

## **Trinity Hot Lunch Program** *(by Scott Ferguson)*

Last year, in the annual report, I wrote about the sobering numbers related to hunger in the St. Louis region, and of parts of the city having percentages that place them among the nation's highest experiencing the severest deprivation of food and nutrition. Unfortunately, the need for food assistance programs of all forms continued unabated in 2017 and for the year, the Trinity Hot Lunch program served over 4200. Of the churches that serve every month, Holy Communion has the highest average attendance of 86.

Holy Communion's relationship with Trinity's Food Ministry is as strong as ever. Barbi Click and Adrienne Fly, the manager of Trinity Food Ministries and Trinity parishioner who heads the mission, respectively, continue to provide invaluable leadership, which serves to the strength of relationship that HCC has with the program. It has been their mission to find ways both during the Sunday Hot Lunch and in the pantry hours during the week to promote a more and healthier food choice, greater engagement and ultimately, a tighter bond between the volunteers and the guests. In this purpose, they are clearly succeeding. The most important reason for our strong relationship, however, is the dedicated volunteers who make the preparations with enthusiasm and serve the food with an open heart and instant smile. Both Trinity and the customers know of HCC's commitment and are extremely appreciative when they leave on our Sundays. Bringing choice and service to the clients directly is part of the process and this year we moved to serving the food cafeteria style, instead of preparing the plates in the kitchen. We are always looking to modify the menu, but we need to do it with an eye on the budget, on kitchen logistics such as oven space, and on the clients' tastes. As such, changes to it are slow and methodical but are happening.

The trend of adding of new names to the volunteer list continues and with Beth Scriven's encouragement we have an growing association with the college ministry of Rockwell House. As always, I am looking to extend invitations to non-members, family and friends. To those who gave their time so willingly during the year, I offer my sincerest thanks. For those who have yet to experience this ministry, I encourage you to find at least a couple of hours in the upcoming year to realize what an exceptional one it is. You will not be disappointed.