



Engaged By Grace

W E E K L Y

Ministry Announcements for the week of August 2 - 9, 2026

Our Sunday Schedule

- 8:30 am – Morning Prayer with Communion
- 9:30 am – Mission Trip Presentation
- 10:00 am – Worship in Person or Online at www.engagedbygrace.org
- 11:30 am – Neighbor-to-Neighbor Lunch at Lailaty Café

New This Week

Mission Trip Sharing

High school youth and adults from Holy Trinity traveled to Cleveland this summer for a 3-day mission trip. They will be sharing a “taste” of their experiences with a visual presentation and conversation accompanied by walleye fish bites on **Sunday, August 2nd at 9:30 am** in the conference room. Photos will be displayed and youth will be around to answer questions throughout the morning. See you Sunday!

Lunch Invitation from Neighbor-to-Neighbor

Please join the Neighbor-to-Neighbor team for one of our periodic lunch outings to ethnic restaurants. Our goal is to learn more about the country’s culture, food and the owners’ experience as immigrants. On **Sunday, August 2nd** we’ll visit Lailaty Café on the South Side of Columbus. The owners are from Egypt, and the menu includes a variety of foods including sandwiches, dinner plates, desserts and many varieties of hot and cold drinks. The unique thing about this restaurant is that they have a “Fun Corner” where kids and adults can play board and computer games. As they say, “Lailaty is a family-owned café designed to bring everyone together without anyone feeling left out.” We will carpool from church, leaving at around 11:30 and returning by 1:30. Please join us for a time of learning, fellowship and good food!

Embrace the Journey—Together in Christ!

Join us on **Sunday, August 16** for our annual **Backpack Sunday** celebration! During worship, we'll bless the work bags and packs we carry as we go about our daily lives—whether it's a school backpack, purse, tote, laptop bag, briefcase, or diaper bag. Bring whatever you carry with you daily as we ask God's blessing on the journeys, opportunities, and challenges that lie ahead.

After worship, everyone is invited to create their own **trail mix** with a variety of tasty snacks provided by the Theme Team. As you build your trail mix snack, we'll reflect on summer adventures while embracing the journey for the year ahead.

No matter the journey or where your path leads, we celebrate and **embrace the journey—together in Christ!**

Swimming, Pizza and Planning – Sunday, September 6

All middle school and high school students are invited to meet at Ron and Janet Benedick's house (2078 Yorkshire Road in Upper Arlington) to kick off the school year by enjoying some swimming, pizza, and planning. Come ready to swim on Sunday evening, September 6, at 5:00. We'll be in the pool from 5-6 and then have some pizza and do a little planning from 6-7. Parents are invited to be a part of the planning conversation (and pizza!) from 6:00-7:00. We're looking forward to a great year of fun and learning!

Habitat for Humanity News

Along with the Northwest Partners, Holy Trinity is in the process of building another Habitat for Humanity home, and we are off to the races! In this case, very much so because framers put up the frame of the house and that it is well along its way. We are now working on the inside of the house helping trades get the rough-in of electric, HVAC and plumbing done so that we can move on to insulating and eventually drywall. Outside, we will have a siding crew begin work on that aspect next week. Because the various trades are busy inside the house, there will be no work this week. We ordinarily work for a half-day from 8:00 am until noon on Thursdays, and Saturdays for a full day from 8:00 am until 3:30 pm, with lunch provided in between.

We would love to have your help! Everyone is invited to come out and get involved. Benson Ross will provide an update as to when they are next seeking volunteers and what the tasks will be.

Thank you, Holy Trinity, for your participation in providing another Habitat home for a family in need.

Stewardship Corner

Scripture is full of instances where God has used ordinary people like us to accomplish extraordinary things. God chose a stammering Moses to lead his people out of bondage, self-serving fisherman, James and John, to lead God's Church and spread the Gospel, impulsive Peter's confession upon which to build the Church, and Paul, who spoke of a thorn in his flesh, to be the first great missionary of the Christian Church. God uses imperfect people, those whom the world considers weak and flawed, to extend God's kingdom. When we allow ourselves to be used by God in whatever way God chooses, God takes our meager talents and blesses them. For more information about stewardship, please contact Max Buban at maxmbuban82@gmail.com.

News of Invite Ministries

New Prayer Concerns:

The family of Chris Fadley, former member of Holy Trinity, who died this week

Prayers for Our Members:

Sherry Hardgrove, recovering from heart surgery last week
Zinny Bond, being treated for ovarian cancer
Alice Larrimer, recovering from shoulder replacement surgery
Sara Neikirk, recovering from surgery
Richard Boettcher, recovering from kidney surgery
Elizabeth Sammons, traveling through Europe on scholarship and goodwill missions
Joanne Duncan, at Dublin Post-Acute Care Center, undergoing physical therapy after a fall
Rob Setterlin, recovering from knee surgery and a fall that fractured his ribs
JoAnn Curry, recovering from a fall and broken shoulder
Marge Markowich, recovering from a stroke
Brian Johnson, at Harrison on 5th, recovering from several falls
Wes Jones, undergoing treatments for lymphoma

Prayers for Our Family and Friends:

Chuck Jentes, Jill Banicki's father, recovering from major surgery
Craig Sturtz, the Barretts' and Wachtmans' friend, recovering from pancreatic surgery last week
Joe Berkemer, Matt Berkemer's uncle, undergoing chemotherapy
Phyllis Bliss, friend of Holy Trinity, undergoing kidney dialysis twice/week
James Gildea, Shirley Boyd's friend, recovering from a fall that fractured vertebra in his neck
Betty Mak, Shirley Boyd's friend, undergoing daily home dialysis

Pom, Na Brown's friend, recovering from a seizure
Sammy Cochran, Shannon & Abbey's infant son, Debbie & AC's grandson, home on anti-seizure meds
Violet, Carolyn and Clyde Cramer's neighbor's 8-year-old granddaughter, diagnosed with leukemia
Joe Stone, Genie Craven's son-in-law, dealing with the result of neck surgery
Brenda Boganwright, Bill & Cyndy Decker's neighbor, dealing with pancreatic cancer
Dr. Thomas Anderson, Bill Decker's friend, recently diagnosed with cancer
Tim Curry, Bev Farrell's brother and JoAnn Curry's brother-in-law, struggling with Parkinson's
Melissa, Sue Ferguson's daughter, battling colon cancer
Kirk Gerber, Pastor Bonnie's brother, hospitalized in Akron with an infection
Alan Greiner, Barb Keller's brother, dealing with multiple serious medical issues
Tom Kochheiser, Phil Kochheiser's brother, recovering from heart surgery
Rodney Larson, Don Larson's brother, diagnosed with cancer
Randy Isaacson, Anna Lynch's father, dealing with health challenges
Mary Ortwine, Pastor Dave Markowich's sister, undergoing health tests
Ryan Dunn, Janet Maxwell's son, deployed with the Ohio Air National Guard to the South Pacific
Jan Attanasio, Janet Maxwell's friend, diagnosed with ALS
Kathy Poling, Susan Poling-Jones's friend, diagnosed with cancer
Lucas, Susan Poling-Jones and Tony Jones' nephew, recovering from seizures and a brain bleed
Heidi McCarthy, Susan Poling-Jones' friend and mother of 3 children, undergoing radiation for breast cancer
Ben Souders, Susan Poling-Jones' friend's son, diagnosed with bipolar disorder
Romie Fullenkamp, Mandy Richards' uncle, diagnosed with lung cancer and in need of a new heart valve
Lois Rozenquist, Susan Setterlin's friend, battling non-operable lung cancer
Andres Torres, Juan Torres's father, having heart issues
Amy Lavoie, Becky Warnement's cousin, battling a recurrence of lung cancer
Chloe Walker, Annika Wachtman's fiancé Kyndall's niece, seriously burned in a science experiment at school
Michael Corey, Heidi Welch and Dan Sharpe's friend, hospitalized following a serious car accident
Those affected by natural disasters, the Armed forces, victims of terror, and all those on the margins of society most vulnerable to unrest, oppression and exploitation.

News of Embrace Ministries

Attention High School Youth!

Mark your calendars for an informational meeting regarding the 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota next year with the theme "Imagine More." The Youth Gathering is a wonderful opportunity to worship and learn with other young people from around the country. Families and youth entering 8th grade through 12th grade this fall are invited to attend this meeting at **11:15 am on Sunday, August 16** in the conference room to hear details about the Gathering and the registration taking place in October. Another informational meeting will be conducted in September for those unable to attend in August.

Pastoral Succession Discernment Process

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we continue the discernment for a future pastoral succession plan at the time of Pastor Steve's retirement, Holy Trinity's church council is reaching out to explore the financial feasibility of the co-pastor model and to conduct means testing based on the insights and guidance provided by the congregation.

The objective of this phase is to see what interest already exists in the congregation to help fund a co-pastor model, if that's the direction the congregation decides.

To be clear: this is not a decision to move forward with that model — it is an act of faithful stewardship, gathering the information needed to answer the questions many of you raised and to further guide our collective discernment.

We also want to create opportunities for our congregation to continue providing their thoughts and considerations about the models, and Council will continue to share information about the discernment process.

To share your thoughts, please complete and return the mailed response form by **Sunday, August 16th**. Responses will be reviewed by the executive committee in confidence with only anonymized & aggregated results shared with council / staff. Extra forms and a collection box are available at the reception window.

Thank you, again, for your active participation in sharing your insight as part of this ongoing process and reach out to any council member with questions — we are here to walk this road together, in faith and in fellowship.

In Christ's service,
Holy Trinity Church Council

President Lynn Anderson (lynnanderson1873@gmail.com)
Vice-President Nicole Carothers (nicole.carothers5@gmail.com)
Financial Secretary Peter Ward (ward.1@osu.edu)
Treasurer Debbie Cochran (cochrande62@gmail.com)
Secretary Allison Abell (allison.m.abell@gmail.com)

Got Snacks?

Everyone appreciates the Hospitality time after worship on Sundays to socialize while often enjoying a small treat or beverage. Drinks are provided by the Hospitality Committee and other folks are invited to bring snacks to share. Sweet, savory, salty or fruity – all are welcome! Sharing food together is a time-honored expression of friendship and fellowship. It's also a great way to recognize a special occasion. Please sign-up near the Hospitality coffee station to help provide “goodies” to share on an upcoming Sunday this summer.

News of Empower Ministries

School Supply Collection

Vacation Bible School began a collection of school supplies to share with children at the YWCA Family Center, a shelter that temporarily houses families that find themselves homeless. Now everyone at Holy Trinity is being asked to add their own contributions as well. Throughout the summer and leading up to the **Blessing of the Backpacks and Bags on Sunday, August 16**, we will be collecting the following NEW school supplies to be distributed to children at the Y-Center:

- Pencils and pens
- Notebooks
- Folders
- Crayons, Colored Pencils, Markers
- Clear (see-through) backpacks

Contributions can be placed in the collection bin located under the signup table in the Gathering space. These items will be blessed along with our own bags on Sunday, August 16. Thanks in advance for your help!

Empowerment Shelf – August 2026

By Elizabeth Sammons with love from Neighbor-to-Neighbor

Great Black Hope, Makena: See Me, Hear Me, Know Me, and Accountable, are Neighbor to Neighbor's books of note for this month. This literature intends to expand our awareness, theology and/or acceptance of diverse viewpoints. We hope you'll discover how these writings from various generations embrace what it means to be human and to walk in spirit. ...

Great Black Hope by Franklin, Rob

An arrest for cocaine possession leaves Smith, a queer Black Stanford graduate, in an absurd but dangerous situation: his class protects him, but his race does not. He flees to his hometown of Atlanta, only to buckle under the weight of expectations from his family of doctors and lawyers. Smith goes on a dizzying journey through the nightlife circuit, anonymous recovery rooms, Atlanta's Black society set, police investigations and courtroom dramas, and a circle of friends coming of age in a new era. This is a story about what it means to exist between worlds, to be upwardly mobile yet spiraling downward, and how to find a way back to hope.

Makena: See Me, Hear Me, Know Me by Patrick, Denise Lewis

Makena has a passion for fashion and clothes are a way for her to connect with others--especially when she shares her OOTD (outfit of the day). But some people don't see Makena for who she is. They only see her as a Black girl and make unfair assumptions. When she experiences a racist incident in her own neighborhood, she decides to use fashion to speak up about injustice. For grades 3-6 and older readers.

Accountable by Slater, Dashka.

A young adult nonfiction book on how Albany High School handles a racist social media incident that incurs lasting and devastating consequences. For senior high and older readers.

Ministry Calendar at Holy Trinity for August 2 - 9, 2026

Sunday, August 2, 2026

8:30 am – Morning Prayer with Communion
9:30 am – Mission Trip Presentation
10:00 am – Worship with Communion in Person or Online at www.engagedbygrace.org
11:30 am – Neighbor-to-Neighbor Lunch at Lailaty (3869 S. High St.)

Monday 6:30 pm – BSA Troop 555

Tuesday No Events Scheduled

Wednesday 10:15 am – Preacher's Bible Study
7:00 pm – Church Council

Thursday 12:30 pm – LSS Food Pantry

Friday No Events Scheduled

Saturday No Events Scheduled

Sunday, August 9, 2026

8:30 am – Morning Prayer with Communion
10:00 am – Worship with Communion in Person or Online at www.engagedbygrace.org

Holy Trinity Schedule of Worship Servers – August 2026

Date	Time	Welcome Center	Assisting Minister	Lay Reader	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Livestream	Bread Bakers	Communion Team
Aug. 2	10:00 am		Jody Passafume	Keith Townsend	Chris Pryor Peter Ward	AC Cochran Elli Cucksey	Mark Abell	Debbie Cochran	Chris Grabenstatter Janette MacConnell Kris Kochheiser
Aug. 9	10:00 am	Bob & Barb Campbell	Celeste Chappell-Bates	Beth Myser	Skip Duncan Doug Myser	Deb Bickford Peter Ward	Jared Forts	Chris Grabenstatter	Nancy VanFossen Lynn Anderson
Aug. 16	10:00 am		Ron Benedick	Ben Kaffenberger	Matt Sharp Adam Wagenbach	Herb Maxwell Janet Maxwell	Matt Fox	Nancy VanFossen	Kathy Higbee Marie Tanner

Sunday Worship Texts

Sunday, August 2 – Luke 17:11-19; 2 Timothy 2:8-15 **Remember Jesus Christ, Raised from the Dead**

Sunday, August 9 – Luke 18:6-8; 2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:8, 16-18 **The Lord Stood by Me**

The Holy Trinity Staff:

Pastor: Steve Wachtman (steve.wachtman@engagedbygrace.org)

Preschool: Molly Capuano and Jackie Newlon (directorhtcdp@gmail.com)

Administrator: Laura Hudson (laura.hudson@engagedbygrace.org)

Minister of Music: Joshua Brodbeck (joshua.brodbeck@engagedbygrace.org)

Director of Faith Formation: Noelle Fox (noelle.fox@engagedbygrace.org)

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