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Trinity Messenger
November 2025 Issue 5

Alleluia. Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia. Ps. 85:7

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.



ELEVATOR RESTORATION PROJECT

The Stewardship Committee at the November meeting after a long and informative discussion about the manner in which our congregation may support the Elevator Restoration Project, suggested that a monthly financial commitment be promoted. The monthly donation from the congregation should be at least \$1,800.00. This amount is well within the ability of the congregation to meet or exceed. Many options concerning each individual donation can be determined. The committee feels that each member has the ability to determine the amount that they will, through prayer commit to

this project. We feel that the generous spirit of our congregation will assure a more realistic period of time to reach our goal of \$200,000.00. The Stewardship Committee will continue to monitor the financial support of this project and keep the congregation informed as to our current status. There is a visual display in the gathering area of the nave which indicates the current totals of the donations.

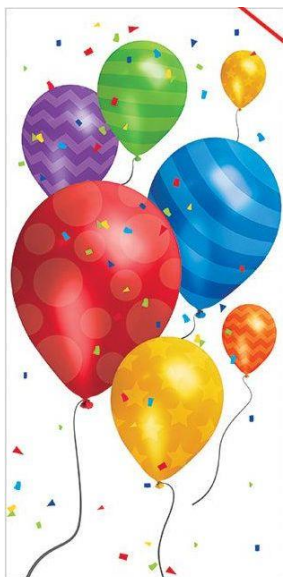
Annual Congregational Meeting

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.



Happy Birthday

To the members of Holy Trinity who are 70 years and older and celebrating a birthday this month.

December

- 1 Larry Hummer
- 2 Jim Brodt
- 3 Doug Stick
- 11 Vicki Strock
- 13 Jacob Hinkle
- 13 Greg Paparo
- 14 Dave Watts
- 23 Bruce Rettew
- 24 Thomas Dickersheid

SEND THEM A BIRTHDAY CARD OR CALL THEM WITH YOUR GREETING. WE PRAY GOD GRANTS THEM MANY MORE YEARS IN THEIR PILGRIMAGE.

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____

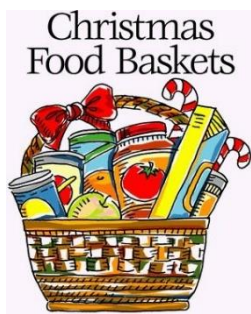
IN MEMORY/HONOR OF:

An important aspect of our calling as the church and in particular individual congregations is to identify gifts for ordained ministry in those among us and support them in pursuing seminary education. The photograph above was taken at the matriculation of the newest seminary class of the United Lutheran Seminary. It is a joy to see our fellow Holy Trinity member, Ed Quirke (far left) standing proudly with a beautiful array of others who are faithfully following God's call to serve God's church. Ed entered seminary education in August and is presently enjoying his class of biblical Greek. If you haven't been already, please keep Ed and his family in your prayers as he continues his journey toward ordained ministry in the ELCA.

Matriculation Day 2025

Our second annual Matriculation Day was held on **August 23** on the Philadelphia campus, and included a presentation by ULS Student Government, a worship service, including special recognition of new students, lunch and afternoon informational sessions.





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 7th. 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.

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 🍁



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

Fair Week Fund Raising

Thank you to everyone in the Holy Trinity family who volunteered to help make our efforts a financial success at this year's Ephrata Fair. Through the generous gifts of fair-goers we collected \$718 for the live-giving work of the *Mountaineers' Table* local food distribution program. This is outstanding!!



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>



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!!**

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.

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

Handbell Choir Schedule:

Wednesday, November 19- 6:30PM rehearsal

Wednesday, November 26 - No rehearsal

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



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. All are welcome!

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.

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.

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>

November 30-December 6 Calendar

30 NOV, SUN

- ADVENT 1
- Forum- 2026 Ministry Support
- 9am Worship
- 10am Coffee Hour After Worship
- 10:15am Adult Forum

1 DEC, MON

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

2 DEC, TUE

- Ephrata Auxiliary
- 11am Bible Study
- 3:30pm Trini Mini
- 6pm Pickleball
- 7pm Fellowship Committee Meeting

3 DEC, WED

- 7:30am Evening Prayer 7:30PM
- 6pm Handbell Choir
- 6:45pm Celebration Choir Rehearsal

4 DEC, THU

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

5 DEC, FRI

- 6:30pm Friday Night Dinners

6 DEC, SAT

- 7:30am Walking Group

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

November 30th Servers:**Council Team:** Elaine Sernoffsky, Ed Quirke**Assisting Minister:** John Weiss**Lector:** Kathy Kuhns**Acolytes:** Patrice Mull**Ushers:** Norm Wangman, Phyllis Doughty,
Winnie Gerlach, Clay Brubaker**Altar Guild:** Brenda Wangman, Heather
Zimmerman, Lisa Garrett, Charlann Brubaker**Linens:** Patricia Fassnacht**Flowers:** Winnie Gerlach**AV:** Matt Shirker**Office Hours December 1-5, 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**

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	OFF	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Thursday	9AM - 12 NOON	9:00 AM-12:30 PM
Friday	9AM - 12 NOON	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), 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!