

## 2021 Impact Statement: Holy Trinity's Faith Fellowship

### Worship & Music

- With vaccines still new and difficult to access in the beginning of the year, Holy Trinity began its worship and music ministry in 2021 mostly online; nevertheless, our team at Holy Trinity presented remarkable Palm Sunday, Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil) and Easter liturgies which captured the awe of those occasions, even if through camera lenses and microphones.
- Bach Vespers also began the year online, premiering two recorded liturgies and cantatas this spring. Bach Vespers also hosted a full slate of recitals during the season of Lent. On October 31, Bach Vespers will launch its first full fall season in two years, beginning with Bach's Mass in F conducted by Diane Belcher.
- Since Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021, Holy Trinity began welcoming an in-person congregation, and since Pentecost, we have celebrated Holy Communion together. We continue to make live streaming a ministry priority so that no one is left out of worship due to health concerns or geography.
- Though our in-person attendance averaged only 10 people when we reopened in April, we currently average nearly 40, many of whom are newcomers to Holy Trinity. We also welcome an average of 20 individuals or households participating online during Mass, with 50 or more watching later in the week.
- Evening Prayer continued this year, moving from Wednesdays to Tuesdays in order to accommodate the return of Wednesday Mass this fall. On September 14, a midweek Mass returned to Holy Trinity, a rare opportunity on the Upper West Side for a midweek Eucharist in the Lutheran or Protestant tradition.
- In September, the Holy Trinity Parish Choir returned to Sunday Mass, with a special performance of Bach's Cantata 106 (actus tragicus) in commemoration of the 20th anniversary since September 11, 2001. Our preacher that morning was Stephen Bouman, former bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, who was serving in New York during that time.
- On Sunday, September 19, Holy Trinity celebrated the installation of The Reverend Timothy Weisman as the 15th pastor of Holy Trinity in a Festival Eucharist featuring Bishop Paul Egensteiner and music for brass, organ, and choir, including a premiere sung by Holy Trinity's Parish Choir. The evening was followed by a grand reception on the front stoop backed by our red doors on Central Park West.
- Worship, liturgy, and music will continue to be a priority at Holy Trinity as we close out the year, which will include a Blessing of the Animals, Commitment Sunday, Reformation Sunday, All Saints Sunday, Bach Vespers, baptisms, Lessons and Carols, Christmas Eve, and more.

### Christian Life

- In-person Coffee Hours returned to Holy Trinity over the summer. Held in our air-conditioned Community Room, and limited to those who have been vaccinated for COVID-19, these gatherings after Mass have been essential to reconnected members and friends of Holy Trinity with one another.

- Several opportunities for Christian formation have been offered this year, including a study of Luther's Small Catechism, a discussion by Bishop Stephen Bouman of his book *Baptized for This Moment*, and an ongoing series of lectures on the life and thought of Martin Luther presented on DVD after coffee hour.
- The Spiritual Life committee hosted a "Bach in the afternoon" event at Holy Trinity in May, featuring some of Holy Trinity's favorite musicians and friends performing selections by J.S. Bach, followed by some socially-distanced fellowship in the nave.
- The events surrounding Pastor Weisman's installation included a potluck celebration which brought together around 50 people to share a meal, play trivia, and reconnect with one another.

## Service

- Holy Trinity's Homeless Ministry, which was launched in response to the ongoing pandemic, continues to distribute sandwiches, snacks, and personal care items to people sleeping outdoors in Central Park and the Upper West Side neighborhood. Walks occur on weekend mornings, and Dale Lamb, Myrna Payne, and Sue Boccio distribute some 10-20 care packages during each walk.
- H.U.G., Holy Trinity's Saturday lunch and socializing program for those in need of a meal and some company, reopened at the end of September. While we are not yet welcoming our neighbors back into the Community Room quite yet, we have begun distributing "grab and go" lunches with the hopes of starting to reconnect with many of our H.U.G. friends.
- Holy Trinity's Women's Shelter has not yet been able to open during the pandemic. In the meantime, the generosity of so many members and friends in response to our Lenten Penitential Offering not only made it possible to install air conditioning in the Community Room for H.U.G. and the shelter, but install a shower for the shelter and generate operating capital for the shelter's eventual reopening.
- Holy Trinity will send a total of \$21,000 for our 2021 Mission Support to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). These funds support new churches, educational programs, ELCA Disaster Response following natural disasters, and ELCA World Hunger initiatives that feed people across the globe.

## Community

- Holy Trinity is up to 1,405 followers on Facebook and 195 on Instagram, along with 367 YouTube subscribers who are automatically notified when we go live each week. Our website [holytrinitynyc.org](http://holytrinitynyc.org) continues to grow and develop, with new sections added on a regular basis.
  - Pastor Weisman spoke at the 40/35 firehouse at 66th & Amsterdam for their annual remembrance of the lives lost on September 11, 2001. Holy Trinity has had a special relationship with the 40/35 since Pastor Bob Scholz ministered to the Cavemen on 9/11, and Pastor Weisman continues that 20-year tradition.
  - In addition to three full-time and three part-time staff, four staff singers, and our Bach Vespers musicians, Holy Trinity continues to employ local contractors to maintain and improve our facilities. One dramatic improvement for 2021 has been the complete refurbishment of the Parish House elevator.
  - Holy Trinity's facilities have opened once again to community organizations, music ensembles, production companies, and other organizations for meetings, gatherings, and events, which have been bolstered by the air conditioning in the Community Room and the in-house live streaming and recording equipment available in the nave. We anticipate use of our facility by our neighbors to increase in 2022.
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