

MINISTRY SITE PROFILE SUMMARY FOR CONGREGATION

The Leader We Seek:

A Minister of Word & Sacrament (Pastor) rostered by the ELCA. The candidate must have a *Master of Divinity* or equivalent. We are open to a first call candidate. We are open to candidates with 1-10 years of experience.

Top Five Ministry Tasks

- Building a strong sense of community
- Pastoral Care and Visitation
- Ministry in Crisis
- Interpreter of Theology
- Small Group Ministry

Gifts for Ministry – Top Priority

- Help people develop a spiritual life
- Provide care and nurture
- Be active in the visitation of members and non-members
- Build a sense of community among the people with whom he/she/they work.
- Help others develop their leadership abilities and skills for ministry

Gifts for Ministry – Very Helpful

- Strong commitment and loyalty to the ELCA
- Deal effectively with conflict
- Bring joy and good humor to relationships
- Be able to share leadership and work in a team
- Be creative and innovative about tasks

Programs

Holy Trinity is very open to experimentation in programming. While there are long-established activities and organizations, they are starting places from which creativity is embraced. Our programs are inclusive and a priority is making sure everyone knows they are loved. Some of the programs most connected to the work of the Pastor for Care & Community are:

- A growing small group ministry which offers support groups including grief, divorce recovery groups
- Fellowship groups that meet to build friendship
- Study groups including book studies and biblical study
- Serving groups that work with mission partners and serve in the congregation
- Ministries of care including Stephen Ministers, eucharistic ministers, congregational care of the homebound

- Inviting ministries that include integration of new members, baptismal preparation, marriage, and wedding ministry
- Teaching ministries including book studies, work with confirmation students, adult learning opportunities

The congregation also has a wide variety of programs that include:

- Music groups for all ages and level of gifts
- Active lay ministry in worship
- Mission partnerships with Mosaic, LSI, ELCA World Hunger Appeal, Habitat for Humanity, the Freestore, Hope Ministries and our own food pantry

The congregation has active ministries with the children and youth of the congregation that include learning, service, and faith milestone ministries.

Goals

Our mission statement is ***Share God's love.***

Our vision is: The people of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church strive to emulate and incarnate the open arms of Jesus Christ as he revealed God's love by embracing the broken, welcoming the outcast, and giving his life on the cross.

The values that guide our mission, our future and help us all live as God calls us to live are:

- Authentic Worship - Worship that is focused on God, God's Word and sacraments, and invites genuine praise and meaningful encounter with God in Christ.
- Radical Hospitality - Going the extra mile to welcome and include all people into our life as a congregation and individuals.
- Intentional Compassion - Sharing God's love and care for family, friends, members, neighbors, and the world on purpose.
- Extravagant Generosity - Sharing what God has first given us in ways that show the abundance of God's grace. Spiritual Transformation - Learning, growing, worshiping, and living in a way that invites Christ, through the power of the Spirit, to transform and change us.
- Fearless Witness - Making decisions and acting boldly in faith in ways that demonstrate our trust in God and each other.

These values are intended to guide us as a community and encourage us individuals to live our faith deeply. They should represent who we are already at our best, who we want to be as God calls us to grow.

While the scriptures, creeds, and confessions of the Church across time and space profess the faith we hold, the essence of our congregation's beliefs are summed up in God's love.

- God is love that binds together everyone and everything.
- God's love is guaranteed for all through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God's love is not earned but is a free gift to broken people.
- God's love is poured out when God's people gather around Word, water, wine, and bread.
- God's love is shared abundantly when God's people are the hands, feet, and open arms of Jesus. God's love transforms us to be the people God created us to be.
- These statements of belief sum up, but do not replace or modify the ancient creeds or confessions of the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church or the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Energy

Holy Trinity is excited about our growing connection with the world around us and the inclusion of everyone in our community. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

We are excited about the opportunities that have arisen from the pandemic as we have been pushed even more to offer worship and programming using technology and virtual forums. We are also excited about cherishing the connections that have been diminished when we return to gathering fully.

We are excited about passing on the gift of faith through families to the next generation in ways that are rooted in love and service. We have begun to implement a congregation-wide curriculum entitled "School of Love" where the central objectives are to teach and lead people to love God, love neighbor, love creation.

We are excited about the way we continue to find new mission partners and opportunities to be light in a dark world. The new partnerships are driven by the passion of members who are acting on their baptismal calling.

Purpose, Giftedness, and Mission

Purpose

Holy Trinity has a place for you. "Even if we don't know you, we already love you."

We welcome:

- Those who struggle to find a place to belong in this world,
- Those who long for something to believe that gives life meaning and purpose, and
- Those who desire to become what God created them to be.

Holy Trinity's involvement and leadership is, arguably, more important now than ever. In the midst of dramatic division in our society - social, racial, LGBTQ, economic, and political

issues - the congregation is committed to reflecting God's light within the community. The congregation seeks to serve and love all people and unite where there is division.

Giftedness

Holy Trinity's leadership has a heart for all people and is a significant asset to keeping the congregation moving forward. The staff is an asset, working effectively as a team and possessing all the gifts and skills needed to execute the mission and vision. The congregation is generous with both "time and treasure." Even with a large physical plant demanding repairs and upkeep and a significant investment in sharing our offerings and supporting staff, the congregation more than manages. The congregation has a gift of hospitality that it continues to deepen.

The obstacles to using the gifts present are not uncommon. Time is stretched thin by the many commitments present in suburban life. Offering can lag because of the affluence of the community.

Mission

The inclusion, acceptance, involvement of and the reconciliation with all people.

Service to those in need, especially the hungry, homeless, and spiritually seeking people of our community.

The faith formation and spiritual transformation of youth (the next generation), and every member of the congregation.

COMMENTARY

The Pastor for Care and Community works as a member of a team which includes the Lead Pastor, Minister for Learning, Minister for Worship & Music, and the staff. The staff is organized into ministry teams for Worship, Care & Community, Outreach, Stewardship, and Learning. Work is collaborative and leads to the formation of teams of members engaged in the mission of the church through its various programs.

Holy Trinity is:

- A congregation that honors the ancient traditions of the church while it presents them in ever new ways, to an ever-changing community.
- A congregation where people can find not just the latest spiritual fads but find a path to spiritual growth and maturity that touches their broken places, offers meaning and hope for every day, and roots people in a faith that is both ancient and future.
- A congregation that proclaims a message of God's love and grace revealed in Christ and his people in a way that seriously welcomes those who have been unwelcome for a host of reasons; loves those who are hard to love; embraces those who have been beat up by the church's judgmental words; ministers to those who have been,

for whatever reason, dismissed disenfranchised, disaffected by, and become disgusted with the church because they did not find good news.

- A congregation that becomes known as THE place that doesn't just care about the hungry, but makes a difference in their lives, locally, nationally, and globally and offers those in need the opportunity to be welcomed and grow in faith and the ability to live each day.
- A congregation that passes on the faith to a new generation in a way that makes a difference in the lives of the participants and the whole world.
- A congregation that cares more about growing disciples than about growth in membership numbers.
- A congregation that equips people to live and serve in the congregation and the world according to their gifts and skills instead of the congregation's demands.
- A congregation that embodies the open arms of Christ on the cross in all it says and does.

Our Welcome Statement: Grace, peace, and welcome to you in the name of the blessed, Holy Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- We are people simultaneously faithful and afraid; broken and redeemed; joyful and struggling to keep it together. Together, we strive to share God's love by loving our neighbors and loving creation. Even though we don't know you yet, we already love you.
- You are loved. We believe you are a beloved child of God created in God's image.
- You are loved. We believe Jesus loves you and taught us, "Love one another as I have loved you."
- You are loved. Your race, gender identity, mental or physical ability, sexual orientation, marital status, financial situation, social standing, education, cultural background, immigration status, or any other category or label cannot separate you from the love of God, nor keep you from being what God called you to be.
- You are loved. No matter where you are on your faith journey, no matter the questions you bring, no matter the doubts or struggles you bear, there is a place for you here to ask, seek, and share.
- You are invited. We strive to create a safe, inclusive, and affirming environment where all are invited, and each is accepted and embraced. We invite you to receive and share God's love as you are, for who you are.