



**Trinity Messenger**  
March 2026 Issue 4

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*I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me will never die.*  
John 11: 25, 26

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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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**March Congregation Council Report**

At the March 12 meeting, the Congregation Council:

- Approved the Property Committee request to add security cameras that will cover and record activity in the gymnasium, social hall, and café.
  - Approved the request from the Lancaster chapter of the American Guild of Organists to have a free organ concert and hymn sing at Holy Trinity on a Sunday evening in September, 2026.
  - Received a report from our insurance carrier that with both premium increases and credits, the property and liability insurance cost for 2026 will be \$22,421.00 (an increase of \$83/month).
  - Discussed the plans for holding **all** worship services in the social hall beginning Thursday, April 9 and Sunday, April 12 during the time needed for the new elevator installation.
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## Treasurer's Report: March, 2026

### February Financial Report

Unified Budget Income	\$44,530.33
Unified Budget Expense	\$22,632.22

### Year To Date:

Income	\$58,331.80
Expenses	\$45,339.63
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>\$12,992.17</b>

As promised, the financial situation at the end of February is much different (and better) than at the end of January. The change is due to some additional giving in February and the remainder of January's giving being recorded in February.

**Elevator Fund:** At the end of February there is a balance of \$4,029.94 with \$3,850.00 of contributions in February. There will soon be bills to pay for work we are doing prior to the installation. Later this spring we have one more payment to make to the installer.



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



**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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### Holy Trinity Sunday School Egg Hunt

On Easter Sunday there will be a children's sermon immediately following the Gospel. However, there will be no Sunday school class during the service. Instead we will meet with the children in the gathering area immediately following the service for refreshments and take them upstairs

to The Place for an Egg Hunt. All children and younger siblings welcome!

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### ELEVATOR RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE

#### Worship During Elevator Renovation

The welcome renovation of the church elevator will begin on Monday, April 6, and will continue for seven to eight weeks. During this time, we will gather for worship in the Social Hall. We will follow the same liturgical pattern during this time, with adjustments to fit the worship space and its limits. To avoid extra wear on the hymnals and limited storage space, we will worship only with the larger-sized bulletins that include the hymns and worship music for the service. This practice will be limited to this time period only. The lower-level hallway, which runs past the elevator and machine room, will be closed for safety reasons, so we will need to enter the Social Hall through the Café. Though many love our worship space, we know that God abides with us wherever we gather, so let us bring to this time of worship our faithful desire to praise the God who has generously blessed our congregation with abundant resources.



#### 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

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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!



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

**Congregational Meeting April 26**



*Notes of* **THANKS**

Dear Holy Trinity,

As spring arrives, our staff and volunteers are hard at work preparing the sites, planning meaningful programs, and getting everything ready to welcome campers for another incredible summer. Thank you for your gift of \$860.65 designated for unrestricted use. Thank you for your generous support of the Lutheran Camping Corporation Ministry. Because of your gift, kids, youth, and adults continue to experience faith and community in the beauty of God's creation at camp. Thank you for being such an important part of this ministry. With Gratitude and Blessing, Yours in Christ, Zach Weiss, Kirchenwald Director

**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/>

### **Lutheran Camping isn't just for campers!**

Lutheran Camping Corporation doesn't just provide camping opportunities. There is something for everyone and things happening year round. Keep an eye out for announcements on the church bulletin boards and in the Messenger.

### **The Wittel Farm Growing Project:**

This ministry partnership between the Lutheran Camping Corporation, the Lower Susquehanna Synod, and Hunger-Free Lancaster County, the Growing Project grows crops on a portion of the Wittel Farm. The crops harvested are donated to assist individuals and families in need. Individuals, groups, and families can volunteer to help with these gardens. Learn more at [www.WittelFarm.org](http://www.WittelFarm.org) or contact project director, Pastor Matt Lenahan at [wfgp@wittelfarm.org](mailto:wfgp@wittelfarm.org).

### **Diaconos program at Kirchenwald:**

The Diaconos program at Kirchenwald is designed for youth groups to custom-plan a week filled with a combination of service opportunities and adventure outings. With Diaconos staff, you can schedule a week that perfectly fits the needs and abilities of your group. Service sites in the community engage with your group in physically expressing the ministry of Christ. This program also offers the chance to interact with the people you serve and with one another, sharing the good news and growing in spirit to the glory of God. We also recognize the importance of social and spiritual development through group dynamics, and encourage groups to make recreation programs part of their Diaconos experience. These adventure opportunities will change the group to work together and overcome obstacles, while enjoying some of the exciting outdoor activities available. Contact Zach Weiss at 717-964-3121 for more information.

*Still thinking about attending camp? Watch this informative video and check out the information in the narthex.*

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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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### 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://holytrinitylutheranchurchephtrata.sermon.net/main>

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### Celebration Choir Schedule

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)

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### 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 began 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 22-28 Calendar**

- 22 MAR, SUN
  - Lent 5
  - 9am Worship
  - 10am Coffee Hour After Worship
  - 10:15am Adult Forum

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- 23 MAR, MON
  - 6pm Celebrate recov.

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- 24 MAR, TUE
  - 11am Bible Study
  - 3:30pm Trini Mini
  - 6pm Pickleball

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- 25 MAR, WED
  - 6pm Handbell Choir
  - 6:45pm Celebration Choir
  - 7pm Historical Society
  - 7:30pm Evening Prayer

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- 26 MAR, THU
  - 3:30pm Trini Mini
  - 7pm Thursday Worship

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- 28 MAR, SAT
  - 7:30am Walking Group

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

**March 22nd Servers:**  
**Council Team:** Lisa Garrett, Bill Spitzer  
**Assisting Minister:** John Fuehrer  
**Lector:** Ed Quirke  
**Acolytes:** Norm Wangman  
**Ushers:** Ron & Carlene Kerschner, David Kerschner  
 Rob Gilbert  
**Altar Guild:** Barb & Steve Sweigart, Andy Sweigart  
**Linens:** Patricia Fassnacht  
**Flowers:** Judy Wechter  
**AV:** Bob Eberly



**Office Hours March 23-27, 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: [officeholyltrinity@ephratalutheran.org](mailto:officeholyltrinity@ephratalutheran.org)**

Day	Sue	Pastor
Monday	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM

<b>Tuesday</b>	8AM - 12 NOON	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
<b>Thursday</b>	8:00 AM - 12 NOON	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
<b>Friday</b>	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.



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