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## Trinity Messenger

March 2026 Issue 3

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*Jesus says, I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will have the light of life.*

John 8:12

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### **Stewardship Special Giving for March: Konde Diocese - Our Partner in Ministry**

You may or may not know that each of the sixty-five synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has been linked with a Lutheran companion synod or church body outside the United States with which to partner in ministry and provide each other support through prayer and opportunities to engage with each other. We in the Lower Susquehanna Synod have been blessed with the companionship of the Konde Diocese, part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT). The Konde Diocese at present boasts a membership of over 125,000 members in seven church districts. Within these seven districts, more than 100 congregations are served by 160 pastors and 200 evangelists serving God's people and spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ, which they have been faithfully doing since 1977.

The operative word in beginning to understand the nature of this ministry partnership and its benefits is "companion." Each of our synods/dioceses and the congregations that make up these bodies are called to serve our neighbor and share the life-giving gospel of Jesus Christ. Doing so, whether one is part of a congregation in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, or a congregation in a village in the Konde Diocese, we can offer encouragement for each other's challenges and celebrate the joys. Through this relationship, the work we have been called to do becomes easier and more meaningful because we know there are siblings in Christ offering mutual support. Such a relationship also provides the opportunity to learn from each other through correspondence and sharing ideas. This is especially relevant as we in this nation struggle with shrinking congregations and a waning interest in organized religion. Christian churches in Africa and other less developed parts of the world are experiencing a boom in persons embracing the Gospel and its grace-filled message.

During March, the Konde Diocese will be our stewardship focus. Pastor Cliff Eshbach will be with us once again to update us on projects and activities within the diocese and how we can partner with them. I encourage us to prayerfully consider how we can actively engage in our relationship with the diocese and its individual congregations—supporting their ministries and projects as they support ours.

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### Celebration of Marriage

You are invited to join Claire Fettig and Dylan Lynn on the afternoon of Saturday, March 14, at 2:00 PM as they are joined as husband and wife, at Holy Trinity, and joyously begin their new life together. The couple would love to have those who are able to attend present in worship on their special day. Please keep Dylan and Claire in prayer as the day approaches and the last minute details are put into place.



**Wednesday Evening Prayer during Lent 7:30PM**

### EASTER FLOWERS 2026

It is time once again to think about Easter flowers as we prepare to celebrate the Lord's resurrection, April 5, 2026. Flowers may be presented to the glory of God and "In memory of...", or "In honor of..."

Orders may be brought into or mailed to the church office. All mail orders must be received no later than Monday, March 16, and must be accompanied by payment. Make Checks payable to Holy Trinity.

**The cost of each plant is as follows:**

- Tulip - \$6.50 -6.5"pot Daffodils - \$11.00- 8" pot**
- Lilies - \$9.00 - 5-6 blooms Mums - \$7.25 - 6" pot**
- Hyacinths – \$6.50 -3 bulbs 6.5" pot**
- (Sorry, no color choice)**

Persons ordering flowers are responsible for picking them up following the Easter Day Liturgy.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

- How many \_\_\_\_\_ Lily \$9.00
- How many \_\_\_\_\_ Daffodils \$11.00
- How many \_\_\_\_\_ Tulips \$6.50
- How many \_\_\_\_\_ Mums \$7.25
- How many \_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinths \$6.50

To the glory of God and:  
**IN MEMORY OF or IN HONOR OF**

\_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT PAID \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## Palm/Passion Sunday

March 29, 2026

Holy Communion

### The Sacred Triduum:

#### Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026- Service at 7:00 PM

*Individual Absolution, Foot Washing*

*Holy Communion, Stripping of the Altar*

**Good Friday** Service at 7:00 PM

#### A Service of Tenebrae for Good Friday

For our Good Friday worship this year we will be participating in a traditional Tenebrae service. Tenebrae is a Latin word meaning 'darkness' or 'shadow'. It is a meaningful service of meditation and reflection, and scripture interspersed with music that sets the atmosphere for one's serious reflection on what Christ did for us on the cross. Please plan to take part in this powerful experience.

#### Holy Saturday

April 4, 2026

Easter Vigil Liturgy at 7:00 PM

*Holy Communion*

#### Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

**Festival Liturgy with Holy Communion - 9:00 AM**

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#### Phillies game

It's that time of year again, WooHoo!!! If anyone is interested in going down for a game, I will have a sheet in the gathering area with dates for games. Most votes win!! Please check it out ASAP, the sooner I secure tickets the better. 😊

Thank you,

Your devoted Philadelphia Phillies Phan!!!! (Kathrin)



**There will be no Friday Night dinner for April.** The first Friday falls on 4/3 which is Good Friday. If anyone would be interested in going the following Friday, 4/10 please let me know. Kathrin



THE ADULT (all adults are welcome) LUNCH BUNCH will be going to Applebee's after the liturgy on April 12. We'll meet downstairs immediately after the liturgy. All are welcome. Plan to join us! Please call Cheryl Plummer at 625-3187 to reserve your place!

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Dear Trinity family, 🍀🌸

The Fellowship committee invites you to a change in our potluck schedule..... March 28 is a Saturday! We will still meet in the Fellowship hall. 5-7:00 for great food, fun, and fellowship... hope to see you there. Sign up in the gathering area.

Also, 🍌 save the date for our church picnic on June 21st. at the Ephrata township park. We will need helpers for set up and clean up!

Blessings to all.

Fellowship committee

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### **Dear Widows and Widowers,**

*Swamp Lutheran Church has an active Widow and Widowers Group. We would like to invite others from your congregation to join us. We are not a "grief group", but rather a "fun" group. The topic of the April lunch, Middle Creek Wildlife, should be of interest to many of you. So please join us.*

For our April lunch we will have a speaker from Middle Creek Wildlife. The Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area is a 6,000-acre Wildlife Management Area located in Lancaster and Lebanon counties, Pennsylvania. It is managed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. The area lakes seasonally get up to 200,000 migrating snow geese. It is a popular area for hiking, archery, fishing and hunting. Our speaker will talk about history, habitat, and migration, and answer your questions.

**When:** Thursday April 9th at noon

**Where:** Udder Choice Restaurant, Ephrata, PA

Turn right after entering. Private room on the right (separate checks)

**Please RSVP to the church office at (717) 336-2849 or reply to this email.**

If you have a widow or widower friend, please bring them along, just RSVP for a count for the restaurant. This topic should be of interest to all...especially you fellows.

If you need transportation, please let us know when you RSVP

If there are any shows or activities that you would like to go to, email me, and I'll send out a notice to see if anyone else would like to go. Note: Tickets for AMT and Dutch Apple shows sell out quickly.

**We hope to see you soon....and remember YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**

**Members of the Welcome Committee Swamp Lutheran Church**

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### **Think Lutheran Camping!**

It is that time of year to start thinking about summer plans. If you were in church on Sunday and attended Zach's program during Sunday School, you probably have a good idea that Camps Kirchenwald and Nawakwa can be part of your summer plans. The theme for camp this year is Wear Love, based on Colossians 3:12-14. As campers reflect on love as the all-purpose garment of faith, they will explore how God's love – woven into our lives through kindness, humility, patience, steadfastness, and forgiveness – shapes who we are and how we live.

There are different levels of camping for kids in grades K-2 (day camp and half-week camp) and grades 3-11 (overnight camp). There is family camp for God's children of all ages and there is elder camp for those 55 and up.

More information can be found in the camp brochures in the narthex of the church on the display table. Camp makes a great gift for children and grandchildren. Full payment discount camp registration must be received at camp by **April 4, 2026**. Info at: <https://www.lutherancamping.org/> **Holy Trinity is**



**committed to finding funds for EVERY child who wants to attend church camp. Lack of funds should NOT be the reason for a child not attending camp.** Resources are available so please talk to Pastor Mark or call the church office. Contact Lisa Garrett if you have any questions: [lrgacd@yahoo.com](mailto:lrgacd@yahoo.com) or 717-490-1927.

Watch this fun video! <https://www.lutherancamping.org/summer-camp/summer-camp-quick-video/>

### **Think Lutheran Camping Family Vacation!**

It is that time of year to start thinking about summer plans. Camps Kirchenwald and Nawakwa can be part of your summer plans! Make this the year to start a new family tradition!

Kirchenwald:

Family Camp-K-tion – The family staycation everyone can enjoy! Celebrate your family in this unique camp experience. Leave distractions at home as you grow closer together and closer to God through Bible study, worship, swimming, crafts, hikes, canoeing, Capture the Flag, and more. Strengthen the bonds of family through the challenge course and climbing tower. Create memories that will last a lifetime. Accommodations available in rustic shelters and in the Schreiber Lodge, to best suit your needs.

Family Camp Adventure – Ready to take family vacation to the next level? The Pine Creek Rail Trail is calling! With scenic views of the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon, this trip is the perfect mix of challenge and reward. Camp in tents along the biking trail. Side trips include hikes, swimming, history, and ice cream! Bring your own bike or ride one from Kirchenwald's fleet.

Nawakwa:

Family Camp – You have two opportunities to join us and experience the unique Christian community Family Camp offers people of ALL ages. Many adults spend the morning hours in bible study with the pastor-in-residence; some sit on their porches and watch the trees sway in the breeze. Kid-size campers are divided by age group to participate in all sorts of campy activities with our counselors. Afternoons feature a full schedule of swimming, crafts, hikes, bike rides, tournament games, book discussions, playground time, and championship napping – your choice! Evenings always feature worship and some sort of festivity . Housing options include our comfortable lodges or the more rustic cabins. Partial week participation is an option.

More information can be found in the camp brochures in the narthex of the church on the display table.

Info at: <https://www.lutherancamping.org/> Contact your camp person, Lisa Garrett, if you have any questions: [lrgacd@yahoo.com](mailto:lrgacd@yahoo.com) or 717-490-1927.

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# All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast Buffet



**Saturday, April 11, 2026  
7:00-10:00 AM**

**BREAKFAST INCLUDES:** EGGS, HOME FRIES, CREAMED CHIPPED BEEF, FRENCH TOAST, BACON, SAUSAGE, HAM, COFFEE, TEA, JUICES, VARIOUS PASTRIES AND FRUIT.

**ADMISSION BY DONATION  
PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE  
TO: NORTH LANCASTER  
CONFERENCE DEAN'S FUND**

*PROCEEDS BENEFIT LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD LUTHERAN  
DISASTER RESPONSE MINISTRY IN 2026*

**SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL  
275 SWAMP CHURCH ROAD,  
REINHOLDS**



**PHONE 717-336-2849**

**GOD'S WORK...OUR HANDS.**

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## ELEVATOR RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE

In keeping with the promise made previously, as chairman of the Stewardship Committee, I am pleased to inform you as to the contributions received to date.

In October 2025, the donations totaled \$11,063.94. The Treasurer's Report for November 2025 indicated a total of \$6,717.00. Therefore, the total to date amounts to \$17,735.94

We have started with a very positive indication of what can be done to meet the challenge. Let us continue on the same path for the future. Thank you for your support.

I will provide another report in the March 2026 (due to snow storm) Trinity Messenger.

Norman A. Wangman



## Welcome to Holy Trinity Sunday School on the Move!

Please join us for Sunday School the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month, the next one being April 19 (none on April 5). Children will proceed downstairs after the Children's Sermon. For those not attending church, please meet us at 9:20 in the Cafe area. All are welcome for our Journey

with Jesus!! ❤️.

Love and Peace,  
Holy Trinity Christian Ed

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**NOTICE: Holy Trinity's website is sometimes up, sometimes not. A new website is being pursued and will be up and running as soon as possible. If you are looking for the livestream connection it is here:** Holy Trinity's services are now online at Sermons.net. Just copy and paste the link below into your browser. <https://holytrinitylutheranchurchephratapa.sermon.net/main>

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### **Celebration Choir Schedule**

Wednesday, March 11 – 6:45 PM – Rehearsal  
Sunday, March 15 – sing “Be Thou My Vision” arr. Alice Parker

Wednesday, March 25 – 6:45 PM – Rehearsal  
Wednesday, April 1 – 6:45 PM – Rehearsal  
Thursday, April 2 (Maundy Thursday) – sing “A New Commandment”

Sunday, April 5 (Easter) – sing “Christ Is Alive” arr. Hal H. Hopson

Wednesday, May 13 – 7:15 PM – Rehearsal

Sunday, May 17 – sing “God We Gather as Your People” by David Lohman

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### **Handbell Choir**

#### **Handbell Choir Schedule:**

**\*\*Handbell rehearsals will be held at 6 PM on Wednesdays during Lent.\*\***

#### **Upcoming Performances:**

Easter Sunday, April 5: *Thine is the Glory*

Sunday, May 24: *Holy Is the Lord*

For Questions contact Debbie: 717-681-5985 [Elegantkeys88@gmail.com](mailto:Elegantkeys88@gmail.com)



### **CELEBRATE RECOVERY**

The local branch of the Christ-centered support group, *Celebrate Recovery*, has begun meeting in the church social hall on Monday evenings from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM. The group was meeting at City Gate but outgrew their space and reach out to Holy Trinity to see about finding room in our facility. *Celebrate Recovery* is a world-wide ministry that offers support to persons seeking “freedom from their hurts, hang-ups, and habits” and is not limited to those recovering from addiction. It seeks to serve as well those persons struggling with various types of dependency and the pain and trauma associated with these. If you are interested in finding out more about this group and/or how it might be helpful to you, please check out their website at [celebraterecovery.com](http://celebraterecovery.com). All are welcome!

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### **Weekly Bible Study: Tuesdays at 11AM**

#### **NEW BIBLE STUDY**

A New Bible study focusing on the Acts of the Apostles will begin on Tuesday, January 6. The class will meet in the church conference room at 11:00 AM. There is a participant's book for the class that can be ordered through Amazon. The book is entitled *Acts: Catching Up With The Spirit*, authored by Matthew L. Skinner. If you have any questions please direct them to Pastor Mark. We look forward to having you as part of the study and learning more about the early activities of the Jesus' followers.

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Salem Lutheran Preschool, 1331 W. Main St., Ephrata, is now taking registrations for Fall 2026. Classes for 3s and 4s are available. For more information, call the Church office at 717-733-6646 or email Stephanie Frymyer at [sfrymyer@ptd.net](mailto:sfrymyer@ptd.net)

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Salem Lutheran Church, Ephrata, is planning a bus trip for May 12, 2026. "Chesapeake City Dine Around," includes soup and salad at Shaefer's Canal House, main course at the Chesapeake Inn. Then enjoy a narrated historical cruise along the C&D Canal, and a short stroll away to the Canal Creamery for a treat of homemade ice cream. Finally, a 45-minute driving tour highlighting several points of interest and beautiful scenery of the Chesapeake Bay area. Cost is \$161.00 per person, registration and payment by April 14, however we have been filling the bus for these trips in 2-3 weeks. For more info, call or text Laurel Kluck, 717-701-0266

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**Bergstrasse Community Clothing Closet** is open the first and third full weekend of every month for persons in need of clothing and other household goods. Entrance is accessible via the door off the lower parking lot. Hours are Saturday and Sunday noon – 2pm.



**Donations:** Currently there is a need for men's pants, shorts and shoes. There is always a need for children's clothing. All clothing in good shape is accepted. Due to space constraints, household items are no longer accepted. Donations may be dropped off directly at Bergstrasse when the Community Clothing Closet is open or in the box at the back of the narthex in Holy Trinity.

**Volunteers:** sort clothing, hang it and tag it by color to keep track of what is moving and what is not, and greet shoppers at the courtesy desk. Shoppers check in and specify how many people they are shopping for and what items are of particular interest. Volunteers are needed from 11:30 – 2:30 on Saturdays and Sundays. You do not need to be there the entire time to volunteer – whatever time you have available within those timeframes is fine.

If you have further questions, you may either stop by the next time the Closet is open and have a look around or call Pattie Martin at 717-344-1347.

Thank you so much for all the donations you have been giving!

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**HOLY TRINITY HAS A NEW FACEBOOK PAGE!!**

**Please follow this link to the new page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61563831542098&mibextid=LQQJ4d>

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**March 15-21 Calendar**

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15 MAR, SUN

- Celebration Choir sings
- Lent 4
- 9am      Worship
- 10am     Coffee Hour After Worship
- 10:15am  Adult Forum

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16 MAR, MON

- 10am     Women's prayer group
- 6pm      Celebrate recov.

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17 MAR, TUE

- 11am     Bible Study
- 3:30pm   Trini Mini
- 6pm      Pickleball

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18 MAR, WED

- 12pm     Luther Lunch Ladies
- 6pm      Handbell Choir
- 7:30pm   Evening Prayer

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19 MAR, THU

- 3:30pm   Trini Mini
- 7pm      Thursday Worship

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21 MAR, SAT

- 7:30am   Walking Group

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[View This Month's Interactive Calendar Here](#)

**March 15th Servers:**

**Council Team:** Elaine Sernoffsky, Kathrin Baltz

**Assisting Minister:** Kathy Kuhns

**Lector:** Norm Wangman

**Acolytes:** Judy Williams

**Ushers:** Denise Shirker, Trig Olson, Matt Shirker

**Altar Guild:** Brenda Wangman, Lisa Garrett,  
Charlann Brubaker

**Linens:** Brenda Wangman

**Flowers:** Heather Zimmerman

**AV:** Rob Gilbert



**Office Hours March 16-20, 2025**

We recommend you call the office prior to stopping in to ensure hours have not changed.

**Office Phone: 717-733-4134 Pastor's Cell: 315-317-8517**

**Office email: [officeholytrinity@ephratalutheran.org](mailto:officeholytrinity@ephratalutheran.org)**

Day	Sue	Pastor
Monday	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Tuesday	8AM - 12 NOON	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Wednesday	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Thursday	8:00 AM - 12 NOON	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Friday	8AM - 12 NOON	OFF

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**PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS A NEW QR CODE...DO NOT TRY TO USE THE OLD ONE.**

**Make Your Regular Offering Electronically**

On the Holy Trinity website ([www.holytrinityephrata.org](http://www.holytrinityephrata.org)), a tab on the menu bar called "Online Giving" will take you to a secure web site for you to give. You can also give your Regular Offering, your Special Appeal donation, your building fund, or your Elevator Improvement fund donation by using your Smart Phone and following the QR code.



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***Thanks for reading! Have a great week ahead!***