

COUNTY OF FAIRFAX BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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March 5, 2024 Board Matter

Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Members of the Board,

In the Providence District, and across Fairfax County, we are fortunate to have a multitude of faith communities that feel called to provide community outreach and support to improve the lives of congregants and community members. One such congregation, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (HTLC), has been an incredible community resource for Falls Church and surrounding areas for the past 75 years.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church was formally established on January 24, 1949, and it soon embarked on what is now a long tradition of service and support to those in need. Within a few years, the church began sponsoring a German refugee family and a Boy Scout troop and began offering kindergarten in response to community interest.

During the 1960s, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church's community outreach and service expanded to include regular blood drives, sewing projects to assist the needy, a nursing home visitation program, and frequent youth and music events open to the community. HTLC provided key leadership for forming the Falls Church Community Services Council in 1969 and has supported the Council ever since.

In subsequent decades, the church's community outreach and services to the community grew to include over 40 years of Meals on Wheels delivery, 15 years of regular volunteering at Miriam's Kitchen, and it was one of the first churches in the County to participate in the FACETS Hypothermia Prevention Program. Since 2007,

it has hosted an overnight hypothermia shelter for a week each year. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church also established a special endowment fund that distributes thousands of dollars to local service organizations annually.

In recent years, HTLC has added community outreach and support activities focused on education and the arts. For nearly a decade, HTLC has provided tutoring, books, and other needed items to Graham Road Elementary School, and in 2017 it met a community need for more infant childcare by making part of its facility available. The church also presents a free annual Concert Series for the community, as well as a visual art display space and receptions for the Vienna Arts Society.

HTLC has been a bedrock, not only for its own faith community, but for other communities in the Falls Church area. Holy Trinity's growth has mirrored that of Fairfax County at large by serving the changing community in the array of new challenges that have arisen. I am incredibly appreciative of the dedicated commitment to community that Holy Trinity Lutheran Church has displayed for 75 years and look forward to their continued leadership in the years ahead.

I therefore move, without objection, that a proclamation be prepared in acknowledgment of the 75th Anniversary of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and its history of service to the Fairfax County community, to be presented outside of the Board room at an anniversary celebration event later this year.