

## Trinity Hot Lunch Report\_2022 Annual Meeting

The Trinity Hot Lunch realized the few incremental changes to the COVID mandates that had put a lockout on indoor dining. As last year's report mentioned, there was one trial attempt to open the dining hall to guests in November 2021, but the spike in cases that resulted in tighter restrictions and continued client discomfort postponed full implementation until the first quarter of 2022. For the rest of 2022, the procedure was (and continues to be) a hybrid of take-aways through the one set of doors and limited indoor dining, for which the entrance is the other set of doors. However, clients still tend to be cautious as the number of those dining inside has never been more than twenty. The number of those being served also fluctuated dramatically and unpredictably throughout the year; from a low of forty to a high of hundred (pre-COVID the number averaged 85).

As we begin 2023, Holy Communion is once again on the schedule as one of two churches/groups that serve every month – with our turn being the third Sunday. We all share the hope that the Hot Lunch will be able to return to a varied menu and cafeteria style of service that all – volunteers and clients – enjoyed and appreciated before the restrictions. For now, however, given the significant number of clients who prefer take-aways, those in charge of the Trinity Food Ministry cannot predict when that might be.

The Hot Lunch and the entire Trinity Food Ministry continues to be a vital resource for the CWE community. It is also the oldest, most established mission of Holy Communion, dating back to the 80s. It is not just a legacy of a special relationship between Holy Communion and Trinity, but it continues to be a special call to the parishioners of our church to see faith in action. As I say year after year, the power of this ministry is only as strong as the community of those serving and those being served. What better way to both share in the legacy and to fulfill the call of Jesus to “feed my sheep” than to participate in this ministry – even if it is only once a year. In the middle of COVID the challenge was to carry out this ministry – and the pantry during the week – with the fewest volunteers possible. The post-COVID challenge will be to return to the number of volunteers who used to serve throughout the year. As I wrote last year, it will truly be a blessed day when our fearless leader Barbi Click, director of the Trinity Food Pantry, opens both sets of doors and announces to the waiting crowd, “Welcome and come on in!” – a day blessed, that is, only if there are enough volunteers to wait upon the guests!

For those who wish to be added to the volunteer list, please contact Hannah or me directly at [scott@scottfergusonphoto.com](mailto:scott@scottfergusonphoto.com). I will begin – that is, begin again! – to send out email invitations through the church's community builder program in the next month or so. All are welcome!

*Scott Ferguson*