

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY

Dear friends in Christ,

As Lutherans, we are set free to love our neighbors and seek justice. In Colossians 2, we read: "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving" (6-7).

I am abounding in thankfulness for you, church. You are an integral part of this mission as we envision a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. The ministries of congregations including yours, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together today and every day so more people may know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. From providing food to people experiencing hunger, to helping train the next generation of leaders that will lead this church, your support is at work here at home and around the world.

Your generosity to each of the three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has made it possible for us to do this work

together. Your financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices are so valued.

As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to continue to walk in Christ, remembering you are rooted and established in faith, and free to love and serve your neighbors. Thank you, church, for the ways you connect with and support our siblings across the ELCA and in our communities.

In Christ,



The Rev. Yehiel Curry  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

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**"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."**

—Colossians 2:6-7

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# Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry

Chapel Hill, NC

*Our Mission: Loving God, Loving Neighbors*

*Our Core Values: Worship, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Outreach, Faith Formation*



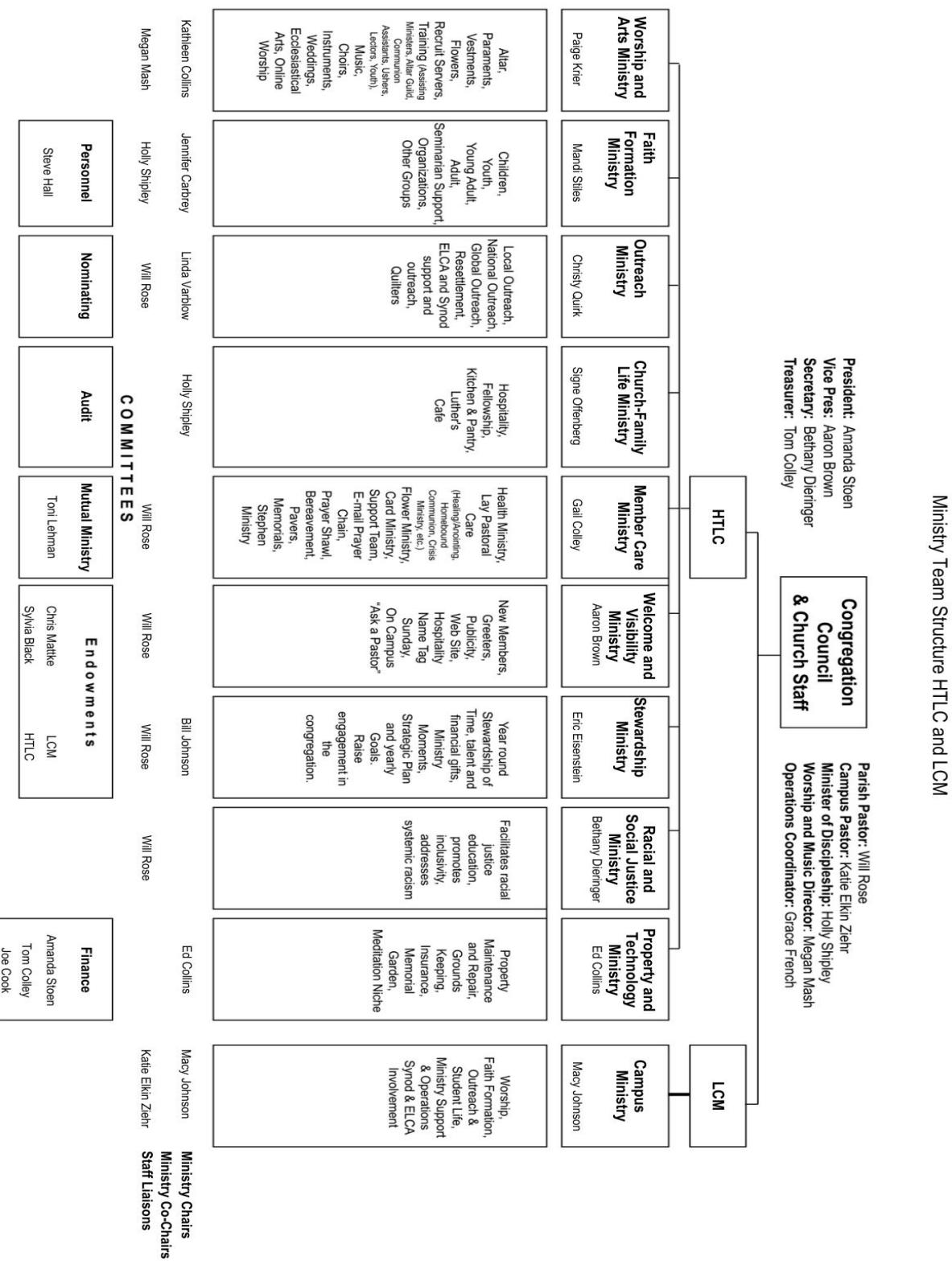
## Annual Report 2025

Printed February 2026

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## Ministry Team Structure for 2025



# Council Report

Dear Members and Friends of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry,

On behalf of the Church Council, it is my honor to present this annual report reflecting on the work accomplished throughout 2025. This has been a year marked by faithful leadership, thoughtful planning, and a shared commitment to the mission that continues to guide our congregation “Loving God, Loving Neighbor”. As in years past, the Council began its work grounded in prayer and discernment at our annual January Retreat, seeking to lead in ways that strengthen our ministries and support the life we share together as a community of faith.

## 2025 Council Members

- Pr. Will Rose
- Pr. Katie Elkin Ziehr
- Amanda Stoen - President (Finance)
- Aaron Brown - Vice President (Welcome and Visibility)
- Bethany Dieringer - Secretary (Racial Justice)
- Gail Colley (Member Care)
- Ed Collins (Property and Technology)
- Eric Eisenstein (Stewardship)
- Paige Krier (Worship and Arts)
- Signe Offenberg (Church and Family Life)
- Jake Patterson/Macy Johnson (LCM)
- Christy Quirk (Outreach)
- Mandi Stiles (Faith Formation)
- Dcn. Holly Shipley (non-voting member)
- Megan Mash (non-voting member)
- Kevin Schneider - Treasurer 2025 (non-voting member)
- Tom Colley - Treasurer end of 2025 (non-voting member)

## Council Priorities and Congregational Life

The Council entered 2025 with a clear set of goals intended to deepen engagement across the life of the church. Central among these was a renewed focus on stewardship, not only in financial giving but also in participation through worship, facility use, and outreach. We are grateful to report meaningful progress in each of these areas.

Our congregation is growing. We continue to welcome new families and individuals into the life of the church, and the energy this brings is evident on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. Our youth program is flourishing, providing young people with a strong foundation of faith, fellowship, and service. Lutheran Campus Ministry is also experiencing growth, expanding its reach among students and creating important opportunities for spiritual formation during a pivotal season of life.

These signs of vitality remind us that God’s work is active among us. The Council has remained focused on ensuring that our ministries develop in ways that are sustainable, thoughtful, and aligned with our shared values.

## A Safe and Brave Space

In today's world, the Church is called to be both a refuge and a witness. Throughout 2025, the Council engaged in meaningful conversations about how Holy Trinity can continue to be a safe and brave space for those who feel marginalized or powerless. This work requires humility, listening, and courage. It is not a task that can be completed in a single year, nor is it one that should ever be considered finished.

We see this commitment as part of our ongoing identity as a congregation. While important steps have been taken, this effort will remain a priority for the 2026 Council and beyond. Our prayer is that every person who enters our doors experiences the welcome of Christ and the dignity that comes from being fully known and valued.

## Restore 227 and Worship Center Needs

One of the most significant undertakings this year has been the Restore 227 capital initiative. Recognizing the needs within our Worship Center building, the Council acted with urgency and care to ensure that our facilities remain safe, functional, and supportive of ministry for years to come.

The response from this congregation was both immediate and inspiring. More than \$190,000 was raised/pledged in a remarkably short period of time, a testament to the generosity and commitment that define this community. Following the success of the campaign, a dedicated task force was assembled to oversee the capital project and guide the work ahead with diligence and transparency.

## Restore Community Fund

Alongside our capital work, the Restore Community Fund has emerged as a meaningful expression of our congregation's compassion. This initiative reflects our desire not only to sustain our physical home but also to extend care beyond our walls.

Through this fund, we have been able to respond to real needs with both discretion and grace. The Council is deeply encouraged by the support this effort has received and believes it will remain an important ministry in the years ahead.

## Governance and Policy Updates

Healthy ministry requires strong governance. During 2025, the Council devoted significant time to reviewing and updating outdated policies, procedures, and elements of our constitution. While this work often happens quietly, it is essential to the effective functioning of the church.

Among the most notable updates were revisions to our facility use policies and fee structures. These changes help ensure clarity, fairness, and responsible stewardship of our resources. Additional updates across multiple ministry areas have strengthened operational consistency and positioned the church well for future growth.

This careful attention to structure is not about bureaucracy. Rather, it allows our staff, ministry teams, and volunteers to serve with confidence and shared understanding.

## Leadership and Gratitude

No reflection on 2025 would be complete without expressing our deep gratitude to Amanda Stoen, who faithfully served as Council President before completing her term this year. Amanda led with wisdom, steadiness, and a genuine love for this congregation. Her leadership helped lay important groundwork for many of the initiatives now underway, and we are sincerely thankful for the time and gifts she offered to Holy Trinity.

We also extend appreciation to every Council member, ministry leader, volunteer, and staff person who contributed to the work of this year. The strength of this church has always rested in the willingness of its people to serve.

## Looking Ahead - 2026 Council

- Pr. Will Rose
- Pr. Katie Elkin Ziehr
- Aaron Brown - President (Finance)
- Mandi Stiles - Vice President (Welcome and Visibility)
- Bethany Dieringer - Secretary (Racial Justice)
- Gail Colley (Member Care)
- Ed Collins (Property and Technology)
- Eric Eisenstein (Stewardship)
- Paige Krier (Worship and Arts)
- Signe Offenberg (Church and Family Life)
- Macy Johnson (LCM)
- Christy Quirk (Outreach)
- Will Arey (Faith Formation)
- Dcn. Holly Shipley (non-voting member)
- Megan Mash (non-voting member)
- Tom Colley - Treasurer (non-voting member)

As we look toward the coming year, we do so with confidence and hope. The momentum we are experiencing is encouraging, yet we remain mindful that faithful leadership requires ongoing discernment. The work of creating an inclusive community continues. The Restore 227 project will move forward under the guidance of its task force. Our ministries will keep adapting to meet the needs of a changing world while remaining rooted in the Gospel.

Most importantly, we will continue seeking ways to invite participation across every sector of congregational life. Stewardship, engagement, and hospitality are not initiatives with finish lines. They are practices that shape who we are.

Thank you for the trust you place in the Church Council and for the many ways you contribute to the life of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry. It is a privilege to serve alongside you as we pursue the work God has set before us.

With gratitude and hope,

Aaron Brown

Council President

## Report from the Parish Pastor

This past year the Outreach Ministry Team funded a local artist to paint a mural on the wall beside our door to the Campus Ministry Center. The mural has colorful balloons floating upward with a Bible verse from the prophet Micah, "Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with God." (Micah 6:8) The intent of the mural was to not only catch people's eyes as they walk by, perhaps getting a selfie next to it, but also to share out loud in a public way a foundational scripture verse in how we understand God and our posture towards our neighbors. In an unstable, uncertain, and polarized world, we as ELCA Lutherans continue to lean into discerning how to put Micah 6:8 into practice. I share openly with people all the time that we are a healthy intergenerational congregation that understands our mission statement and core values. When you read through this annual report I hope you will see this reality expressed. While I believe we are a healthy community of faith, I also understand we are always in a process of becoming who God is calling us to be as a community of faith. This upcoming year we turn 80 years old as a congregation in the ELCA NC Synod. Reflecting on 80 years of ministry at Holy Trinity it's clear to see God has done great things with and through us, is doing great things with and through us now, and God will continue to do so in the years to come.

I really hope you can take your time to read through this annual report. Our staff, Ministry Teams, and volunteers have worked really hard to put this together and to curate Holy Trinity and Lutheran Campus Ministry into a safe and brave space to grow in our faith and discipleship of following Jesus. In this annual report you will find a good snapshot of who we are and what we do together as a community of faith. Before my time at Holy Trinity, the leadership of our congregation shifted and revised the name of our committee's to "Ministry Teams". The language shift was intentional to help those in leadership at Holy Trinity to see that what we do and how we work together is not only to maintain the business of the church, but also to see that what we do is the ministry of the gospel. Looking back I believe this intentional shift and name change accomplished that goal. As we move deeper into 2026, our Church Council made it a goal to review and study these teams to assess what has been going well and where we need extra attention and help. As you read through this annual report, pray and discern where God is calling you to use your gifts and talents with any one of these teams and in our congregation.

In 2025 we were able to have the same staff in place the whole year. This stability allowed us to settle into an already great chemistry with one another and helped us focus deeper on our roles as a staff. I am truly grateful for my colleagues in our office and across our Synod. We are a great team as we navigate a complicated world and remain dedicated to guiding, caring for, and challenging the members and friends at Holy Trinity.

I remain inspired and called to be the parish pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry and I'm proud of the ministry we do together within and beyond our gathering spaces. With help from our Mutual Ministry Team, Church Staff and Church Council I'm making plans to take another three month sabbatical

this summer. My last sabbatical was in 2019, and the timing was great before heading into what the world would turn into in 2020. While I haven't planned out all of what I will do or study during the sabbatical, I hope to use that time to rest and recharge, travel, catch up on my "to read" booklist, and finish a book I want to write called, "God is a Surfer." Stay tuned for more details of what this sabbatical will look like and how we plan to keep the momentum we have at Holy Trinity and Lutheran Campus Ministry moving forward.

## **Report from the Campus Pastor**

Dear members and friends of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry,

My first full calendar year as Campus Pastor held many firsts in ministry, even as some parts of ministry began to feel more familiar. I attended my first North Carolina Synod Assembly as an ordained pastor in May, where the theme was "God is Calling Through the Whispers." Deacon Holly, six other members of HTLC+LCM, and I got to be in the room as God called our Synod's first female bishop! Throughout the election process, now-Bishop Emily Kuhn Hartner celebrated the strengths our Church has and how we can build upon those strengths through collaboration. As I look back at all the "firsts" in 2025, I know they were made possible by the grace of God and through the power of collaboration!

One of the joys of my call is the constant collaboration with our campus ministry students. Our current LCM President, Macy Johnson, wrote a fantastic report of LCM's impact in 2025, and I encourage you to read it! One exciting campus collaboration that is a "first" for us is a student-led Interfaith Council. Nicolas Hicks, a first-year student, represents LCM on the Interfaith Council alongside students from five other religious groups on campus. The Council meets monthly to build relationships, embrace curiosity, and learn from one another, with the dream of seeing a more connected faith community on campus.

Our annual Spring Break trip brought two big "firsts" – my first time leading a Spring Break service trip, and LCM's first time in Denver! The power of collaboration was evident across the organizations with which we served, and again, I'll point you to Macy's report for the details! LCM is unique as a campus ministry because of our ability to keep our meaningful trips affordable for students. Through football parking, congregational fundraising, and gifts from our alumni network, LCM students have multiple, financially accessible opportunities each year to encounter Christ in new places.

Speaking of congregational fundraising, the LCM Love Gala was my first spring fundraiser as Campus Pastor! It was a LOVEly evening made possible by collaboration across our campus ministry and congregation. Pat and Charles Killian, Christy Quirk, and Sharon Barrett all shared their culinary expertise. The evening's silent auction was a huge success because of student and attendee donations. And we tithed a portion of our

proceeds to Lutheran Disaster Response of the Carolinas, which showed me that our LCM students have a heart for collaborating even beyond our campus community. Thanks be to God!

The NC Synod has collaborated with campus ministries across our state in many ways this year. In the fall, LCM received a mini-grant from the Synod to spruce up our LCM swag. Our new stickers were a big hit at on-campus tabling events, and we have loved rocking our new LCM sweatshirts and ball caps! As a first-call pastor, I also benefit from the Synod's First Call Theological Education (FCTE) and First Call Coaching. FCTE is for pastors in their first three years of ministry, and my first FCTE was in February at Camp Agapé. The NC Synod also provides monthly first-call coaching for free!

In addition to North Carolina-specific collaborations, the NC Synod supports its campus ministers by paying for us to attend a Lutheran Campus Ministry Network (or LuMin) midwinter gathering. LuMin is the national organization for ELCA campus ministry practitioners, and in January, I got to spend my first midwinter gathering at the Isle of Palms retreat center collaborating with colleagues from all over the country. I have benefitted immensely from the support the NC Synod provides to its new pastors and campus ministries!

Midwinter gatherings are just one of the annual opportunities for education and collaboration provided by the LuMin network. This summer, I attended the annual LuMin staff conference, which was a collaborative effort with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Episcopal Church. Since it was my first time attending as a campus pastor, I arrived two days early for new staff training. I took so many notes and got so many great ideas from my colleagues, and I can't wait to go again in 2026! The LuMin Network also offers free mentorship for campus ministers, and I have been deeply supported this year through monthly calls with my mentor, Pastor Lori Ruge-Jones.

In addition to the broad, collaborative initiatives of our larger church expressions, I have been inspired by the smaller, often unrecognized moments of collaboration within HTLC+LCM. This year, LCM expanded our Homecoming weekend to include worship and lunch on Sunday alongside tailgating and football-watching on Saturday. We could not have pulled off a weekend-long event for alumni from all over the country without collaboration and teamwork! Katie Buell organized everything for Saturday's tailgate, and Rev. Mark Coulter donated branded koozies. Megan Mash opened up worship leadership to visiting LCM alumni, and Rev. James Hendricks preached about the impacts of campus ministry on his life. Jill Blackburn made sure we had catering for Sunday's lunch, and, of course, a huge group of alumni showed up for the weekend! Our alumni network is already strong, and I know it will continue growing as we collaborate with one another.

Finally, I want to express gratitude for the collaborative spirit that is alive and well within our staff here at HTLC+LCM. Some other "firsts" that they helped make possible this year include: my first LCM Sunday as Campus Pastor; our first "Pastors on the Hot Seat" event (where LCM students got to ask Pastor Will and I their burning questions about faith and life); my first time writing a sermon for Ash Wednesday; celebrating the

first class of LCMers who have graduated during my tenure; attending the NC Synod's Lutheran Youth Organization gathering for the first time... and so many more! It is truly a gift to be serving with collaborative colleagues in a vibrant congregation and campus ministry. THANK YOU, members and friends of HTLC+LCM, for showing up as collaborative co-workers in the gospel this year.

Whether 2026 is full of firsts or familiarities, God the Parent will guide our faith community as we work together to "Love God. Love Neighbors." God the Holy Spirit will empower us to live as "an authentic, inclusive faith community for UNC students and beyond" (from our LCM mission statement). And God the Christ will surround us in love every step of the way.

Christ's Peace,  
Pastor Katie Elkin Ziehr

## **Report from the Minister of Discipleship**

It's been a challenging and rewarding year of ministry for me here at Holy Trinity + Lutheran Campus Ministry. The challenging piece has been the state of our country and world. It sits heavy with all of us. It's been challenging as a preacher to not appear "too political" and yet to preach the gospel of Christ and not sound too liberal. It's been a delicate dance of staying grounded in the Word and speaking to our current situation. I so appreciate this congregation and the positive feedback you provide for all of us preachers here at HTLC +LCM.

The rewarding part of ministry is seeing people more engaged than I've ever seen them here at HTLC! (Maybe it has to do with the challenging part). Folks are showing up—for worship, Sunday School, Life Groups, Youth Group, Fellowship groups and more.

Here's the areas I've seen engagement in the ministry I'm called to do and felt particularly blessed by:

Women's Retreats: I love our women's retreats! We had a great group of 12 women attend the beach retreat in Kure Beach in May, organized by Kathy Dennis. Our theme for worship was our heroes/heroines. We enjoyed time at the beach and the pool together. In the fall, our Women's Spiritual Retreat at St. Francis Springs had a waiting list with 17 attending. We read Douglas Abrams' book with Jane Goodall entitled "The Book of Hope."

Youth Group: We have had a solid group of 20-24 youth participate in our activities this past year. We started off the year with our annual ski trip, one youth went with Pr. Katie and some LCMers to the LYO event in Greensboro, 15 youth attended the Memorial Weekend Mountain Retreat (where we also did some service work), and 14 youth attended the Fall Planning Beach Retreat at Ft. Caswell. Fall brought even more attendance as we had some new families join us. The youth have planned a good mix of fun, service,

spiritual enrichment, and worship activities for the year. I'm beyond grateful for Chris Stoen and Christy Gannon for their steady presence with our youth and for all the adults who accompanied our youth on retreats, cooked a meal, served as drivers, and helped with or led youth group this past year. Our parents deserve a heap of praise for making sure their kids get to church on Sundays for our youth ministry.

Sunday School: Godly Play (3 yrs-1st grade) and Godly Adventures (2nd-5th) have been going wonderfully this past year. It was such a great idea by our Godly Play Team (Lynne Franke, Mandi Stiles, Whitney Rivers, Amanda Stoen) to split the age groups up and provide an additional class for the older children. I've also been grateful for Paige Krier and Michel Ryder taking charge of KOOL Club which is held once a month during the Sunday School hour. Many thanks to Jon Arnold, Tom Colley, and Gary Herion for their leadership with our adult bible study and adult forum. We are truly blessed by such gifted volunteers!

Confirmation: We had two youth be confirmed in the spring of 2025-Ian Aguirre and Luke Engel. In the fall, we had quite a few more middle schoolers join our Sunday morning class. We currently have 13 youth in the program, with 6 being confirmed in May of 2026.

Life Groups: For some time I have wanted to start small spiritual growth groups at HTLC. I had a goal of getting one off the ground this fall. Thirty-one people signed up! So we have four HTLC Life Groups going at this time. I wrote the "agenda" for each meeting with a mix of ice-breaker questions, monthly check-ins, Lectio Divina (divine Bible reading which is a more devotional look at scripture than a bible study) and prayer. Many thanks to Jennifer Carbrey, Emily Evans, and Jane Hall for agreeing to be leaders along with me.

Fellowship Groups: Our Church & Family Life Team has provided wonderful fellowship opportunities for our congregation with things like the Easter Brunch, Congregational Picnic, and the Oktoberfest. All have been greatly attended this past year. Pr. Katie has been doing a phenomenal job getting our young adult ministry (Gatherings) back up and running! They have a great core group meeting regularly. Our Young Families Group met quarterly to have a meal while the kids were entertained by the youth group. We had a Greek Dinner night, a family water fun day at the Cooks', a Halloween Party hosted by the youth group for the kids while the parents visited, and a Christmas Party at the Buells'. Empty Nesters re-formed this fall with a dinner at Monterrey's and plans for a White Elephant gift exchange in January of 2026. OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans) continued to meet for breakfasts and lunches throughout the year with a Christmas Party hosted by Bill & Sue Andrews at the church in December. Womenship remains strong and enjoys monthly activities coordinated by Kathy Dennis. Kathy would love to find someone else to organize in the next year.

Volunteers & Colleagues: I continue to be blessed to be part of such a wonderful ministry team of volunteers and staff! I'm thankful for the committees and teams I serve on: Faith Formation, Church & Family Life, Mutual Ministry, Youth Leadership Team, and Congregation Council. I meet with a group of Triangle Youth Ministers each month, as well

as ecumenical group of women ministers. Both groups feed my soul. I've also joined the Triangle Interfaith Alliance board this past year and am enjoying interfaith conversations. I appreciate Pr. Will's leadership on staff and allowing us each to do the ministry we are called to do without micromanaging us, plus he makes things fun! We both serve as the historical memory on staff and I'm grateful for our almost 13 yrs together. Pr. Katie is insightful, detail oriented (gotta love that!), and brings a joyful energy to our team. I love her ability to affirm people and give them credit for their work. Megan is collaborative and loves to plan as much as I do! She is a serious professional who brings such a vibrancy to our worship and has such a contagious laugh! Grace is the perfect name for our Office Manager. She greets me every morning with a smile and strives to be of help to all of us in the office whether that's staff, parishioners, maintenance workers or even people illegally parking! She is a joy to be around and a great addition to our team.

I am blessed to be here. Thank you for your shared ministry,  
Deacon Holly

## **Report from the Director of Worship and Music**

Dear Members and Friends of HTLC and LCM,

What a year it has been! The music we have made together and our worship services continue to point us to our mission of loving God and loving our neighbors. I am grateful to work with a congregation that is justice oriented and seeks growth in living out its faith through the hymns we sing. Every time someone approaches me with words of gratitude for a hymn I have introduced, it breathes new life into my work. I enjoy teaching new songs and am grateful for the reception of them. We are commanded to sing a new song because they help shape our faith from the roots classic hymns have helped us develop.

A few specific highlights for me from 2025 include the following (in no particular order):

1. Premiering our commissioned hymn "From Wonder to Wisdom" by Mel Bringle at a hymn festival in February.
2. RIC Sunday hymn festival - Working with the incredibly thoughtful group of people who poured their love into crafting and creating reflections for this service was a joy.
3. 4th and 5th Octaves! - After a much anticipated wait, we finally received our new handbells and were able to incorporate them into our concert.
4. Our wonderful liturgical dancers! Their passion and talents are a blessing to all of us.

5. Children's Music - From presenting "Life of the Party" in the summer to "Radio J-O-Y!" at Christmas and all the choir rehearsals in between, our children continue to develop their musical and acting skills. I love watching them blossom!
6. The Adult Choir singing "The Word Was God" by Rosephanye Powell. Not only is this an amazing piece of music that the choir sang beautifully, but it allowed us to support the composer. A college choir has essentially stolen this piece of music by making a few minor changes and claiming it as their own. Many musicians programmed this piece to stand in solidarity with Rosephanye Powell.
7. LCM worship continues to be vibrant.
8. Working with Pastor Katie to create a different worship service to engage in the themes presented on Holy Innocents since it fell on a Sunday this year.

There are so many exciting things that are in the works for this year including starting a youth handbell choir and trying to schedule a guest artist to come for a weekend of music! Another goal of mine is to increase participation in the adult choir. I am exploring ideas about what this can entail beyond a traditional mode of participation that requires weekly rehearsals and Sunday performances.

The world around us in 2026 will continue to call us to action. We will continue to sing the songs of the faith and new songs. I'm looking forward to growing together in our love of God and neighbor through music and worship and exploring ways to take these things beyond the physical walls of HTLC/LCM.

In God's Love and Light,  
Megan

## Campus Ministry Report

It's hard to believe that 2025 has come to a close. We entered the year in the middle of Pastor Katie Elkin Ziehr's first year as campus pastor at Lutheran Campus Ministry and said goodbye to four amazing seniors, all of whom served on our leadership team.

We started off the 2025 year strong with a winter retreat to Lake Hyco! We spent our time together exploring different ways to practice Sabbath through student-led devotionals and activities. We had an incredibly magical trip as we experienced beautiful snow on the lake. LCMers had time to catch up with one another and refresh their minds before the semester got busy. We had cozy movie nights, snowball fights, and learned that some of our LCMers have some serious grilling skills! Upon our return from winter retreat, we held an in-depth spring cleaning of the campus center to reset for the new year, and kicked off a new topic for bible study: Women of the Bible.

In February, LCMer Silas Durham and Pastor Katie travelled to Hendersonville, NC, to work with Lutheran Disaster Response on an Interfaith service trip with other ministries at UNC. They represented LCM well, and this trip was a great follow-up to the WNC service trip to Lutherock in the Fall of 2024. A few weeks later, we enjoyed a watch party at the campus center for the Duke game.

In classic Valentine's Day fashion, we hosted a Love Gala as our annual LCM Fundraiser in mid-February, which a team of majority non-leadership LCMers worked with our Missions and Retreats lead to plan and execute. Many LCMers and congregation members donated items or services to the silent auction at the Gala, which was a huge hit! LCM thoroughly enjoys this night of fellowship with the congregation, and we were blessed to donate 10% of the funds raised to Lutheran Disaster Response following Hurricane Helene the previous fall.

We ended February with an evening bonfire where we sang songs, made smores, and brought new friends to fellowship with in the CC parking lot. Brooks Stevenson and I also served as Young Adult Resource Persons at LYO, an annual statewide Lutheran youth gathering in Greensboro.

In March, we connected with HTLC Raleigh and the Duke Lutherans for an evening prayer service. LCM is blessed to be in community with these amazing ministries, and we look forward to fellowshipping with them any chance we get. We also began our preparations for our Spring Break service trip to Denver, Colorado! We held another Duke game CC watch party just hours before our 6 am flight out of RDU. We couldn't be sad about the loss for long, as 15 LCM students, along with Toni and Dan Lehman, left the CC at 3 am to fly out for our trip!

Throughout the week, we worked with six organizations that were all intricately interconnected to support underserved communities in Denver and beyond. On our first service day, we packaged 110 pallets of food with the Food Bank of the Rockies, totaling approximately 67,500 meals. We were shocked to see a Food Bank of the Rockies transport truck at The Gathering Place the very next day, a trauma-informed community providing food, shelter, and mental health services to women and children facing poverty and homelessness. We unloaded the food, cooked and served a meal, and helped sort through donation piles during our time there. We learned how these organizations work in harmony to support one another in their important work, and we felt blessed to serve and learn alongside them.

After serving at The Gathering Place, we travelled to UC Boulder and joined their campus ministry for a meal and fellowship, much like our own Wednesday night worship. We also had the chance to travel and shop around Pearl Street Mall that evening.

On Wednesday, we sorted produce, stocked shelves, and helped individuals get IDs and obtain birth certificate vouchers to help them get housing, jobs, and public benefits at MetroCaring. After our shift, we travelled to Pikes Peak and Garden of the Gods, where we appreciated God's natural beauty and had a great time in fellowship with one another.

The next day, we worked with Urban Peak, whose mission is to empower and support youth in exiting homelessness. Later that day, we worked with Wholly Kicks to provide elementary-aged children with new socks and shoes. On our last service day, we worked with Earthlinks, where we planted 100s of seeds to support the growth of their community garden. That evening, we ended our trip as it began, by watching Carolina basketball! LCMers were struck by the service work we did together every day and are incredibly grateful for the congregation's continued support of our spring break mission work.

After returning to Chapel Hill, a couple of LCMers traveled to Christ the King Lutheran in Cary for our Region 9 Lutheran Student Movement retreat. We learned about being created "On Purpose, with a Purpose" and enjoyed our time fellowshipping with other campus ministries from our region. After the LSM retreat, several LCMers joined the congregation for the annual Chapel Hill CROP Walk to raise funds for programs aiming to eradicate hunger across the world. At the end of March, a couple of LCM students and Pastor Katie visited the Divan Center in Cary for a community Iftar dinner.

In April, LCM students read, sang, and led both worship services on LCM Sunday. We heard four inspiring senior sermons and were provided lunch for our families and us afterwards by Pat and Charles Killian. Between the services, several students gave a presentation on our spring break adventures. Later that month, we held our first PORCH service project as a continuation of our work in Denver. We also joined HTLC Raleigh for an evening of yard games and yummy food truck delights.

The semester concluded with our traditional end-of-semester activities, including Examcakes on the morning of the first reading day, Swipefest (where underclassmen swipe LCM into Lenoir Dining Hall), and Fancy Dinner, which took place at Maggiano's. We took one last Maple View ice cream trip and then held our annual leadership retreat at Cherry Grove Beach in May to bond and prepare for a new year in ministry together. On this retreat, we created this LCM mission statement: "We are an authentic, inclusive faith community for UNC students and beyond that serve and worship together in God's love to create a more loving world where people are safe to be themselves and grow in faith".

In the summer months, LCMers engaged in various summer internships, classes, and jobs to occupy their time. From being a raft guide to interning at law firms and news stations, I am amazed at the diversity of interests and gifts that our ministry has. A few of our LCMers, including myself, worked at either Camp Lutheridge or Camp Agapé. Strengthening my leadership abilities at camp prepared me to fully step into my role as President in the fall.

LCM was back in full swing in August with several "Weeks of Welcome" events for new and returning students. We hosted a day of popsicles and mingling, an evening cookout with fun Minute to Win It games, and a congregational potluck after Sunday worship! To extend this welcoming of new members to our ministry, several students tabled in the Pit for SOLEfest, an event where students can explore all the clubs and organizations that UNC has to offer. After the first few weeks of the semester, LCM took a

Maple View ice cream trip, and upperclassmen offered to take our new freshmen on a Target run to help them settle in.

In September, 19 LCM students travelled to Topsail for our annual fall beach retreat! There, we learned about all our different enneagram types, got to know each other better, and of course had awesome beach time. Upon return to Chapel Hill, several LCMers joined the congregation for a Rise Against Hunger service project where we packaged 10,000 meals together! We love opportunities to serve with the congregation and look forward to more events like this in the future. LCMer Sylvie Bon-Harper also began holding a weekly bible study and connected students as prayer partners and study buddies for the semester.

The annual outdoor worship service at Earnhardt Farms kicked off the busiest month of the year for LCM, October! The weather was beautiful, and we enjoyed bringing quilts from the campus center to spread out on for the service. Several LCMers went to Jordan Lake after the service for an afternoon of trash cleanup. I am proud to be in a ministry that prioritizes service and community outreach.

On October 12th, LCM took a trip to Freedom Park with the congregation, with a delicious dinner at HTLC Raleigh to follow. On October 22nd, we held a unique "Blessing of the Pets" ceremony in congruence with our ongoing Wednesday worship creation series. LCMers brought photos of their pets and were joined by congregation members with their real-life furry friends to receive a blessing. Continuing a tradition that started last year, we took on the North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh that weekend. We played games, ate lots of fried food, and enjoyed the gawking at the ginormous pumpkins. After our fair trip, we held a lock-in at the campus center where we watched scary movies and made Halloween cookies.

On October 30th, we joined HTLC Raleigh for a joint Reformation worship service and dinner together. The next day, we celebrated LCM-oween! LCMers gathered at the campus center for a costume contest, pumpkin carving, and a Franklin Street costume walk. I am grateful for our Community and Student Life team, Gracie Fisher and Brooks Stevenson, for their event planning and execution that helps our ministry to thrive.

In November, we welcomed many LCM alums into the campus center for LCM Homecoming, one of our most heartwarming traditions. It was a great time to reconnect with old friends and spend time together in a place we all call home. I'm grateful to be a part of a ministry that has touched so many lives before us, and will continue to do so for years to come! In the vein of heartwarming traditions, we also celebrated Interfaith Thanksgiving with various campus ministries at UNC and our very own LCM Thanksgiving.

We also started several new LCM traditions in November, like Pastors on the Hot Seat. Pastor Katie and Pastor Will sat down with LCM students in the campus center to answer their burning questions about faith, the Bible, and life. This event was very impactful for our students, with many of them staying well after the event to continue in conversation with one another. We also hosted the very first Great LCM Bakeoff, where LCMers made delicious desserts and creations and were judged by Bryan Lester and

Jordan Ziehr. We also had the opportunity to serve with PORCH once again in November, and are grateful for this growing partnership.

To conclude the 2025 fall semester, we decorated the campus center for Christmas, held our semi-annual Examcakes breakfast, Swipefest, and Fancy Dinner at Venable Bistro in Carrboro with a White Elephant gift exchange later that evening.

Throughout the fall semester, our Wednesday night worship services and dinners consistently averaged about 25 people, with some nights having way more! We also had excellent participation from students and the congregation in parking cars during football season. We are grateful for the continued support of this fundraising effort and to LCMer Landry McRoy for coordinating volunteers throughout the semester. Students continued to enjoy the Adopt-a-Student program, and we're thankful for several new families who chose to adopt a student this past semester! We were able to welcome in so many new and returning faces to our ministry this fall, and I am so incredibly proud of our group.

It has been a blessing to work in this role with exemplary student leaders and with Pastor Katie, who has been an excellent support to me, our leadership team, and a continued catalyst for welcoming new students to our ministry. I have been most grateful and honored for the opportunity to lead our ministry this fall and witness the blessings that God has graced our ministry with firsthand. I cannot wait for all of the amazing things that are coming in the next year for LCM and am eternally thankful for God's continued guidance that allows our ministry to thrive.

In thankfulness,  
Macy Johnson, 2025-2026 President  
UNC Lutheran Campus Ministry Class of 2027

## **Church Family Life Report**

The Church and Family Life Ministry plans and coordinates fellowship activities for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry Family. This includes the weekly Congregational fellowship between the services at Luther's Café, special events and annual traditions, such as the Congregational Picnic.

Signe Offenberg continued to organize Luther's Cafe each Sunday. People signed up via Sign Up Genius. We continue to need more volunteers for this ministry.

Jan Gottschalk spear headed Dinner Groups again this year. Nearly 50 members spanning three generations participated, kicking off with a chili lunch in February. The six groups gathered separately for dinners, and we concluded with a brunch in late April.

Church-Family Life hosted our annual Easter Breakfast on April 20. We served egg casseroles, pastries, breads and fruit. We had over 100 in attendance. Pat and Charles Killian decorated the whole Reception Hall, making the space inviting and festive. Pat

decorated and helped host so many fellowship activities at Holy Trinity + Lutheran Campus Ministry. We mourn her passing and miss her contributions to our team.

Our team hosted the Annual Congregational picnic on October 5th, along with the Outdoor Worship at the Earnhardt's farm. We had the BBQ and coleslaw catered by David Cannell of Cabana Boy BBQ and had the Congregation bring side dishes and desserts. There was a great crowd and the weather was perfect!

We had over 100 people participate in the Oktoberfest held on November 1st. We kept with the tradition of providing brats (thanks, Conrad and Pam Weiden), sauerkraut (thanks Char Clendaniel), and home brewed beer (thanks to Brett Grouteleschen and Pr. Mark Coulter). The congregation provided German Potato Salad and desserts. We served in the campus center and then enjoyed a band and fire pits outside. Many thanks to John Krall for arranging the music.

The team provided a bagel bar breakfast between services for our Annual Congregational Meeting in December.

We look forward to planning more fellowship opportunities for our Congregation in the months to come!

#### Church-Family Life Ministry Team

Holly Shipley (defacto Chair)

Hillary Brown

Char Clendaniel

Hilary Cook

Katie Engel

Jan Gottschalk

Jacqueline Houg

Signe Offenberg, Council Liaison

Eileen Schmitz

Anya Scholl

## **Endowment Fund Committees Report**

The HTLC and LCM Endowment Funds both experienced another positive year in 2025, generally in line with the third consecutive strong year for risk assets. Continued strength in the broad U.S. equity markets helped deliver double-digit returns, similar to those achieved in 2023 and 2024. The principal balances of both the HTLC and LCM endowments now exceed \$200,000 each, with the total combined endowment funds standing at more than \$716,000. The endowment funds continue to benefit from the ongoing support of our congregation and are growing to a size in which they can provide an ongoing positive financial impact for both HTLC and LCM.

The funding approach for the Endowments has been to encourage the members of the congregation to consider HTLC and LCM in their financial and estate planning. Legacy gifts can be very impactful without affecting the funding for the general operations of the church. In addition, the endowments have also benefited from receiving numerous supporting gifts on an ongoing basis, both from members of our congregation and from those with other affiliations (parents of LCM members, LCM alumni, former members, memorial gift givers, and others with ties to our church).

As of December 31, 2025, our total endowment funds were \$716,254, as broken down below. This represents an increase of nearly \$119,000 from the end of 2024, consisting of approximately \$23,000 in donations—predominantly within the LCM endowment fund—and nearly \$96,000 in net reinvested earnings /increased market value.

<u>December 31, 2024 Balances</u>	<u>December 31, 2025 Balances</u>
HTLC Endowment \$182,941	HTLC Endowment \$211,328
LCM Endowment 414,583	LCM Endowment 504,926
Total Endowment \$597,524	Total Endowment \$716,254

In October 2025, one distribution was made from the HTLC Endowment Fund. Funds eligible for distribution from the endowments have continually been retained in order to speed the growth of the principal balances in anticipation of positive market growth opportunities.

#### Committee Membership

Each of the Endowment Funds is overseen by an individual committee, however, both committees meet and conduct business jointly. Distribution recommendations to the Church Council are considered and approved by the individual committees for the corresponding endowment fund. The joint committee is chaired by a member of either committee, whose selection is agreed upon by the members, approved by the Church Council and ratified by the congregational vote. Committee members are eligible to serve up to two consecutive 3-year terms. Extensions beyond this limit may be approved by the Church Council at its discretion, when deemed advisable. Committee membership at the end of 2025 was as follows:

#### HTLC Endowment Fund Committee (Remaining Terms as of 12/31/2025)

Tom Colley (2nd Term through 2025), Bruce Allen (2nd Term through 2026), Kevin Schneider (2nd Term through 2027)

#### LCM Endowment Fund Committee (Remaining Terms as of 12/31/2025)

Chris L. Mattke (Approved 3rd Term through 2030), Sylvia Black (2nd Term through 2026), Andy Bober (2nd Term through 2027), Kaitlyn Maloy – former LCM Treasurer (Annual appointment)

Sylvia Black is serving as current joint committee chair and Chris L. Mattke is serving as current joint committee treasurer. In his role as Treasurer, Tom Colley will continue to serve as an ex officio member of the joint committee. Kevin Schneider and Tom Colley will be replaced on the HTLC Endowment Fund Committee as soon as practicable.

## Faith Formation Report

### Adult Education

Adult Sunday School Forum continued to take place throughout the year. For the most part classes were led by Gary Herion and Tom Colley. Topics included in the winter/spring included the Extravagancy of the Parables (led by Tom Colley), The Ten Commitments (led by Gary Herion), a couple classes on Women in the Bible (led by Jon Arnold), and a guest speaker, Stephanie Burke, from the NC Synod speaking on the power of giving (sponsored by our HTLC's Endowment Committee). In the fall, Tom Colley started with a series on the Book of Revelation followed by a couple of weeks on the Book of Jonah. Our Racial & Social Justice Ministry Team taught two classes on Black Lutheranism in NC. Pastor Will taught a session on the theology of Tolkien in preparation for our guest speakers that evening on Tolkien, Lewis and Sayers. Our new Bishop of the NC Synod, Emily Hartner, did a question and answer session as one of our final classes of the semester.

Jon Arnold's Bible study group continued to meet, often joining with the Adult Forum for various topics.

### Youth and Children Education

- The Godly Play approach helps children explore their faith through story to gain religious language and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play. Our children from age three through 1st grade participate in the Godly Play curriculum. Godly Play met every Sunday during the school year.
- Godly Adventures is for 2nd through 5th grades. This group started as a separate class in January. The children hear one Godly Play story a month and then go deeper into the topic for the rest of the sessions. In the spring semester the class explored the Easter story and the books of Ruth and Isaiah. In the fall, the class is exploring Bible stories through the lens of architecture.
- Confirmation is for 6<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> grades. We continued the Discipleship University Model with youth completing Core courses and Electives. We had two youth, Ian Aguirre

and Luke Engel, affirm their faith in the spring of 2025. Two seventh grade youth attended confirmation camp at Lutheridge with Pastor Will.

- The high school Sunday school class met monthly for coffee and breakfast.

The teachers who support this valuable ministry are:

Godly Play (Ages 3 through 1<sup>st</sup> grade) – Amanda Stoen, Mandi Stiles, and Lynne Franke were storytellers. Will Arey, Heather Slane, Katie Buell, Devin Buell, Jen Bishop, Jan Gottschalk, and Sarah Zink served as door people.

Godly Adventures (2nd through 5th grade) – Mandi Stiles and Whitney Rivers were storytellers. Will Arey, Katie Buell, Devin Buell, Louie Rivers, Beth Evans, Amber Aguirre, Sean Slane, and Steve Hall served as door people.

High School – Christy Gannon, Chris Stoen

Confirmation – Deacon Holly Shipley, Pastor Will Rose, and Pastor Katie Elkin Ziehr

### Music Camp

In August, around 26 children (including several from outside of the congregation) spent a week in Music Camp. Activities included story time, art, games, and rehearsal of a musical that was performed during worship. The week was primarily led by Director of Worship & Music, Megan Mash. Deacon Holly Shipley led a Bible story each day. Many adults and youth volunteered their time to make the week such a success!

### Youth Ministry

Our numbers have been consistent with 15-18 youth at many events. We continued our retreat schedule of a Ski Trip at Lutherock, Memorial Weekend Retreat in the mountains, and an August Fall Planning retreat at Ft. Caswell. The youth met several Sundays a month for service events, small group nights, theme nights, and outings. A special thank you to Christy Gannon and Chris Stoen for serving as youth advisors. Many thanks also go to all of the parents who cook for youth events, drive for events, chaperone trips, and make sure their youth are involved!

### KOOL Club (Kids of Our Lord)

KOOL Club began meeting again in the fall with one meeting a month during the Sunday School hour. This new model seemed to work well and attendance was usually 6-10 kids each time. The group is led by Paige Krier and Michelle Ryder.

### Women's Bible Study

This group has met for many years on Wednesday nights. They have studied various books of the Bible and most recently have been reading a book of sermons entitled "The Word of Love."

### Women's Spiritual Retreat:

Deacon Holly has been leading fall spiritual retreats for the past several years. They have begun meeting at St. Francis Springs Catholic Retreat Center and everyone has enjoyed this special place apart. In the fall, 16 women met to discuss the book *The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times*, by Douglas Abrams and Jane Goodall.

### Men's Retreat:

The first Men's retreat at HTLC (or at least the first in many years) was held in the fall at Lutheridge. Six men were in attendance. It was a working retreat as they continued cleaning up from Hurricane Helene. Many thanks to Pastor Mark Coulter and Mike Krier for leading.

### Lenten Devotions:

Deacon Holly led online Lenten Devotions during the season of Lent on Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings. Attendance was lighter this year with four people in each group.

### Life Groups:

Deacon Holly has had the idea to offer spiritual growth groups at HTLC for some time. This past fall four groups of 7-8 people started meeting once a month for personal sharing, Bible reading, and prayer. Our Life Group Leaders are Jennifer Carbrey, Emily Evans, Jane Hall, and Holly Shipley. The groups run from October through May. New groups will be formed in the fall.

### Faith Formation Ministry Team

Jennifer Carbrey – Chair  
Mandi Stiles – Council Liaison  
Frank Binkowski  
Tom Colley  
Joe Cook  
Lynne Franke  
Deacon Holly Shipley

## **Finance Ministry Report**

Finance, money, budgets, and giving in the church are, at their core, Holy Spirit-Led. Every Sunday in worship at Holy Trinity, we pause after the announcements to invite the Spirit to work in our own lives. This silence, or choir-led time, is a vitally significant part of worship, and none of us should underestimate its purpose. Apparently, after looking at this 2025 Finance Report, the Spirit indeed has been working among the generous people at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry. Thus, the Finance Team is privileged to share the following Finance summary for the year 2025.

**The Numbers:** Referring to the chart below, total receipts for 2025 were \$943,212 which was 3% (\$32,688) below our 2025 budget of \$975,900. Expenditures in 2025 were \$965,270 which was \$9,846, or 1% below our 2025 budgeted expenditures of \$975,116. In 2025 there was a \$22,058 operating deficit covered by the Operating Reserve.

As shown in the second table below, Reserve and Fund Balances at the end of 2025 remain strong, in particular: The Operating Reserve, which was used in part to cover the

operating reserve, has a remaining balance of \$118,482. The building and equipment reserve of \$24,750 is available to cover unplanned repairs and maintenance. Also, there is money in the 2026 budget to grow this reserve. The LCM fund balance of \$71,644 represents money set aside for future activities such as mission trips and retreats. The Capital Reserve of \$47,394 includes money to replace the church van as well as other capital expenses. The 227 Capital Campaign Fund of \$127,156 represents money for worship center restoration projects. Balances in the designated (\$84,834) and Gifts (\$23,543) represent funds to support future initiatives. Finally, HTLC (\$211,328) and LCM (\$505,229) Endowment Funds help ensure long-term stability of HTLC and LCM.

GENERAL FUND ACTIVITY							
	2025	2024	\$ Change	% Change	2025 Budget	\$ Change	% Change
<b>RECEIPTS</b>							
Contributions	\$ 889,503	\$ 932,521	\$ (43,018)	-5%	\$ 931,000	\$ (41,497)	-4%
Other Income	\$ 21,171	\$ 18,312	\$ 2,859	16%	\$ 15,000	\$ 6,171	41%
LCM Receipts	\$ 10,139	\$ 18,420	\$ (8,282)	-45%	\$ 7,500	\$ 2,639	35%
Operating Grants	\$ 22,400	\$ 26,306	\$ (3,906)	-15%	\$ 22,400	\$ -	0%
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$ 943,212</b>	<b>\$ 995,559</b>	<b>\$ (52,346)</b>	<b>-5%</b>	<b>\$ 975,900</b>	<b>\$ (32,688)</b>	<b>-3%</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>							
Mission Support	\$ 95,000	\$ 85,000	\$ 10,000	12%	\$ 95,000	\$ -	0%
Personnel	\$ 523,562	\$ 573,758	\$ (50,197)	-9%	\$ 529,404	\$ (5,842)	-1%
Programs	\$ 69,882	\$ 55,729	\$ 14,154	25%	\$ 74,800	\$ (4,918)	-7%
Operations	\$ 62,257	\$ 59,080	\$ 3,178	5%	\$ 64,100	\$ (1,843)	-3%
Mortgage Loans	\$ 128,412	\$ 128,412	\$ -	0%	\$ 128,412	\$ -	0%
Facilities	\$ 86,157	\$ 79,872	\$ 6,285	8%	\$ 83,400	\$ 2,757	3%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 965,270</b>	<b>\$ 981,850</b>	<b>\$ (16,580)</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>\$ 975,116</b>	<b>\$ (9,846)</b>	<b>-1%</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ (22,058)</b>	<b>\$ 13,709</b>			<b>\$ 784</b>		
<b>RESERVE FUND BALANCES</b>							
	2025	2024	\$ Change	% Change			
Operating Reserve	\$ 118,482	\$ 145,249	\$ (26,767)	-18%			
Building Equipment Reserve	\$ 24,750	\$ 34,650	\$ (9,900)	-29%			
Prepaid Pledges	\$ 17,600	\$ 30,273	\$ (12,673)	-42%			
227 Capital Campaign	\$ 127,156		\$ 127,156	-			
Capital Reserves	\$ 47,394	\$ 43,956	\$ 3,438	8%			
LCM Funds	\$ 71,644	\$ 71,213	\$ 431	1%			
Designated & Clearance	\$ 84,834	\$ 93,570	\$ (8,736)	-9%			
Gifts & Special Benevolences	\$ 23,543	\$ 14,952	\$ 8,591	57%			
HTLC Endowment	\$ 211,328	\$ 182,941	\$ 28,387	16%			

LCM Endowment	\$ 505,229	\$ 414,583	\$ 90,646	22%		
<b>TOTAL ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$ 1,231,959</b>	<b>\$ 1,031,386</b>	<b>\$ 200,572</b>	<b>19%</b>		
<b>END OF YEAR BALANCE</b>						
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>			
<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>						
Operating Cash	\$ 112,737	\$ 41,428	\$ 121,499			
Cash Reserves	\$ 523,299	\$ 410,533	\$ 369,430			
<b><u>Long-Term Liability</u></b>						
227 Mortgage	\$ 1,578,352	\$ 1,636,335	\$ 1,691,646			

## 227 Capital Campaign: Opening Doors for the Future

In early 2025, in consultation with the Building Committee, it was ascertained that a significant restoration to the Worship Center was direly needed. The Congregation and Council approved the 227 Campaign, along with a team of leaders: Amanda Stoen, Joel Shaffer, Kristin Mattke, Tom Colley, Aaron Brown, Cannon Stoen, Tonya Mason, and Sarah Zink. Within a few months, the \$300,000 initial goal was pledged or given. Our Finance Team assisted the campaign with finance reports, Ministry Moments, and on-going support. This 22.7-month project, ending in October 2027, is on-going, so members are reminded to fulfill their pledges to the campaign. As you can see (above), the current balance of the 227 Capital Campaign was \$127,156 at the end of 2025. See also our President's Report in these pages to learn more.

In addition, please note as well for 2025 Finances:

+ The 2026 Annual Budget was unanimously passed by Council and Congregation in December: \$1,019,002, reflecting an overall increase in costs and ministry programs added.

+Our Synod Benevolence (Mission Support) in 2025 was \$95,000, paid in full as was our pledge of \$9,000 to Habitat for Humanity, \$12,000 to IFC, and Rise Against Hunger, \$5,000. Holy Trinity gave approximately 14% of our contributions "outside our doors" in 2025 (\$126,000 to Mission Support and Outreach).

+With consultation from the Personnel Committee, staff compensation remained at NC Synod Guidelines.

- + The Finance Committee standardized the parking rate fee beginning 2026, so that all rates are fair and equitable for our community partners.

+ The Finance Team throughout the year continues to monitor Holy Trinity's Financial practices and procedures, including processing money received, electronic funds transfers, stock gifts, records maintenance, and more.

2025 Finance Team Members: Tom Colley, Treasurer; James Barrett, Financial Secretary; Toni Lehman, Financial Records Assistant; Joe Cook, Bookkeeper; Grace French, Operations Coordinator (staff liaison); Bill Andrews; Sally Paillé; Craig Ashton.

Special appreciation to Mr. Kevin Schneider, Treasurer January-August, 2025. Thanks, Kevin, for your work and smooth transition.

Finally, the Finance Team thanks all who partnered with us for a very successful year, not forgetting the Biblically-based truth of regular, sacrificial, and growth in giving to God. Welcome to the 2026 financial challenges and joyful giving days ahead. We have work to do, remembering the words of Walt Whitman: *"It is provided in the essence of things, that from any fruition of success, no matter what, shall come forth something to make a greater struggle necessary."*

Respectively Submitted, Thomas Colley, Treasurer

## **Member Care Report**

The Holy Trinity Member Care ministry team focuses on caring for and supporting our congregation's members. Our group consists of approximately thirty persons, including two new members this year. We delivered flower bouquets from the altar to seventy individuals representing God's presence in worship. Our bereavement group provided support for five funerals and receptions. Six family units were sent devotional booklets for each of the four seasons. Forty cards were sent to those who are sick or grieving, reminding them of Christ's Gospel presence. We kept up with health care supplies, making sure the AEDs are working and first aid kits are stocked. The Ministry Care Team maintains a supply closet such as wheelchairs, walkers, and other equipment for those in need. Stephen Ministry is an important part of our team with ten trained ministers, and two trained leaders with a third leader trained in 2026. Twenty Grief Booklets have been sent to members who have lost loved ones. Stephen Ministry serves both congregational and community members. We continue to support our grief ministry partners at St. Paul's Lutheran in Durham. Interested congregation members should contact these team co-ordinators:

Jane Hall- Stephen Ministry

Linda Heilig and Vicki Koontz- Bereavement

Amy Onstad- Growing Through Grief

Marge Freiman- Flower Delivery  
Gail Colley- Card Ministry  
Ava Krier- Health and Safety Equipment  
Jen Bishop and Holly Shipley- Meal Trains  
Gail Colley- Council Liaison

## **Mutual Ministry Report**

The Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Mutual Ministry Team is composed of a cross section of members of the congregation to be an earpiece between our full time ministry staff who lead worship and ministry, and our congregation. Our charge is to check in with our full time ministry staff regularly, and both support them as individuals, and also to alert them should there be any blind spots as the membership reports them. This team and its work is vital to our congregational health and wellness. If our leadership is well supported, and worship teams throughout our congregation are engaged and full, our ministry to one another and our neighbors will be enhanced. It is a win, win!

Those who serve at this time include Toni Lehman (chair), Cheryl Bolick, Rick Clendaniel, Devin Buell, Lars Bishop, and Heather Slane. Please reach out to us with any concerns or praise. We will be sure to pass it along!

## **Outreach Ministry Report**

The mission of HTLC's Outreach Ministry is to reflect Christ beyond our own doors. We have long-standing line items in the church budget for the Interfaith Council and Habitat for Humanity, as well as a smaller designated fund for community projects and disaster response. Our Outreach Ministry Team seeks to lift up needs both in our community and around the world, and to provide the congregation with opportunities to do God's work with their own hands. The team invites more participation from the congregation, both to join the planning committee and to take part in individual events. Project suggestions are always welcomed.

### **2025 Members**

Linda Varblow (Chair), Susan Bales, Christy Shaffer, Sarah Zink, Phyllis Taylor, Christy Quirk (council liaison), Pastor Will Rose

### **2025 Projects**

- Project 5000: Sponsored by the Inter-Faith Council, with Neal Mochel organizing for HTLC. One hundred (100) boxes were filled by members to address hunger in the Chapel Hill area, either directly or via cash gifts.

- CROP Hunger Walk: Supporting Church World Services and the Inter-Faith Council, with Sarah Zink leading the effort for HTLC. We had 12 walkers and raised \$3,785 raised from their sponsors and church members.
- Grocery Gift Cards: We provided roughly \$1,000 in grocery gift cards to social workers at 3 local elementary schools (Carrboro, Northside, and Frank Porter Graham) in May and again in December. These school social workers distribute the grocery cards to families struggling with food insecurity, particularly when school is not in session.
- Rise against hunger: We had an extremely productive, well-attended event in September, packaging shelf-stable meals. This event was made possible financially by a \$5,000 line item in the 2025 budget.
- Giving Tree: Sarah Zink led us in partnering with Orange County Department of Social Services to fulfill the Christmas wish lists for ten local children and provide grocery gift cards for their families.
- Lenten Offerings: \$6,494 sent to Lutheran Disaster Relief (\$3,494 from Advent offerings, plus an additional \$3,000 from Outreach budget)
- Pee-Wee Homes: \$1,355 sent to Pee Wee Homes (\$855 in congregant donations and \$500 from Outreach budget)
- Advent Offerings: \$820.30 split between the Chapel Hill and Hillsborough PORCH
- Balloon Mural: in consultation with Council, Property and Racial-Social Justice, Outreach commissioned a mural by local artist Loren Pease, located by the LCM entrance at 300 E. Rosemary. This was done to help demonstrate our values in a way that playfully engages our community.
- Interfaith Council (IFC): HTLC continues to give generously (\$12,000 annually) via a line item in the church budget.
- Habitat for Humanity: HTLC continues to give generously (\$9,000 annually) via a line item in the church budget.

### Looking Ahead to Projects in 2026:

HTLC is partnering with University Baptist Church and Orange County Social Services to provide meals for White flag shelter nights in February. This shelter will be opening on nights when temperatures drop below freezing, located in the former CHPD headquarters.

### Quilters 2025 Report

Our year started November 2024 and ended November 2025 (when we ship our quilts to Lutheran World Relief (LWR)).

- 244 quilts were made
- \$500 (from quilt sales) given to Ashlyn Rhyne Young Adults in Global Mission
- 1 donated to a new immigrant family from Burma
- 1 donated to LCM fundraiser auction

- 8 sold for \$125 each
- 3 baptisms - each got a quilt
- 42 donated to Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- 8 went with Pr Will for Hurricane Helene victims
- 5 donated to Guglhupf auction - business was wiped out by Chantelle flood damage
- 98 boxed to go to LWR
- 10 boxed to go to Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- 20 Lap quilts will be donated to Blairhouse Senior Center
- 9 baby quilts in reserve for baptisms
- \$300 given to NC WELCA to help with shipping costs for shipping quilts from LWR

Fabric and sheets are donated. Many thanks to the New Nearly New Thrift Shop in Durham for donating sheets and fabric to us! Also thank you to Susan Stanhope of Moving Elders with Ease for donating sheets!

Many thanks go out to Joel Shaffer for taking quilts for Western NC hurricane victims to Grace Lutheran in Salisbury and for delivering the LWR quilts to Grace Lutheran Church in Raleigh. We also thank Dick Sutherland for helping us move the quilts to the church and back as well as packing them for LWR.

## Personnel Report

The primary responsibility of the Personnel Committee is to review and recommend compensation levels for all church staff, based on compensation guidelines from the NC Synod as well as local compensation trends. The Committee also (a) sets the allocation of the annual Love Gift, (b) reviews and selects health insurance plan, (c) reviews current personnel policies and recommends changes for Council approval when warranted.

### Activities for 2025

- Reviewed Synod guidelines for 2026 compensation and recommended salary levels for part-time and full-time staff for budget planning
- Allocated annual Love gift to staff
- Reviewed health insurance options and selected one of the Synod recommended plans; Value Co pay 4000.
- Reviewed office needs with staff resulting in a recommendation to change the support position, Office and Communications Coordinator. The title of the revised position is Office Manager and is now a 32h/week position. A detailed job description was created and approved.
- Continued to review and edit the Personnel Manual based on feedback from the Council. The goal had been to complete this work in 1Q2025. The Committee is conducting its final review of an updated manual and will submit it to Council in February 2026.

- Conducted an interim review for Grace French. Solicited feedback from multiple individuals and reviewed a summary of the feedback with Grace.
- Conducted an interim review for Pastor Katie Elkin Ziehr. Solicited feedback from multiple congregation members as well as campus ministry students. Reviewed a summary of the feedback with Pastor Katie.

The Committee meets via Zoom on an ad hoc basis as needed. If you would like to join us, please contact Steve Hall at [stevehallnc@gmail.com](mailto:stevehallnc@gmail.com) or 919-259-9899.

#### Committee Members

Faith Ashton

Risa Brown

Margie Dubnansky

Steve Hall

## **Property & Technology Report**

This year was a busy and productive one for this committee. The following activities were completed:

- All required annual inspections were conducted.
- The church van was repaired after an accident.
- A new backpack vacuum was purchased for the sexton.
- A backpack leaf blower was purchased for the church.
- Lights in the sanctuary were replaced.
- Replaced flushing mechanism for all toilets in Worship Center.
- Arranged repair of locking mechanism for door into the Ministry Center.
- Numerous ceiling tiles were replaced in the Ministry Center.
- Installed new/larger sump pump in the well at Ministry Center to prevent flooding.
- Repairs were made to HVAC system in Ministry Center.
- HVAC controls were replaced in the Worship Center.

#### RESTORE 227

The committee managed improvements to the Worship Center that were approved by the Church Council. This included the following:

- Bids for replacement of three HVAC units were obtained and one was approved by the Church Council. These units will be installed in early 2026.
- Repair of joints for the concrete capstones were completed.

- Bid for repair of loose concrete capstones was received and approved by the Church Council.
- Bids for roof replacement were received. Waiting for repair of loose capstones before contract approved.

We are thankful for the members of the team who have been willing to devote their time, energy and ideas towards maintenance of our facilities: Aaron Brown, Sue Kirkman, Alan Larson, Conrad Weiden, Susan Bales, Joel Shaffer, Devin Buell, Charles Killian, Mike Krier, and Ed Collins.

Respectfully Submitted,  
 Ed Collins, chair  
 Property & Technology Committee

## **Racial and Social Justice Report**

During 2025, our ministry team opted to expand our mission and title to include “Social Justice,” in light of the current presidential administration’s attacks on many groups of marginalized people. This greatly expanded our mission, but we felt it was important to be a voice for not only people of color, but the immigrant community, members of the LGBTQIA community and all disenfranchised people. Thank you to Bethany Dieringer, our liaison to church council, for pointing out the necessity to expand our vision.

We were able to sponsor two sets of Sunday School Offerings.

The May 4<sup>th</sup> RSJMT “Stories” Sunday school class was a reflection on how our stories, when truthfully told, become the means through which human beings make sense of the world. The Sunday School session on Stories was organized around a 6-minute video, called “Reminders” that was produced by Kim Yunez and Nathan Simms. “Reminders” features the straightforward first-person account of a Vietnamese refugee (Xuan) who managed to escape South Vietnam after the communist takeover. During the screening we became mindful of the fact that the act of telling stories and listening to them gives us opportunities to understand the deep, often complex, inner lives of others. It was apparent to us that even one simple 6-minute story can have far-reaching effects. In “safe spaces”, the power of personal narrative can be used to bridge gaps between individuals. In “difficult times,” the power of our stories can comprise an act of resistance and push back against “authoritarian narratives” that are shaped to stifle alternative views. The session was well-attended and well-received.

In the fall, Sunday School offerings were organized and led by Pastor Katie and Alice Hедt. Pastor Katie developed a timeline of black Lutheranism in NC and nationally within ELCA and LCMS. Alice shared directly from her experience working with her husband Fred who was pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Concord, NC for 23 years.

Grace was founded by former slaves after the civil war, and is the only surviving congregation of the Alpha Synod - the only Synod of black Lutheran congregations in the United States. Fred Black highlighted the development of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church, a predominantly black congregation in Durham, NC and described the displacement of 100s of businesses in Durham's Black Wall Street. This destruction was part the dismantling of black economic power throughout the United States in the 20th century. These sessions were very well attended.

In October, we were able to go with Dr. Reginald Hildebrand to see Freedom Park and to hear more about its history and meaning. This was an impactful trip and we were joined by quite a few members of the St. Paul AME church. After our visit we were able to share a meal at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Raleigh. A contribution was made to Freedom Park in honor of Dr. Hildebrand.

Throughout the year, Alice Hедt has highlighted library offerings dealing with issues of racial and social history and justice. These highlights have been included in the weekly email blasts. Thank you, Alice!

The committee wishes to thank Marge Freiman for her service as the committee secretary. Her notes have been thorough and accurate. She has been a great help!

We are excited for the return of Sally Bond to our committee. She will take on as chair of this committee in the new year.

Racial and Social Justice Ministry Team Members: Marge Freiman, Cindy Morton-Rose, Fred Black, Kate Freiman-Fox, Pastor Katie Elkin Ziehr, Sally Bober, Devin Gilgor, Jeanne Kemppainen, Bethany Dieringer, Kim Yunez, Pastor Will Rose, Alice Hедt, Sally Bond

Respectfully submitted.  
Kate Freiman-Fox

## **Stewardship Report**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and Lutheran Campus Ministry is a healthy church when it comes to our finances and the stewardship of our gifts and resources. We have a dedicated and full Finance Ministry Team, and a stewardship advisory team including HTLC-LCM staff and congregation members, to help HTLC-LCM do our best to use our finances responsibly and help our members grow in their discipleship of using their God given gifts.

The long term vision for the Stewardship Ministry Team is to have a full year of program and continuing education when it comes to being good stewards in all aspects of life and faith. However, because our Stewardship Team was small and without an official chair for the team, we focused on our annual Stewardship Pledge Campaign in the Fall and our Project 227 Campaign last Spring (see our Finance Team annual report of details on

Project 227). We continue to discern ways to do a holistic approach for the stewardship of our many and diverse gifts as well as proclaim that our giving comes from a place where God has loved and blessed us first and foremost.

The Bible verse that guided our 2025 Stewardship Campaign was 1 John 4:19 - "We love, because God first loved us." Out of this verse and reflecting as a Stewardship Team and congregation we choose four goals to focus on:

- Grow fuller Ministry Teams.
- Discover and embrace our diversity of gifts and creativity at HTLC/LCM.
- Grow in our percentage of financial giving.
- Grow our Restore Community Fund that assists neighbors in our community going through hard times.

2025 was a record year for Stewardship and pledges at Holy Trinity. We received 110 adult intention cards. Of those intentions, we had 26 new pledges with some of our newer members and children signing up to not only put some of their own money in the offering plate but also to volunteer each week. Our intentions and pledges added up to a total of \$665,010 which is the highest amount ever to be pledged towards our annual Ministry Budget.

We are so full of gratitude for all who supported the 2025 Stewardship Campaign to support our 2026 Ministry Budget by turning in Intention/Pledge Cards. While these numbers are impressive, the most important thing is the impact your generosity has on the ministries of Holy Trinity and the lives that will be touched in meaningful ways. We encourage our members to stay current with their intentions and pledges and to find ways to serve our community with their time and ideas on Ministry Teams. We are a healthy congregation that strives to be the hands and feet of Christ in a world that longs for grace and hope. Your generosity empowers and equips us to be the body of Christ in the world. In 2026, we will continue to communicate how we are growing in our stewardship as well as be open and honest about the needs of our community.

Members of the Stewardship Advisory Team: Pr. Will Rose, Bill Andrews, Bill Johnson, Toni Lehman, Amanda Stoen, Amy Onstad, Eric Eisenstein, Tom Colley, Dcn. Holly Shipley, Pr. Katie Elkin Ziehr, Megan Mash

Submitted by: Pastor Will Rose

## **Welcome and Visibility Report**

The Welcome and Visibility Ministry Team is a team that is still in transition looking for members and official meeting times. That being said, because of our members, students, and church staff, Holy Trinity and Lutheran Campus Ministry is a warm and

welcoming church and we are visible in our community. While we can always learn and grow, Holy Trinity continues to be an open and welcoming, safe and brave space to grow in what it means to be disciples of Jesus. This is evident as we continue to have visitors attend worship each Sunday and have our friends and neighbors attend church events.

While we don't have a team that meets regularly, our staff and leadership have as their responsibilities to keep our website updated and current, engage with Holy Trinity's social media accounts, curate and send out two weekly email newsletters, and continue to have an online presence through livestreaming worship on our YouTube Channel.

Here are some of our numbers and stats with online engagement: We have...

- Around 20 visits a day on our website, around 35 on Sundays
- Over 530 subscribers to our weekly emails
- 569 subscribers to our YouTube channel
- 648 followers on Instagram
- 773 followers on Facebook

Over the last few years we have been focusing on the word "engagement" rather than "membership" in our community of faith, asking, "How are people engaging with one another and our community at Holy Trinity and Lutheran Campus Ministry?" We understand that people engage with our church in different and diverse ways, from in-person gatherings, to checking us out online, as well as worshiping with us online. In all the ways people engage with Holy Trinity we will continue to do our best in being warm and welcoming and visible in our surrounding community inviting everyone to "come and see" what God is doing with and through us.

The staff and members of Holy Trinity are also active in local community boards and committees and ecumenical clergy groups and events. Lutheran Campus Ministry participates in organization fairs as well as tabling on the quad for LCM and "ask a pastor".

This ministry team was once called "The Evangelism Team" but because of understandably bad connotations to the word "evangelism" we changed the team name to Welcome and Visibility. We are a part of the *Evangelical* Lutheran Church of America, and we do believe in spreading the good news of Jesus, and yet we also understand that there are healthy and unhealthy ways to practice religion in our world. There are for sure communities who claim the title Christian that don't present themselves as those who love the way Jesus loved. We want to share and express a different narrative and story. Our Church Staff and Church Council are dedicated to help Holy Trinity continue to be a warm, welcoming, and visible congregation. We have a great reputation and we want to keep it that way. We cannot do this alone, so we encourage the whole congregation to continue to be mindful and intentional in how we welcome visitors and newcomers, and how we represent and share our congregation in the world where we live, learn, work and play.

If you would like to be a part of this Ministry Team, please contact Pastor Will or Mandi Stiles, our Church Council liaison to our Welcome and Visibility Ministry Team.

Submitted,  
Pastor Will Rose

## **Worship and Music Report**

In 2025, the Worship & Music ministry embraced a multitude of exciting opportunities to enhance our worship together during the 8:30 and the 11:00 services and via livestream. Special thanks to the following members of the Worship & Music teams who have faithfully and tirelessly coordinated volunteers and services to enhance our worship experience: Linda Heilig: Altar Guild Lead and 11:00 communion set-up volunteer coordinator; Jan & Kirby Gottschalk: 8:30 worship team coordinators; Arty Bolick: Assisting Minister training and scheduling; Susan Bales: lector coordinator; Ed Collins: 11am usher coordinator; Pam Weiden: Service Flowers/Plants coordinator; Kathy Dennis: weddings coordinator; and to the many volunteers working behind the scenes, and during our services who faithfully volunteer to help make worship more meaningful every Sunday.

The Worship and Music Committee met quarterly and as needed during 2025. In December, Linda Heilig requested to be relieved from her leadership responsibilities on the Altar Guild. We gratefully acknowledge Linda's stewardship and decades of service to HTLC and this committee.

Moving forward, altar guild and sacristy responsibilities will rest with the Worship and Music Committee chair under the direction of Megan Mash, Director of Worship and Music.

The Worship and Music budget for 2025 was overspent. This was due to using the actualized 3rd quarter budget numbers to forecast spending for the entire year and actual spending for Nov-Dec was not considered in the final budget. This has been corrected for the 2026 budget. The budget was also adjusted to ensure enough monetary support for the upkeep of musical instruments (e.g. pianos, organ, etc.), continued expansion of the handbell music library and additional support for choral scholars.

Nine Memorial services were held during 2025 (services in Memorial Garden, Sanctuary and Ministry Center). We welcomed five children into the body of Christ via Baptism. One wedding was conducted.

Throughout 2025, the Adult Choir, Handbell Choir and 8:30am Musicians met, rehearsed, and faithfully led worship. The handbells provided worship music on nine Sundays, in addition to their concert in October, and attending bell festivals with the Raleigh Ringers in March and November. LCM handbell ringers played once in April. The children's choir offered five anthems during the year, in addition to singing during services in August and December. Many other talented musicians and instrumentalists also contributed their talents to the worship music program, for which we are grateful.

Highlights of the year: Our Director of Worship and Music, Megan Mash, continues to breathe new life into our worship experience and music programs and inspire all of us!

Some other highlights from 2025 include:

January: We celebrated Megan Mash's first year serving as Director of Worship and Music!

February: On February 23 this 7th Sunday after the Epiphany, we celebrated a Hymn Festival debuting a commissioned hymn focusing on language around Faith and Science. We welcomed Dr. Mary Louise Bringle, the text writer for "From Wonder to Wisdom", and she shared reflections and insight for the hymns during our worship together.

March: Ash Wednesday fell on March 5th this year. The theme for Wednesday Lenten Evening Prayers-vespers was "From Ashes to Lament".

April: LCM Sunday was April 6, where the LCM students led worship at both services. Palm Sunday was celebrated with Trumpet (thanks to Sofia Mouritsen) and a lovely liturgical dance offered by Sarah-Anne Stiles, accompanied by handbells. The children's choir also sang "Lo, He Comes" at the 11am service, preparing us for Holy Week. Our Easter celebration was ushered in by the handbells at both services, and Rachel Hall sang Panis Angelicus during the 8:30am service.

May: Not returning again until the year 2031, we celebrated May the Forth be with You Sunday (on May 4, of course). It was a fun service which ended with Mike Krier and Megan Mash playing a very lively arrangement of "Cantina" by John Williams.

June-July: On June 8, we began Summer Worship with one service at 9:30am on Sundays and celebrated Pentecost! A "pick-up" choir, inviting all singers, gathered each Sunday during June and July at 8:45 to rehearse a simple anthem for these services. June 29th was Reconciling in Christ Sunday, where hymns, reflections and prayers were the focus of understanding, accepting, and loving all who are loved by Christ.

August: From 04-09August, HTLC, Director of Worship and Music Megan Mash and many volunteers, hosted a summer music camp open to the congregation and community for rising kindergarteners through fifth graders. The children learned the musical "Life of the Party." In addition to learning the musical, this day camp offered lots of opportunities for fun, games, and crafts, and provided lunch and snacks! Twenty-six campers participated in the camp and then ecstatically presented the musical during the 9:30am service on Sunday 10August2024. On 17August2024, 8:30am and 11am services resumed.

September: Rally Day was September 7.

October: Outdoor worship was at the Earnhardt farm Sunday on October 5 at 11am. The HTLC Handbell Ensemble presented an excellent concert using the newly refurbished handbells on October 20.

November: After the Christ the King Sunday service on Nov23, the worship space was reconfigured for Advent worship. Several LCM students help assemble the Chrismon Tree

as well. On the following day, Laura Cooke, Charles Killian and the Collinses decorated the Chrismon Tree.

The first Sunday of Advent fell on the fifth Sunday of November 30; therefore, there was one service at 10am.

This year each advent candle was placed on one of four 36-inch tall stands arranged in a cross with the Paschal Candle in the center. The arrangement was placed in the center of the congregation in front of the altar. This allowed lighting of the candles to be "front and center" during each service. Each Sunday a different family unit lit the candles and offered the prayers.

December: Advent evening services began 03Dec25 using Haugen's Holden Evening Prayer. Under the direction of Megan Mash and multiple volunteers, children of HTLC joyfully presented the Christmas musical "Radio J-O-Y!" (York and Wright) in between worship services on December 14 to a large crowd. On December 18, Celia Bradley, with the assistance of Megan Mash and the Collinses, performed the Hanging of the Greens. Charles Killian hung wreathes decorated with Chrismons in windows in the Narthex and provided other decorations as well that warmly greeted members and visitors to the worship center.

4th Sunday in Advent (21Dec25) - A service of Nine Lessons and Carols was conducted at both morning services. Later that evening, the "Longest Night" was observed during a 4pm service.

Christmas Eve - The 4pm and 8pm services were very well attended. The 8pm service was also live-streamed. The 8pm service prelude of Christmas melodies was provided by flute trio Margie Dubnansky, Lynn Franke, and Megan Mash. Liturgical dancers Sarah-Anne Stiles and Amelia Evans were accompanied by Rachel Hall, voice, and Megan Mash, piano, with an arrangement of "In the Bleak Mid-Winter." The sanctuary, with the garland and the Chrismon Tree, was exceptionally beautiful this year. (The Advent candles/stands, along with the Paschal Candle, were moved to the east side for the Christmas Eve service and lit, along with the Paschal Candle, prior to the commencement of the service. This arrangement provided additional room for seating, and for the liturgical dancers).

First Sunday in Christmas - 28 December: The readings for this Sunday were in regard to the Slaughter of the Holy Innocents. The service hymns, prayers and reflections acknowledged this terrible act from our history that parallels the terrible things we are witnessing in our own present time.

The Women's Voices Chorus of UNC continued to use space in the ministry center for rehearsals during 2025. This group, by agreement, also maintains the piano in the Ministry Center hall where they rehearse.

We are grateful for Mike Krier who continues to serve as Livestream Coordinator, providing support and training to volunteers for online streaming of the 8:30, Lenten, Advent, and Special services, and for overseeing the maintenance and upgrading of these computer systems.

The Worship and Music Committee plan to meet quarterly in 2026; if anyone would like to be more involved in the planning and preparation of worship, please contact Director of Worship and Music, Megan Mash, or Kathleen Collins if you are interested in serving on this committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Collins  
Worship & Music Committee Chair