congregation President
  - a. **Dermination of Quorum:** 70 persons
  - b. **Opening Prayer**
2. **Agenda Adopted** by unanimous vote
3. **February 4, 2018 Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes Approved:** by unanimous voice vote
4. **Finance Report** by Deborah Stevens, Treasurer
  - a. Financial Report for the year ending December 31, 2018
    - i. Approved by unanimous voice vote
    - ii. Revenue for FY 2018 at \$518,872 was lower than budget of \$531,294 (\$7,925). The prior year's \$24,689 surplus and \$10,000 of the HT Loop Reserves were used to reduce the deficit.
  - b. 2019 Proposed Budget
    - i. FY2019 Budget will increase to \$536,206, an increase of \$16,319 from FY2018. The budget includes, among other sources, the remainder of the HT Loop reserve (\$14,606), \$700 from the Moen Social Justice fund and \$10,675 expected to be covered by fund-raising.
    - ii. Approved by unanimous voice vote
5. **Comments from Craig Mueller**, Lead Pastor
  - a. Pastor Mueller thanked the HT staff and asked all who had volunteered on behalf of Holy Trinity to stand.
  - b. He highlighted the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX attended by HT youth, the congregations social ministry work and the many ministries supported by HT's loose offerings.
6. **Capital Campaign Kickoff** by Hugh Vondracek
  - a. Hugh reported that "Toward 100" campaign would officially kick-off with a congregational dinner on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - b. The Capital Campaign Committee has developed a flexible budget which will cover projects from essential repairs to strengthening the Endowment and Reserve Funds, based on the money raised.
7. **Elections**
  - a. **Congregation Council**
    - i. Three persons to 3-year terms: Erica Bohac, Ramsey Donnell, Jessica Ittner elected by unanimous voice vote.
    - ii. Three persons to 1-year terms: Deborah Stevens, Alison Strickler, John Flowers elected by unanimoise voice vote.
    - iii. One person to a youth 1-year term: Peder Sevig elected by unanimoise voice vote.
  - b. **Nominating Committee**
    - i. Three persons to 1-year terms: David Biggs, Lisa McDaniel, Anna Gustitus elected by unanimous voice vote.
  - c. **Mission Endowment Fund Committee**
    - i. One person to a 3-year term: Beth Mankowski elected by unanimoisevoice vote.
  - d. **Audit Committee (elected by council 1/9/19)**
    - One person to 3-year term: Celina Flowers elected by unanimoisevoice vote.
8. **Recognition** by Alison Strickler, Congregation President
  - Alison noted that three staff members were celebrating important milestones this year or next: **Pastor Craig Mueller** began serving Holy Trinity twenty years ago; **Pastor Michelle Sevig** will soon celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of her ordination; and **David Brackley** recently marked his fifteenth anniversary as Minister of Music at Holy Trinity. The members present showed their appreciation with applause.
9. **Adjournment**



## 2019 Revenue/Expenses and 2020 Proposed Budget

	2018		2019		2020	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	Budget	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	518,872	536,206	569,560	33,354	570,913	(1)(2)
Synod Benevolence	43,261	45,617	48,709	(3,091)	49,046	(3)
Staff Expense	372,832	382,960	380,719	1,162	390,923	(4)
Program Expense	38,187	35,875	33,454	2,421	40,850	(5)(6)
Property Expense	37,205	35,300	38,508	(3,208)	50,400	(7)
Admin/Other Expense	35,312	36,454	38,148	(616)	39,694	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	526,797	536,206	539,538	(3,332)	570,913	
<b>Net</b>	(7,925)	0	30,022	30,022	0	
(1)	Offerings are budgheted at same level as 2019 offerings, a substantial increase from 2018 offerings.					
(2)	Includes \$12,000 in fundraisers (same as prior year actual).					
(3)	A quarter of our synod benevolence is designated for our mission at HTLoop.					
(4)	Salaries are based on either synod guidelines (rostered leaders) or a 3% raise for others.					
(5)	The ELCA Youth Gathering line returns (\$2,400). We have a goal of having this in the budget every other year, though the Gathering is every three years and will be held next in 2021. In addition to fundraisers, Holy Trinity helps defray some of the costs for students attending.					
(6)	Antiracism increases to \$3,500. This is separate from our support of the Lighthouse Church/Foundation which will come from Saturday/Sunday loose offerings.					
(7)	The monthly Reserve Fund contribution returns (\$11,400).					
<b>Reserves and Investments</b>	<b>2018</b>		<b>2019</b>			
Cash (checking account)	49,399		55,794	6,395		
Money Market - Capital Reserve Fund	86,449		84,660	(1,789)		
Money Market- Capital Campaign			217,271			
Endowment Fund - investments	343,327		340,992			
<b>Total Assets</b>	479,175		698,717	4,606		
<b>Average Weekend Attendance</b> (all services and all locations)	202		208			

# Finance Notes

## Fiscal Year 2019

Revenue for FY 2019, at \$569,560, is substantially higher than the 2019 budget of \$536,206.

Total expenses ended the year at \$539,538, higher than the budget of \$536,206. Expenses were higher due to higher Property Expense (unexpected boiler repair) and Administrative Expense (banking fees and IT).

As a result of the increase in revenue, HTL was able to report a budget surplus of \$30,022 for the year.

## Fiscal Year 2020 Proposed budget

Revenue is budgeted substantially flat to 2019 actual revenue and includes \$12,000 in fundraisers (same as 2019 actual fundraiser revenue). In addition, a quarter of our Synod Benevolence is designated for our mission at HTLoop.

Expenses are budgeted as increasing to \$570,913 in 2020 compared to \$539,538 in 2019:

- Salaries are based on either synod guidelines (rostered leaders) or a 3% raise for others.
- The ELCA Youth Gathering line returns (\$2,400). We have a goal of having this in the budget every year, though the Gathering is every three years and will be held next in 2021. In addition to fundraisers, Holy Trinity helps defray some of the costs for students attending.
- Antiracism increases to \$3,500. This is separate from our support of the Lighthouse Church/Foundation which will come from Sunday offerings.
- The monthly Reserve Fund contribution returns. (\$11,400).



# Holy Trinity Council & Committee Elector Bios - 2020

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL

*Three-Year Term*

### **Ayriole Frost**

Ayriole Frost is the music assistant at Holy Trinity and has been a part of the music ministry for eight years. As a professional musician, she also does work in the Englewood community as part of her nonprofit. Ayriole looks forward to deepening her connection at Holy Trinity by becoming part of the Congregation Council.

### **Keith Kanthak**

Keith Kanthak has been a lifelong Lutheran, with the last 19 years as a member of Holy Trinity. He currently sings in the choir at Holy Trinity. He has always been involved in the worship life of the churches he has attended as liturgy and music have been his passion. He recently retired after 38 years as a staff accountant for a general contractor.

### **Hanh Meyers**

Hanh Meyers was sponsored and brought over to the States by a Lutheran church when she was a young child. She has been a Lutheran ever since. Her son, Liam, was proudly baptized at Holy Trinity Lutheran two years ago. Both Liam and Hanh feel so fortunate to have been embraced by the Holy Trinity community. She looks forward to serving on the Congregation Council.

### **Lisa Reiff**

Lisa Reiff, raised Lutheran, moved with her husband Bob to the Lakeview neighborhood from the suburbs. After joining Holy Trinity eighteen months ago, she has served on a seminarian discernment group and enjoys being an usher at the 9am service. She knew Holy Trinity was the church for her when she heard "all are welcome" while church shopping. She is looking forward to serving on the Congregation Council.

*One-Year Term*

### **Hugh Vondracek**

Hugh is the son of an ELCA pastor and a lifelong Lutheran. He has been worshipping at the HTLoop for 4.5 years and appreciates Holy Trinity's commitment to liturgy and mission. Having completed a three-year term on the Congregation Council, he looks forward to serving an additional year to help with continuity.

*Youth, One-Year Term*

### **Katie Peyton**

Katie Peyton attended a Lutheran elementary school in Ohio. She and her family moved to Chicago in the summer of 2016 and found Holy Trinity in November of 2016. He likes Holy Trinity because it accepts you no matter what and she is honored to be the voice of the youth this year.

## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

*Three-Year Term*

### **Christian Cisneros**

Christian Cisneros has attended Holy Trinity since September of 2015 and became a member in November of 2019. Christian has served as a communion assistant, intercessor, reader and youth group chaperone. In his spare time, he likes to take vacations to Florida with his family and watch sports including, but not limited to, the Minnesota Vikings and Kansas Jayhawks. He is excited to serve on the Endowment Committee.

### **Amy Fanale**

Amy Fanale has been a member of Holy Trinity since the early 2000's. She and her family—husband, Steve and daughter, Amanda—find Holy Trinity a special place to worship due the welcoming environment. Amy has served on other committees in the past, including the Seminarian Committee. She currently participates in the Holy Trinity Book Group. Amy is looking forward to working with fellow Holy Trinity members to provide assistance on necessary initiatives.

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

*Three-Year Term*

### **David Biggs**

David Biggs is a life-long Lutheran and has been a member of Holy Trinity for over 15 years. He is completing a three-year term on the Congregation Council and has been nominated to serve on the Audit Committee. He is currently a lawyer for the Chicago Transit Authority and was an auditor prior to law school.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

*One-Year Term*

### **Betty Guilfoile**

Betty Guilfoile, a native of Boston, Massachusetts and raised Roman Catholic, joined Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in April 2017 with her husband, Bill. Betty is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and a non-profit leader who has had many years of experience serving on Boards of Directors and Advisory Councils. She is the mother of 28 year-old identical twins, Tess and John and is currently working as a Psychotherapist and Clinical Supervisor at Live Oak, Inc. Betty is an active member of Holy Trinity's Choir and serves as a member of the Mutual Ministry Task Force.

### **Camille Lickliger**

Camille Lickliger is active in the choir at Holy Trinity and is often heard playing the violin. Her husband James also sings in the choir and their sons, Jonas and Colin are often seen serving as acolyte torchbearers in worship. Camille currently serves as Executive Director for Gift Planning at Northwestern University and looks forward to serving on the Nominating Committee.

### **Alison Strickler**

Alison Strickler currently serves as President of the HTLC Congregation Council and has been a member of Holy Trinity for 14 years. She is married to Aana Vigen and their son Ben can regularly be found serving as an acolyte torchbearer in worship and singing in the children's choir. Alison is a marketing consultant to architects and others in the design industry and can juggle with a high kick.



# Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

## Membership Change in the year 2019

### Received by Transfer or Affirmation of Faith

Andy Tafelski & Erin Steva	2/9/2019
Tom & Kathy Schmidt	4/12/2019
Sarah Borgeson & Adam Bueling	4/14/2019
Barbara Kudirka	4/20/2019
Kelly Armstrong	4/20/2019
Brian & Katie Grindley	6/16/2019
Erin & Scott Loris	8/24/2019
Taylor Walker	9/25/2019
Mark Saathoff	10/17/2019
Karoline Dejarnette	11/23/2019
Rose Ford & Ben Hunt	11/23/2019
Elisa Martinez	11/23/2019
Bianca Leoni & Beth Madigan	11/23/2019
Mike & Tiffany King	11/24/2019
Kim Hedlin	11/24/2019
Jeff & Cathy Compher	11/24/2019

Total Received by Transfer or Affirmation = 25

### Received by Baptism

Margot Ashby	1/13/2019
Ethan Steva-Tafelski	2/9/2019
Emerson Basham	4/28/2019
Aerin Modahl	4/28/2019
Vaughan Miller	6/16/2019
Sonia Reynolds	6/16/2019
Henry Bueling	6/16/2019
Alistair Grindley	6/16/2019
Adelaide Walerow	7/14/2019
Nolan Loris	8/24/2019
Nicholas Moy	11/10/2019

Total Received by Baptism = 11

**Total Increase in Membership = 36**

### Removed by Transfer or Request

Holly, James, George, & Beatrix Dunkel	4/14/2019
Ryan, Ziena, & Jacob Miller	8/15/2019
Wendy, Chris, Jack, & Sam Stelter	9/15/2019
Kevin Strickland & Robby Saner	10/20/2019
Mary O'Brien	11/18/2019

Total Removed by Transfer or Request = 13

### Deceased

Jim Kozel	4/8/2019
Joanne Roeder	9/12/2019

Total Removed by Death = 2

**Total Decrease in Membership = 15**

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**Net Change in Membership = 21**

Membership December 31, 2018 = 527

Membership December 31, 2019 = 542

# STAFF & COUNCIL

## STAFF

Craig Mueller  
*Lead Pastor*

Michelle Sevig  
*Associate Pastor, HTLakeview*

Ben Adams  
*Associate Pastor, HTLoop*

Brooke Petersen  
*Pastoral Counselor/  
Pastor for Wellness Ministries*

Beau Surratt  
*Administrator for  
Communications,  
Worship,  
and Community Life;  
HTLoop Musician/  
Ministry Associate*

David Brackley  
*Minister of Music*

Ayriole Frost  
*Music Assistant*

Paul Strome  
*Finance and Building  
Administrator*

John Weit  
*Assistant Organist*

Lauren Haines Walerow  
*Children's Choir Director*

Audrey Frost  
*Nursery Attendant*



# HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## 2019 COUNCIL

President  
Alison Stricker

Anti-Racism  
John Flowers

Fundraising  
Kim Caviness Vaus

Vice-President  
David Biggs

Finance  
Ramsey Donnell

At Large  
Erica Bohac

Secretary  
Betty Guilfoile

Youth Member  
Peder Sevig

At Large  
Jessica Ittner

Treasurer  
Deborah Stevens

HTLoop Sustainability  
Hugh Vondracek

At Large  
Daniel Schleis