



Engaged By Grace

W E E K L Y

Ministry Announcements for the week of August 16 - 23, 2026

Our Backpack Sunday Schedule

- 8:30 am – Morning Prayer with Communion
- 10:00 am – Worship in Person or Online at www.engagedbygrace.org
- 11:20 am – Informational Meeting for 2027 National Youth Gathering

New This Week

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!**

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.

Calling All Tweens (3rd-5th graders)!

Pastor Steve will be hosting a campfire in his backyard on **Sunday, August 23 from 7-8 pm** to kick off the new school year. All 3rd-5th grade students and their parents are invited to attend for s'mores and planning.

Director of Faith Formation Noelle Fox and Pastor Steve are excited to get the group together so we can hang out and get to know one another better. We'll also spend some time talking about ways we can serve Christ together in the upcoming ministry year. In recent years, the Tweens have supported the *ThankFULL Bag Project* which provides bags of food for families at the LSS Food Pantry, we've crocheted hats in the winter for people in need and collected books for schools in underserved communities. Maybe you have some new ideas, too!

Plan to join us on Sunday, August 23 at Pastor Steve's home, 1702 Cardiff Road. We can't wait to see you!

Interested in learning more about Holy Trinity?

An informal gathering will take place on **Sunday, September 13 at 9:15 am** for anyone interested in learning more about Holy Trinity. We'll get to know one another a little better and the ministry we share. People interested in membership will be received at a mutually agreeable date. For planning purposes, it would be helpful to indicate your interest by emailing Pastor Steve (steve.wachtman@engagedbygrace.org) or Laura Hudson (laura.hudson@engagedbygrace.org) or by signing up at the signup table in the Gathering Space.

First English Breakfast Ministry

Holy Trinity will provide breakfast for our friends at First English Lutheran Church on **Sunday, August 23**, serving breakfast burritos, scrambled eggs, rice, black beans, potatoes, fruit and breakfast pastries. Items needed for the free pantry include SMALL jars of instant coffee, peanut butter and jelly, canned food with easy-open pop-tops, socks and personal or paper goods. If you'd like to contribute any of these items, please click the link below so we know what to expect. We'll take stock each month and update the list as items run low. All food and/or pantry donations should be delivered to Holy Trinity by Sunday, August 23 at 8:00 am for transport to First English, or you can drop off at the Warnements' home in advance, drop to Becky's office or bring donations directly to First English, 105 E. Main Street 43205 by 8:15 am that Sunday. To contribute or help serve, [please click here](#).

Adult Discipleship Training for 2026-2027

The life of faith for a disciple of Jesus includes these six dimensions drawn from the witness of the Bible: Prayer, Worship, Bible reading, Service, Church family and Stewardship. Our slate of Adult Faith Formation events on Sundays from 11:15 am-12 noon after worship will again offer topics across all those dimensions. Grab some coffee or juice, cookie or donut, and join the conversation in the Conference Room according to this schedule:

- **The Church and Climate Crisis** (Stewardship)
 - Sundays, August 23, 30, September 6, 13
- **Christian Response to Migration and Human Trafficking** (Service)
 - September 20, 27, October 4, 11
- **Against Christian Nationalism** (Bible)
 - November 1, 8, 15
- **Nurturing Faith Study Series** (Prayer)
 - January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, February 7
- **Faith and Civic Life** (Church Family)
 - February 14, 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21
- **Research on the Need for Pastors** (Worship)
 - April 4, 11, 18, 25
- **Oh, the Things an Organ Can Do** (Worship)
 - May 2, 9, 16

Contact Pastor Steve with any questions or suggestions. And plan now to participate and invigorate your faith for daily living!

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!

Concerts at Holy Trinity

The sixteenth concert season at Holy Trinity is the most ambitious we have attempted and we can't do it without you! An organist from Notre-Dame de Paris, two midweek half-hours (in Advent and Lent), the Messiah with our own choir and orchestra, a friendship turned into duets and a finale of organ and brass. This year's lineup is as follows:

Friday, October 9, 2026 * 7:00 pm * Tickets \$30, Free to Patrons of the Concert Series
Vincent Dubois & Marie-Andree Jorger (organ and accordion)

Wednesday, December 9, 2026 * 11:30 am (Midweek)
Advent Concert (violin and organ)

Sunday, December 20, 2026 * 4:00 pm * Free Ticket Required
Handel's Messiah (choir and orchestra of Holy Trinity)

Wednesday, February 17, 2027 * 11:15 am (Midweek)
Lenten Concert (Joshua Brodbeck, organ)

Sunday, February 28, 2027 * 4:00 pm
Jeff Daubenmire & Joshua Brodbeck (piano and organ duets)

Sunday, April 25, 2027 * 4:00 pm
Cathedral Brass with Joshua Brodbeck (organ and brass)

Save the dates and plan to join us!

Church Fam Connect Resumes Sunday, August 23

Our weekly Sunday morning learning time for all ages will resume on **Sunday, August 23 from 9:20-9:50 am** (between worship services). This is a brief time for us to gather together to deepen our faith as our Church Fam Connects with:

- The bible story for each week and
- Our church family.

Whether you attend Church Fam Connect after worshipping at the 8:30 service or prior to 10:00 worship, you'll encounter God through conversation, song, storytelling, a group activity, prayer and blessing. Our church community provides a unique opportunity for enrichment through intentional interaction across the diversity of generations. Everyone's participation helps nurture this ministry in unique ways. Please join us!

Stewardship Corner

In 1 John 4:16 we read, *"God is love."* God's love is evident in God's giving. *"For God so loved the world that God gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16). Because of God's love, God gave us the gift that we needed most – our Savior. Out of love and gratitude for who God is and what God has done for us, we strive to live as Christ did. Through our giving, we become like Christ. The more we give from hearts filled with love and gratitude, the more we reflect Christ's likeness. For more information about stewardship, please contact Max Buban at maxmbuban82@gmail.com.

News of Invite Ministries

Prayers for Our Members:

Sherry Hardgrove, recovering from heart surgery

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

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:

Michael Corey, Heidi Welch and Dan Sharpe's friend, hospitalized following a serious car accident
Chuck Jentes, Jill Banicki's father, recovering from major surgery
Craig Sturtz, Barretts' and Wachtmans' friend, exploring new treatments at Mayo Clinic for pancreatic cancer
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
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
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
Chloe Walker, Annika Wachtmann's fiancé Kyndall's niece, seriously burned in a science experiment at school
Amy Lavoie, Becky Warnement's cousin, battling a recurrence of lung cancer
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

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 a 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 front 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)

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.

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.

Ministry Calendar at Holy Trinity for August 16 - 23, 2026

Sunday, August 16, 2026 – Backpack Sunday

8:30 am – Morning Prayer with Communion
10:00 am – Worship with Communion in Person or Online at www.engagedbygrace.org
11:20 am – Informational Meeting for National Youth Gathering

Monday 3:00 pm – LSS Food Pantry
6:30 pm – BSA Troop 555

Tuesday 7:30 pm – Habitat for Humanity Steering Committee

Wednesday 10:15 am – Preacher's Bible Study

Thursday No Events Scheduled

Friday No Events Scheduled

Saturday No Events Scheduled

Sunday, August 23, 2026

8:00 am – First English Breakfast Ministry
8:30 am – Morning Prayer with Communion
9:20 am – Church Fam Connect
10:00 am – Worship with Communion in Person or Online at www.engagedbygrace.org
11:15 am – Adult Faith Enrichment – The Church and Climate Crisis
7:00 am – Tweens Campfire at Pastor Steve's

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. 16	10:00 am		Ron Benedick	Ben Kaffenberger	Matt Sharp Adam Wagenbach	Herb Maxwell Janet Maxwell	Matt Fox	Nancy VanFossen	Kathy Higbee Marie Tanner
Aug. 23	10:00 am		Elli Cucksey	Karen Larson	Dan Perry Mike Lamont	Jeff Sammons MJ Neiman	Ben Kaffenberger	Suellen Sharp	Joann Duncan Terri Michael
Aug. 30	10:00 am		Tim Hudson	Dyann Taylor	Ron Benedick AC Cochran	Nancy Riley	Matt Sharp	Becky Warnement	Suellen Sharp Nancy Riley

Sunday Worship Texts

Sunday, August 16 – Matthew 22:34-40; Exodus 19:1-6; 20:1-2 **Nineteen Comes Before Twenty**

Sunday, August 23 – Matthew 22:34-40; Exodus 20:3-11 **Tuned into God**

For mobile giving options, scan code below with your phone's camera or go to <http://www.engagedbygrace.org/offering>

