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**Trinity Messenger**  
November 2025 Issue 4

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*Alleluia. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord,  
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David. Alleluia. Mark 11:9*

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**November Stewardship Focus: Lancaster Veteran's Center**

The Veteran Center located in the Greenfield Industrial Park in Lancaster began its programs for Veterans in 1979. The primary mission of the center is to provide quality readjustment service for veterans and their families to civilian life.

Since the month of November includes Veteran's Day, the Stewardship Committee decided to honor Veterans this month.

The center serves all veterans, those who have completed their service but also active-duty veterans. The team that staffs this center has a goal of providing whatever a veteran may need in their lives, including connecting them with services either with the VA or in our community. The help provided is geared to help the veteran readjust to their current situation. Some of the situations can be Post Traumatic Stress, Sexual Trauma, Bereavement, Drug and Alcohol, referral for VA benefits, referral for homeless veterans, or any other barrier to the veteran getting care. Some of these cannot be completed with government funds so donations are very welcome.

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**Annual Congregational Meeting**

The annual congregational meeting will be held Sunday, December 7, immediately following the worship service. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary. The agenda will include adoption of the 2026 Ministry Support Plan and the election of Congregation Council members. The Bulletin of Reports will be available in the Gathering Area.



**Financial Review Forum**

A financial review forum will be held Sunday, November 30, following the worship service in the social hall. The meeting will include a review of the congregation's current financial status and the presentation and explanation of the proposed 2026 Ministry Support Plan. This forum will replace Adult Forum.

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## Treasurer's Report: November, 2025

### October Financial Report

Unified Budget Income	\$40,154.08
Unified Budget Expense	\$40,156.80

### Year To Date:

Income	\$313,102.65
Expenses	\$300,960.00
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>\$ 12,142.65</b>

The October expenses include \$15,907.96 paid for heating oil to fill the tank for this heating season.

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### November Council Report

At the November 13 meeting, the Congregation Council:

- Approved recommending to the congregation the nomination of the following members for a 3-year term on the Congregation Council:
    - o Rob Gilbert for a first term
    - o John Fuehrer, Lisa Garret, Bill Spitzer and John Weiss for second terms
  - Approved recommending to the congregation a 2026 Ministry Support Plan in the amount of \$353,400.
  - Approved extending the term of the current treasurer until January, 2027. During 2026, the Finance Committee is to evaluate and make recommendations on how to handle the treasurer responsibilities.
  - Approved a mutually agreed upon monthly rent increase to \$275 beginning January, 2026, for the kitchen tenant.
  - Received notification of a \$2,000 grant from the Robert Lauman Charitable Foundation. The grant will be used for 2026 Trini Mini expenses.
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### Christmas Poinsettias & Christmon Tree & Decorations

POINSETTIAS CAN BE ORDERED BY RETURNING THIS FORM VIA MAIL, EMAIL, OR DROP OFF TO THE CHURCH OFFICE. **ORDERS WILL NOT BE TAKEN IN CHURCH THIS YEAR. DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 7.**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettias (\$8.00 each) 6 ½ in. Pot

IN MEMORY/HONOR OF:

\_\_\_\_\_

OR

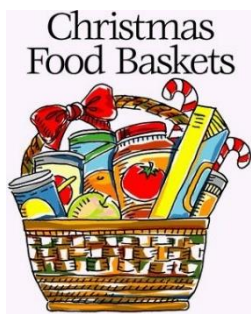
**I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF THE CHRISTMON TREE and Christmas tree decorations.**

\$5.00 \_\_\_\_ \$10.00 \_\_\_\_ \$15.00 \_\_\_\_ \$20.00 \_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY/HONOR OF:

\_\_\_\_\_





### Christmas Food Baskets

Due to the outpouring of community donations for Thanksgiving food and meals and the SNAP crisis, the Social Ministry Committee will be collecting food items to make Christmas Food Baskets. We were given the names of 20 area families in need from Ephrata Area Social Services. We need your help! Using your donations, we will provide these families with a Christmas Dinner. Please bring in food items according to your last name.

A-D: apple juice or orange drink

E-H: canned peas or corn

I-L: canned sweet potatoes

M-P: seasoned stuffing

Q-S: instant potatoes or scallop potatoes

T-Z: jello snack packs (premade jello in containers) or package cookies or applesauce

We are also accepting donations of frozen 10-14 lb turkeys and 5 to 8 lb chicken roasters. Contact the church office or Rob Gilbert if you can donate a turkey or chicken no later than December 7<sup>th</sup>. Monetary donations to purchase items will be greatly appreciated. Donations can be dropped off at the church and placed in the box in the Gathering Area.

*Note the Neighborhood Santa Program we have participated in the last several years will not be held this year. In place of that we ask you to bring in extra food items or you can purchase a gift for the family (e.g. gift card or other family type gift).*

Our community needs our support more than ever. Please let us not disappoint those in need. If you have any questions, please call Rob Gilbert at 717-721-3822.

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### Fellowship has started up the Pot Luck dinners once again!

Our Oct 17 th evening was attended by 28 hungry folks who enjoyed great food, fun conversation ( a little trivia) and wonderful fellowship. **Please save the date**

**Nov 21 for our next Pot Luck.**

Fellowship Committee 🍁



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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 December 7th. 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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## FREE Meal on Thanksgiving Day

Ephrata Business Center  
400 W Main Street, Ephrata

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

All are welcome to come enjoy a  
sit-down meal



1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Takeout is available on first-come,  
first-serve basis

Registration for meal delivery will open on  
Monday, October 20, and close on Friday, November 14.  
To register, call EASS at 717-733-0345.

**For volunteer  
opportunities  
scan QR code**



Please join us for our

## *Holiday Bazaar & Pancake Breakfast*

**Saturday, November 22**  
Luther Acres Towne Center  
250 St. Luke Drive, Lititz, PA

**Holiday Bazaar | 8 AM - 2 PM**

Handmade Crafts / Jewelry  
Christmas Gifts & Decorations  
Unique Items by 20+ Artisan Vendors  
Knitted & Crocheted Items / Baked Goods  
Silent Auction of Artwork & Collectibles



**Pancake Breakfast | 8-10 AM**

*Fuel up before you shop!*  
2 Pancakes, 2 Sausage Links, Juice, Coffee, Tea  
\$9.00 (cash only)

All proceeds benefit the Luthercare Caring Fund.  
Event sponsored by the Luther Acres Residents' Council.  
717.626.1171 | [www.Luthercare.org](http://www.Luthercare.org)

## Elevator Restoration Project

In previous Trinity Messenger articles, there has been information about the cost for this project. The total cost will be at least \$200,000. The cost for this project is covered up front by the reserves the church has on hand. What we need to do is replace these reserves. We are not financing this project through any bank or other financial organization.



Currently, we have 113 giving units according to our most recent church directory. If 60 of these giving units would commit to making a donation of \$1.00 a day for the net nine years, the obligation would be met. Each member of our congregation needs to pray and consider their commitment to this financial obligation.

If you mail your donation to the church office, please indicate the amount you are contributing to the elevator restoration project. There will be additional information included in future issues of The Messenger.

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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://holytrinitylutheranchurchphratapa.sermon.net/main>

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### Celebration Choir Schedule

Wednesday, November 19 – 7:15 PM – Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 26 – 7:00 PM – Thanksgiving Eve Service  
Sing "We Gather Together"

Wednesday, December 3 – 6:45 PM – Rehearsal

Sunday, December 7 – sing "We Are Waiting for Jesus"

Wednesday, December 10 – 6:45 PM – Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 17 – 6:45 PM – Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Service – 7:00PM

Sing "Were You There On That Christmas Night? "

Please consider joining us and sharing your musical talents! **All are welcome!!**

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### Special Music for Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve is right around the corner, and your musical talents are needed to add that extra special feeling of the season to our Christmas Eve worship services. If you are interested in sharing your God-given talents, please speak with either Debbie Fortna or Deb Olson.

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### Handbell Choir

Weekly rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:30PM. Please arrive early to set up bells so we can start promptly at 6:30. For Questions contact Debbie: 717-681-5985 [Elegantkeys88@gmail.com](mailto:Elegantkeys88@gmail.com)

#### Handbell Choir Schedule:

Wednesday, November 19- 6:30PM

Wednesday, November 26 - No rehearsal

Wednesdays, December 3, 10, and 17- 6:00 PM



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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

#### Bible Study Book

The Bible study group will soon begin a new study on the Acts of the Apostles once our study of Romans is completed. To help facilitate this upcoming study, we will be reading and discussing Matthew Skinner’s book *Acts: Catching Up With The Spirit*. The book is available on Amazon and at Barnes & Noble. If you would like to participate in the study or need assistance in ordering the book, please speak with Pastor Mark.

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### Limping With God

A few Sundays ago, Pastor Mark referenced a book he was reading that centered on the biblical story of Jacob’s wrestling with God and how Jacob’s story can teach us a great deal about our discipleship and our wrestling matches with loving God. The book is entitled *Limping with God: Jacob & The Old Testament Guide to Messy Discipleship* and is authored by Chad Bird. It is available at Amazon or [1517.org/shop](http://1517.org/shop).



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### Help Wanted: Bergstrasse Community Clothing Closet

Bergstrasse Community Clothing Closet is open for all people in need of clothing and other household goods. Entrance is accessible via the door off the lower parking lot. Hours are 12 – 2pm.



**Donations:** Currently there is a continuing need for men's pants, shorts and shoes. There is always a need for children's clothing. All clothing in good shape is 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. Thank you so much for sharing what God has given you! Your generosity is helping those in need in our community!

**Please note new donation policy: due to limited space household items can no longer be accepted, only clothing and shoes.**

**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 meet at 6-7:30pm on the Friday before the Closet is open to sort donations and get them ready for the next day. When the Closet is open, 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 times 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/text Pattie Martin at 717-344-1347.

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## November 23-29 Calendar

23 NOV, SUN

- CHRIST THE KING
- 9am Worship
- 10am Coffee Hour After Worship
- 10:15am Adult Forum

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24 NOV, MON

- 10am Women's prayer group
- 6pm Celebrate recov.
- 6:30pm Yoga

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25 NOV, TUE

- 9am Coffee Klatch
- 11am Bible Study
- 6pm Pickleball

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26 NOV, WED

- Celebration Choir sings
- Thanksgiving Eve service 7PM
- 12pm Church office closes

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27 NOV, THU

- Pr. Mark vacation (Day 1/3)
- Thanksgiving Day- Church Office closed

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28 NOV, FRI

- Pr. Mark vacation (Day 2/3)
- Church Office closed

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29 NOV, SAT

- Pr. Mark vacation (Day 3/3)
- 7:30am Walking Group

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

**November 23rd Servers:**

**Council Team:** Norm Wangman, Christy Boos

**Assisting Minister:** John Fuehrer

**Lector:** John Fuehrer

**Acolytes:** Lillian Doughty, Dylan Lynn,  
Patrice Mull, Judy Williams

**Ushers:** Dave Bowers, Tom & Kitty Dickersheid

**Altar Guild:** Barb & Steve Sweigart, Andy Sweigart

**Linens:** Lori Spitzer

**Flowers:** Juday Wechter

**AV:** Bob Eberly



**Office Hours November 24-28, 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
Tuesday	9AM - 12 NOON	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Wednesday	9AM - 12 NOON	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Thursday	OFF	OFF
Friday	OFF	OFF

**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!***